

## MINUTES

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

June 6, 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  
Luanne Kanzawa  
David Kinney  
Don Liddell  
Michael Singleton  
Rob Steppke  
David Strickland

##### Members Absent

Andrew Kahng  
Mike McDowell  
Minnie Rzeslawski

##### Staff Present

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

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. The agenda was re-ordered to have item #501 presented before the special events section. In addition, the following is a correction to the May 2, 2013 minutes. On page nine, under the Committee Members Reports' section, the second bullet should read as follows. Mr. Strickland...the connection between Golden Hill Park, Grape Street and 25<sup>th</sup> Street Park along Golf Course Drive It's too narrow and isn't particularly accommodating or safe for pedestrians and cyclists

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2013

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. STRICKLAND/MR. LIDDELL**

A motion was made by Mr. Strickland and seconded by Mr. Liddell to approve the May 2, 2013 meeting minutes. The motion was approved (6-0-1), with Dilno abstaining.

#### REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

### **NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Kinney stated that due to the Holiday on Thursday, July 4, 2013, the Balboa Park Committee will not be meeting. The next scheduled meeting will be on August 1, 2013.

### **STAFF REPORT**

#### **Council District Third District – Steve Hill**

Mr. Hill acknowledged the good work that had been done for the past 90 years by Balboa Park Central. The organization's responsibilities include:

- House of Hospitality,
- Promoting Balboa Park through the visitor center,
- Balboa Park marketing
- Passport to Balboa Park, and
- Maintaining the [www.BalboaPark.org](http://www.BalboaPark.org) website

In honor of Balboa Park Central's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Council President Gloria joined in with his colleague, Council Member Lorie Zapf, in proclaiming June 5, 2013 as Balboa Park Central Day in the City of San Diego. Kudos was given to Mr. David Kinney, who is the leader of Balboa Park Central, for 90 years of success.

At City Hall, Council President Gloria joined with his colleagues and the Mayor to announce a tentative five-year labor agreement with all six of the city's employee unions. This tentative disagreement maintains the city's fiscal discipline, while strengthening compensation for the city's dedicated employees. The agreement is projected to save the city roughly \$20 million per year, over the next five years, on the annual required contribution to the San Diego City Employees' Retirement System. It would also provide compensation increases totaling one-fourth percent, in the first three years, to gradually restore the six percent pay cuts that city employees took in 2009.

The next step is for the employee organizations to ratify the tentative agreement. Also at City Hall, Council recently approved the San Diego River Master Plan. This is a planning project that will establish a river-long park, along the entire length of the San Diego River, inside the City of San Diego.

Furthermore, the North Park water tower has been designated as a historic resource by the California State Historical Resources Commission. Also Council President Gloria continues to have regular community town hall forums. The next scheduled forums are as follows:

- Coffee with your Council Member on June 15, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the Pizzicato Restaurant on Bankers Hill at 2420 5th Ave.
- Cocktails with your Council Member on Thursday, July 11, 2013 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Sycamore Den in Normal Heights at 3391 Adams Avenue.

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

Susan Lowery-Mendoza provided the following report:

Upcoming Events for June include:

- The Park and Recreation Department has a new Assistant Park and Recreation Director. Mr. Andy Field will begin his new assignment on June 8, 2013. He currently serves as the Assistant Deputy Director of the Open Space Division. Mr. Field worked in local government for 16 years and served in varied departments.
- As I mentioned last month, the Department, Recreation Council, and North Park Little League collaborated on our first movie in the park on May 17, 2013 at Morley Field. The event was a success with approximately 300 in attendance. The next movie, “Despicable Me” will be held on June 22, 2013.
- The CiclosDias mini was held on May 19, 2013. Approximately 250 attended the event. The next CiclosDias mini will be held on July 21, 2013 in Gold Hill Park.
- The summer day camp “Kidzkampz” will provide services to children ages five to thirteen from June 24 – August 15, 2013 at Morley Field. Along with the camp, the summer fun cafe begins on June 17, 2013. Free lunch will be provided to youth by the San Diego Unified School District from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Twilight in the Park is celebrating 33 years of free concerts under the stars. The concert series begins June 18, 2013 and will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from 6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. This summer promises to be very special because the volunteer committee put together a varied program and genres not represented in the past.

Comments/Questions from Members:

- Where can we get a list of the twilight in the park concerts? Will this information be put on the [www.balboapark.org](http://www.balboapark.org) website? Susan stated that the summer concerts will be added to the Balboa Park website, and the night and day section.
- Where there any complaints or issues relating to the CiclosDias mini event? Susan affirmed the CiclosDias mini seemed to go smoothly; there were no complaints.

- Where there any issues regarding the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon main course? Are there any suggestions for adjusting the course for next year? Susan responded...the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon had a few issues with getting Zoo employees and volunteers in the park. DRP also had issues getting people to the park. There will be an after event post-meeting to discuss all the issues that arose. The committee will receive feedback at the next meeting.
- Do you know if passes were issued? Susan stated the Zoo had issued some passes for volunteers and employees to enter the park early, but they weren't being honored by the traffic controllers.

Chairperson Kinney followed up stating the issue with volunteers and employees entering the premises early is not only limited to the marathon. It's an ongoing problem when staff trying to get to work.

**Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Operations District Manager:**

Bruce Martinez provided the following report:

- Several months ago, I reported that the department was fully staffed. Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, Mr. Greg Armstead, recently received a well deserved promotion to Grounds Maintenance Manager in the Maintenance Assessment Districts Program.
- Ms. Dawn Nelson was also promoted from Ground Maintenance Worker in Balboa Park to Nursery Gardner.

**CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES**

Dr. Hager reported that Balboa Park Cultural Partnership (BPCP) is pleased to announce that plans for the Annual Park Pass are underway.

- The Park Pass Advisory Committee and the Park Pass Institutional Liaison Team met to exchange ideas on various aspects of the pass including name, benefits and cost.
- The soft launch is set for October, with a hard launch in March 2014.
- Seventeen institutions will be participating in this new program.
- The BPCP continues to work on raising capitalization funds from corporate, government and foundation sources.
- The BPCP is in the process of branding and creating a positioning platform for the pass.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership was honored with the San Diego Gas and Electric 2013 Energy Champion Award in the category for Non-Profits.

- The award recognized some of their best practices including: Lighting and HVAC Retrofits, Energy Management Systems, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification of Existing Buildings, renewable Energy, and Building Audits.
- A case study and video featuring Mr. Peter Comiskey are available online.

### **Balboa Park Sustainability Program**

The Sustainability Program is bringing 70 middle-school teachers from around the world into the Park on June 27, 2013 for the Green Boot Camp, which is in partnership with Honeywell Controls. The teachers will receive a tour of one of the Park's three LEED certified buildings.

### **Balboa Park Learning Institute**

The Learning Institute was excited to welcome their new Director Ms. Lisa Silagyi on June 3, 2013. Ms. Silagyi has been active in art museum education for 20 years and has held positions at a number of art organizations including the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, and most recently as the Director of Education at the Orange County Museum of Art.

Common Core State Standards' Workshop:

- Created in response to an interest in the Balboa Park Educators Council.
- The first one, **English Language Arts**, was held today at the History Center.
- The program is geared toward education and exhibits staff. Participants will evaluate their curriculum, programs or exhibits for alignment with the standards.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **501. Balboa Park Temporary Traffic Management Plan Update – Kathleen Hasenauer**

#### **Plaza de Panama**

- Work will be scheduled to minimize disruption to traffic on the Cabrillo Bridge/Central Core
- Work begins on June 10, 2013 - Removal of wheel stops, signage and median triangle
- Asphalt preparation work
- Application of Street Bond – Roadway surface four coats and Plaza three coats
- Curing time for foot traffic is significantly less than other products

- Street Bond: a high performance coating system for asphalt, good adhesion and good durability, you can view applications at Sea World and at the Sheraton Hotel off Harbor Drive
- Pavement striping
- Anticipate completion of surface applications and striping by Friday, June 21, 2013
- Areas of the Plaza that may be open for use, will occur as the project permits
- Installation of bollards delineating the roadway
- New tram stop with benches installed at El Cid
- Strategic placement of the existing planters to define pedestrian areas – this is interim
- Decorative planters have been ordered
- Park furnishings (tables, chairs and benches) have been ordered
- Plant material in stock and others will be ordered

#### **Tram**

- Tram is green
- Ability to load from both sides
- Low profile vehicle
- First set arrived mid-May, power unit seats 16, three trailer units for each power unit, each trailer unit seats 28 per unit (84)
- Driver and one or two conductors
- Second set expected mid-June
- Third set expected mid-August
- Additional Tram Stops are planned
- Possible locations - Inspiration Point parking lots, including tour bus parking area
- Other locations – Federal Building parking lot
- Test tram operations - contractor
- Establish hour of operation and schedule
- Request for Proposal
- Interim operator to be announced

### **Tram Operations Yard – Gold Gulch**

- Rough grading started
- Doors ordered
- Propane tank and bollards ordered
- Tram intervals

### **Temporary Public Information Officer (PIO).**

- Working with temporary traffic management plan
- Way-finding signage
- Added an additional 20 ADA parking slots in the Spreckles Organ Pavilion parking lot
- Cabrillo Bridge slated for weekend closure beginning Saturday, September 7, 2013

### Comments/Questions from Members:

- Chairperson Kinney inquired if the cars that enter the plaza will be routed as they are now? During surface treatments, will the public be able to drive through the plaza? If there is only one new tram running, before the second one arrives, will this tram be the only shuttle system in the park or is there a plan to combine it with the Old Town Trolley? Currently the Old Town Trolley stops in Plaza de Panama, will there be a new tram stop? There's a lot of good in this plan, but there are still details that need to be worked out given the extremely short timeline. Regular updates will be very helpful. Ms. Hasenauer responded...the cars will not be routed as they are currently. The entire plaza will be closed at one time, with the exception of removing all of the wheel stops and rebooting all of the signage. The contractors will need to prepare and install the asphalt and apply the surface material. The roadway takes four coats and has a quick drying time. The goal is to accomplish most of the work at night. Cars will not be permitted in the plaza during the surface treatments. Once the treatments are completed, driving will be restricted. Pedestrian drop-off will be further down near the Japanese Friendship Garden. There will be an area for ADA drop-off. It will not be labeled as such, but is large enough to allow for a quick drop-off. There could be a point in which traffic moving across the bridge may have to be diverted. There's a strong possibility that the new tram could operate along with the current shuttle system, until the others arrive. The temporary tram stop with benches will be at El Cid, until the new tram system is operational. Allowances have been made for a tram only lane. The goal is to have the tram run as efficient as possible.

- Mr. Singleton stated the color that will be picked for the plaza will be super critical. Will there be a test pattern? Will the travel surface road be a medium or dark grey? Are there any other options in terms of ADA accessibility or chip seal? For cars to pass, the width of the roadway will need to be about 15 feet and at least 30 feet between the bollards. When exiting the tram, is there any effort to try and control the way people cross the roadway? Are the benches and tables likely to become permanent? Ms. Hasenauer responded...the tram color has already been selected. The travel surface will be a darker color than the plaza. The plaza will be a subtle tan brownstone color. It is temporary and has a lifespan of about seven years. Chip seal wasn't recommended because it isn't as sturdy. The bollards will delineate the roadway for the pedestrian area. There will be stop signs at the cross walks. The benches and tables are free standing and will be chained up at night.
- Mr. Liddell asked how this will interact with the current valet process. This isn't really a thorough plan; it's more of a sketch. Will the bridge closure issue return to the committee for further review before it goes to the next step? Ms. Hasenauer stated she is not able to discuss the valet at this time. Appeals have been filed for relocation of the valet. The appeals will go through public noticing and a hearing with City Council. Yes, the project is a temporary description. Ms. Hasenauer has no knowledge as to whether the committee will be able to revisit the bridge closure issue. However, all concerns received will be shared with the mayor's office and the committee will receive regular progress updates on Plaza de Panama.
- Dr. Hager commented that the institutions are concerned about bridge closure and wanted to know when it will be discussed. Will there be a hearing on this? Will the institutions be asked about potential impacts? What is the budget for this project? Ms. Hasenauer stated the mayor's office has met with many of the stakeholders involved. The bridge closure will occur on September 7, 2013. Any other comments or concerns can be directed to Mr. Alan Jones or her office. There is a \$300,000 proposal for the FY14 budget. The improvements that have been made thus far are exclusive of the tram, which is out of the operating budget.
- Mr. Steppke inquired if the report was available on-line? Ms. Hasenauer commented the report is not on-line; however it will be forwarded to Susan Lowery-Mendoza for distribution to committee members.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Consent**

**101.** None

### **Adoption**

**201.** None



## **Special Events**

### **301. Aids Walk/Run San Diego - Ms. Sarafina Scapicchio**

Ms. Scapicchio is the Director of Special Events for AIDS Walk San Diego and The San Diego LGBT Community Center. Their purpose is to raise money for direct service providers in San Diego who are servicing people with HIV/AIDS. There are over 12,000 people living with AIDS. Special Events have been successful in raising nearly nine million dollars since 1989, and last year they raised \$360,000. The money raised is granted out to other direct service providers within the city. With the increase of registration fees and sponsorships, this could potentially bring in an additional \$56,000 to AIDS Walk San Diego's fundraising efforts.

The AIDS Walk San Diego will be held on Sunday, September 29, 2013. Due to the expected construction activity in the Central Mesa portion of the Park, the walk/run routes will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Balboa Drive and University Avenue between 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Park Boulevard. The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual AIDS Walk/Run Special Events Committee is proposing a "boot camp" style street challenge obstacle course that will go around Marston Point. At the end of the run, groups of participants will be released to go from obstacle-to-obstacle to complete the challenge.

### Comments/Questions from Members:

- Chairperson Kinney stated it seems that the only thing new to the AIDS Walk/Run San Diego is the challenge. With the mayor closing the bridge on weekends, this will impact everything that involves the bridge. Pedestrian access was not taken into account. The run will not be a problem, but the people that walk across the bridge to get into the Park will have a difficult time. What are the bridge access hours for the AIDS Walk/Run? What are the hours for the street challenge? Ms. Scapicchio stated the hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. The bridge would only be closed to traffic for an hour. The street challenge hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The Special Events Committee will work to mitigate any impact to pedestrian access.
- Mr. Liddell inquired about the sequence of events. He is concerned that it will not go well. Will there be an overlap? Is it possible to lay matting on top of the turf and avoid using the woodchips and concrete during the street challenge obstacle course? Ms. Scapicchio responded that there are two separate starting routes, the runners will start at 7:30 a.m. and the walkers will start at 8:30 a.m. This will be followed by the obstacle challenge. There will be an overlap in start time, but the course is designed so they won't bump into each other. She looks forward to working with Park and Recreation in finding an exact location where they can lay down a tarp over the woodchip area for low impact.
- Mr. Singleton added the street challenge should be limited to Balboa Drive and leave the central trail system open for pedestrians that want to walk through the Park. He further stated that the committee's response could be that the condition of approval for the street challenge is limited to Balboa Drive.

- Chairperson Kinney wrapped up the discussion stating the street challenge is the last part of the event which could have the most impact on the pedestrians that walk into the Park. He asked Ms. Scapicchio if she would consider having the street challenge moved entirely to the South of El Prado? Ms. Scapicchio followed up stating pedestrians would only be impacted during the run; otherwise they will have full access to the Park. The Special Events Committee will do whatever is necessary to accommodate pedestrians.

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. SINGLETON/MR. LIDDELL**

A motion was made to approve the 2013 AIDS Walk/Run as it was presented to the committee, with a modification to the street challenge that would limit it to the area South of El Prado on Balboa Drive and Marston. The motion will also include a caution; pedestrian access must be accommodated during the street obstacle course to the walk passage across the bridge. Motion carried (6-0-2) with Chairperson Kinney and Dilno abstaining.

- 302. San Diego Jericho March, Wanda Anderson**  
Absent. No report at this time. Item tabled for next meeting.

**WORKSHOP ITEMS**

- 401.** None

**SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS**

- 601. Land-Use and Policy – David Kinney**  
No report.
- 602. West Mesa Subcommittee – Don Liddell**  
Don stated there is nothing to report from the West Mesa Subcommittee. However, he is pleased with the natural homes on the West side.

### **COMMMTTEE MEMBERBS REPORTS**

- Mr. Singleton reported on the Comprehensive Active Transportation Strategy (CATS) project. There will be a meeting on Wednesday, June 12, 2013. It appears that none of the proposed corridors or improvements will be coming through Balboa Park. The north and south corridor is likely to be 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The East and West will be across the top of Hillcrest with a combination of either University Avenue and Robinson, and maybe a bridge across Highway 163 and Pennsylvania. Everything else they are doing will be on Park Boulevard above the north end of the Park. There may be some routes that could affect the side of Florida Canyon and Park Boulevard. There are still city proposed routes and existing routes that come through the Park, but none where SANDAG will be coming through.
- Chairperson Kinney thanked Mr. Singleton for the update. Also Chairperson Kinney thanked Dr. Hager for his service to the committee and for continuing to serve until the position is filled.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting:           Thursday, August 1, 2013  
  6:00 P.M.  
  Santa Fe Room/Balboa Park Club  
  San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
District Manager