

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board **BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE**

April 4, 2013

Meeting held at:

Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing address is:

Balboa Park Administration Building
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Jeri Dilno
Mick Hager
Andrew Kahng
David Kinney
Don Liddell
Mike McDowell
Minnie Rzeslawski
Michael Singleton

Members Absent

Luanne Kanzawa
Rob Steppke
David Strickland

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park
Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M. He re-ordered the agenda. Item #501 has been pulled. Presenters were unable to attend the meeting. Item is tabled for next month's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2013

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED HAGER/SINGLETON

A motion was made by Dr. Hager and seconded by Mr. Singleton to approve the March 7, 2013 meeting minutes. The motion was approved (5-3), with McDowell, Rzeslawski, and Liddell abstaining.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Robin Rivet, an arborist, commented on Balboa Park Committee's planning for 2015 events. There are ten big events being planned and none of them are about trees. There isn't enough reverence for the trees in the park. San Diego County has a tree map which quantifies the ecosystem benefits of the trees in the county. The trees in Balboa Park do not appear on the tree map, and they are not being inventoried. Ms. Rivet also serves on the Community Forest Advisory Board. She would like the urban forestry visitor center's library to be moved to Balboa Park as a public service project.

Mr. Kinney thanked Ms. Rivet for coming to the meeting. He agreed that it's a very important issue. Mr. Kinney will speak with staff about the appropriate steps to take regarding this project. Since this is a non-agenda item, no action can be taken at this time. Dr. Hager stated the Horticultural Committee would be willing to assist Ms. Rivet's group with obtaining hard copies of up-to-date tree map information.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Kinney reported that Dr. Hager is at the end of his term. The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership is looking for a new member to replace him. Dr. Hager has agreed to serve until then. In addition, the Plaza de Panama Projects plan to move ahead is not possible by 2015. Mr. Kinney will keep everyone informed of any new details.

STAFF REPORT

Council District Third District – Steve Hill

Absent, no report at this time.

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park Facilities and Special Events District Manager

Susan Lowery-Mendoza provided the following report:

The month of April is a busy event month in Balboa Park. Upcoming Events include:

1. April is volunteer month, and the Park and Recreation Department along with the support of the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership is honoring our outstanding volunteers with a pass which provides a free one-time visit during the month of April to any of the participating Balboa Park institutions. Balboa Park Committee members have their passes and the Recreation Council members can pick up their passes at the Balboa Park Activity Center.

2. Planning is underway for the Twilight Concerts in the Park. Nearly all performance dates have been filled with new bands as well as old favorites. The Committee also created an internship for an audio technician. Thus far, eight applications have been received from college and high school students.
3. Large Events in April include:
Earth Day, April 21 from 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
March for Babies – 6th and El Prado with closures on Balboa Drive

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Operations District Manager:

Bruce Martinez provided the following report:

Last month I reported Operations' staff was finally at full staff. Not so much anymore. We now have two openings at the Botanical Building as both the Nursery Gardeners there have received well deserved promotions. In the interim we will be having maintenance staff rotate in to fill the positions until interviews can be completed.

Bruce Martinez deferred to Mike Singleton to speak on the Golden Footprint Award Balboa Park received for the Balboa Park Trails and Gateways System, as Mr. Singleton is one of two distinguished members of the trails team in attendance at the meeting tonight and he could best elaborate on the award .

Mr. Singleton stated the award was offered by Walk San Diego for the Balboa Park Trails Project. It was funded by San Diego Park Trails and the San Diego Foundation. Placards are visible throughout the park to help people find their way throughout the trails in Balboa Park.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

No Report.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

Mr. Andy Hanshaw, the Executive Director of the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition, and Mr. Tom Landre, an Associate Engineer with the City of San Diego, gave a report on behalf of Ed Clancy, a Program Manager for the Bicycle Initiative. CicloSDias is the City's first open streets event to promote a vehicle free environment. It will take place on Sunday, August 11, 2013 with a 4.6 mile route of open streets for non-motorized use. They propose putting together a couple of family oriented mini-CicloSDias events leading up to the big event in August. The first event will take place Sunday, May 19, 2013 at Marston Point Loop in Balboa Park from 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. The second event will take place on Sunday, July 21, 2013 at Golden Hill Park from 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. The mini-CicloSDias routes are counter clockwise. Volunteers will staff the events, and any equipment needs will be provided.

Mr. Hanshaw and Mr. Landre are seeking approval for these events that are expected to draw anywhere from 200-300 people. Signs will be posted in advance in the residential areas. The plan is to market through the bicycle community, Walk San Diego and other social media based venues. A waiver has been requested for the July event because of the moratorium.

APPROVAL OF MINI-CICLOSDIAS EVENTS

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED MCDOWELL/ SINGLETON

A motion was made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Singleton to approve the plan as presented as it relates to the CicloSDias events in May and July, with recommendation for a summer moratorium waiver in Golden Hill Park. The motion was approved (7-1) with Kinney abstaining.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

502. Carol Chang with the Balboa Park Conservancy reported that they are engaged in the care, feeding, conservation, and preservation of the Park. Steven Lew, the newest board member, presented two central themes; the development of their organization, and the collaboration. Board members are recruited based on capacity, influence, passion, and expertise to help the park continue its legacy for future generations. The group stands to receive grant funds in the amount of \$25,000 from the Parker Foundation, the Legler Benbough Foundation, and the San Diego Foundation. These funds will help with collaboration and projects they are working on with different stakeholders in Balboa Park. The first project is the Water Wise Program, which is collaboration with the Friends of Balboa Park.

The project involves a monitoring system to control the distribution of water, based on weather conditions. The goal is to optimize the water that is used in the park by 2020 because it will contribute significantly toward making Balboa Park an internationally recognized best practices water use park. The second project is December Nights, and the Balboa Park Conservancy has been selected to host this event. We are responsible for marketing and managing key sponsorships. Lastly, Connie Matsui will collaborate with over 200 stakeholder groups in Balboa Park and specific agencies to find ways of bringing people into Balboa Park. The meeting will be held in May or June and is being facilitated by the La Piana Consulting Group. Mr. Lester Olmstead-Rose and his team are regarded as national leaders in non-profit collaborations in partnerships.

Committee Comment:

- Is a merger being sought?
- Is the Water Wise project trying to look at recommendations for water conservation throughout the park?
- Is there an up-to-date comprehensive stakeholder directory?

Ms. Chang replied that a merger is not being sought, just establishing relationships. The project's ultimate objective is to seek water conservation in Balboa Park. This is a Friends' multi-stage project that includes educational and experimental components. Ms. Hiroko Kusano is currently working on a comprehensive list. The Balboa Park Conservancy will share this information with the Balboa Park Committee once it's completed.

Mr. Kinney stated this collaborative project is essential to the success of the Conservancy and for anyone in the park. He encouraged the Conservancy to continue their collaborations on projects, partnerships or mergers because they are an important foundation of the Balboa Park Conservancy.

SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – Don Liddell reported their new Lawn Bowling Club meeting location is on the Westside.

COMMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT

Uptown Planning Group – Don Liddell reported that they are busy with the community plan process.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, May 2, 2013
 6:00 P.M.
 Santa Fe Room/Balboa Park Club
 San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager