

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE March 5, 2015

Meeting Location:

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

Mailing Address:

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

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Jeri Dilno
David Kinney – Chair
Andrew Kahng
Luanne Kanzawa
Don Liddell
Micah Parzen
Michael Singleton
David Strickland

Members Absent

Kenneth Davenport – Vice Chair
Johanna S. Schiavoni
Rob Steppke

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park
Michael Ruiz, Balboa Park 2015
Casey Smith, Balboa Park

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2015

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. STRICKLAND/MS. KANZAWA

A motion was made by Mr. Strickland and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa, to approve the February 5, 2015 meeting minutes. The motion was approved (6-0-2), with Mr. Dilno and Mr. Kahng abstaining.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Jim Hughes, Project Chairman for Friends of Balboa Park, shared the following:
 - Replacement of the balustrade at El Cid and the addition of a new walkway are expected to be completed by the end of March 2015.
 - The upgrade to the guard houses near the Cabrillo Bridge should be completed by the end of May 2015.
- Ms. Daniele Lama, liaison for House of Pacific Relations (HPR), reported the following:
 - Homeless issues continue to be of concern at the cottages.
 - HPR is in need of a lighting assessment for the cottages.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Chairperson Kinney deferred the Centennial updates to Michael Ruiz. The committee was invited to attend STEAM Family Day on March 15, 2015.

STAFF REPORT

City Council Third District, Steven Hill – Not present

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

- Recreation Center staff, at the Municipal Gym and the Balboa Park Activity Center, has been trained on the use and implementation of Active Net, a software program being implemented department- wide for facility reservation and class registration. The Civic Dance Arts program will go live for on-line summer registration.
- The Recreation Center Director for the Balboa Park Activity Center, Michele Chicarelli, was recently promoted to Area Manager in North Park.
- The ADA barrier removal project is very close to completion at the Casa de Balboa.
- RW Little Company in Middletown began powder coating the Organ Pavilion benches.
- During the month of March, Facilities Division will begin re-roofing the Balboa Club.
- Upcoming events:
 - March 7, 2015 – Finish Chelsea’s Run
 - March 14-15, 2015 – Thursday Club Rummage Sale
 - March 14, 2015 – St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Festival
 - March 21, 2015 – Race for Autism
 - March 22, 2015 – Hot Chocolate 15/5 K

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Chairperson Kinney welcomed Casey Smith back to Balboa Park.

Casey Smith, District Manager, Balboa Park Operations

- Through Friends of Balboa Park’s Adopt-A-Plot Process:
 - The Cascades and Alcazar Garden were recently planted
 - Founders Plaza will be planted at the end of the month
- New sod will be planted along El Prado, east of Plaza de Panama
- A new mow curb was installed by City forces to separate the shrub bed from the turf. Shrub beds along north El Prado between the Plaza de Panama and Village Place will be planted in the next few weeks.
- The small shrub bed between El Cid and the balustrade will be renovated and irrigation to the bed will be installed as part of the project.
- The annual Friends of Balboa Park Butterfly Release in Zoro Garden is scheduled for Sunday, March 15, 2015.
- Atlas Tree Service started removing dead trees from the West Mesa the week of March 2, 2015. They will continue to remove dead and diseased trees the week of March 9, 2015. Most of the trees died from a combination of drought conditions and attacks by the pitch beetle.
- Staff is working with SDPD, via Community Resource Officer Kevin Vasquez, on ways to coordinate Ranger and PD resources to address various issues in the park.
- The lighting issue at the Organ Pavilion parking lot and around the cottages is being addressed.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Chairperson Kinney inquired about the unfinished ADA projects in the plaza. Mr. Smith replied those projects are in progress.

Mr. Michael Ruiz, District Manager, 2015 Centennial Celebration - Balboa Park Centennial Update

- Plaza de Panama – will receive additional tables and chairs
- Volunteers – over 100 hours will receive a 1915-2015 Panama-California-Exposition Centennial Volunteer pin
- Cabrillo Bridge Up Lighting – reveals architectural features of the bridge
- Balboa Park – will be home to one of the largest free public Wi-Fi networks on the West Coast
- Food Concession Agreement – will allow for enhanced food concessions
- Electricettes – interested parties would like to bring the carts back to the Park
- San Diego Zoo's Old Globe Way Project – will improve ADA access
- Botanical Building – enhancements include a state of the art irrigation system
- Saturday, May 9, 2015 – Garden Party of the Century and floral wagon parade
- San Diego County Fair 2015 – will highlight the Park
- Specially Wrapped San Diego Trolley Car – features 2015 BP photos that promote the Centennial and the Park
- Central Mesa –high resolution cameras will provide footage of the Park 24/7

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Chairperson Kinney expressed appreciation for the infrastructure enhancements and legacy projects.
- Mr. Parzen stated that admissions to the Museums for January and February went up 20-30 percent; he also thanked Mr. Ruiz for doing a good job.
- Mr. Singleton suggested it would be nice to sit on the fountain ledge by way of stepping stones in Plaza de Panama. Chairperson Kinney replied that in April there will be new seating around the fountain.
- Why is the public unable to view the historic structures off of Old Globe Way? Mr. Daniels replied it's the Zoo's leasehold.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Mr. Parzen reported the following:

- Ms. Betty Peabody was named the San Diego Woman of the Year by Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins.
- Tuesday, March 3, 2015 Mayor Faulconer and Councilmember Gloria announced that 17 museums and philanthropic benefactors donated \$1M in annual Family Explorer passes for at-risk and underserved families.

Balboa Park Sustainability Program and Learning Institute

Mr. Parzen and Ms. Kanzawa reported the following:

- BPCP - hosting corporate sustainability leaders within the community with a tour of the sustainability green efforts
- Sustainability Kiosks – will rotate around the Park in 2015
- Author Dr. Leslie Bedford will be at the Japanese Friendship Garden on March 11, 2015 from 3:00-4:30 pm.

- Learning Institute's fifth Smith Leadership Symposium will be held on April 20, 2015.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. Golden Hill Recreation Center – Ball Park Field Cell Tower Project

Presenter: Kerrigan Diehl, Project Manager, PLANCOM Inc.

Ms. Diehl stated the project for consideration is the Verizon wireless facility proposed at the Golden Hill Recreation Center and Ball Park Field. The proposal is to bring more lighting to the Ball Park Field.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Strickland expressed concern about the light impact for the residents along the side of Russ Boulevard. He wanted to know how long the lights would be on at the field. Ms. Diehl replied that the modern lighting will point down, thus minimizing the impact on residents. Mr. Smith responded that the lights typically go off at 10:00 p.m. Mr. Strickland asked Ms. Diehl to bring the project before the Golden Hill Planning Committee (GHPC). Ms. Diehl agreed to meet with the committee.
- Mr. Singleton inquired whether a light and glare study had been performed. Ms. Diehl stated that they had not done it at this point, but can get a study done. Mr. Singleton furthered asked about the design of the fourth pole. Ms. Diehl replied that the fourth pole could be designed with the same uniformity as the other poles.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MS. SINGLETON/NONE

A motion was made by Mr. Singleton to approve the project and recommended a stipulation to add a wrap to the fourth pole and conduct a light study.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MS. SINGLETON/MR. STRICKLAND

Motion was amended by Mr. Singleton and seconded by Mr. Strickland to approve the project with a stipulation to add a wrap to the fourth pole, conduct a light study, and for the project to go before the GHPC. Motion was approved (8-0-1) with Chairperson Kinney abstaining.

Special Events

301. House of Pacific Relations Food Fair

Presenter: Eugenie King, President

Ms. King requested a waiver to the Summer Moratorium for the Annual Ethnic Food Fair on May 23 – 24, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Parzen inquired about the other 90% of the profits. Ms. King responded the other 90% of profits will go back to the cottages.
- Is parking an issue? Ms. King replied that there isn't an issue with parking. The public generally stays for a few hours and leaves.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. KAHNG/MR. SINGLETON

A motion was made by Mr. Kahng and seconded by Mr. Singleton to approve the two-day waiver for the Summer Moratorium. Motion was approved (7-0-1) with Chairperson Kinney abstaining.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. House of Pacific Relations, International Cottages Expansion

Presenter: David Preciado, Estrada Land Planning and Charlie Daniels, Park Designer, Park and Recreation Department

Mr. Daniels gave a brief introduction regarding the initiation of amendments to the Balboa Park Master Plan and Central Mesa Precise Plan to expand the HPR. On January 22, 2015, the City's Planning Commission granted the initiation of amendments for the project. The project would require two workshops, site design and architecture.

Mr. Preciado presented the proposed improvements to the committee to see if it would generate comments or issues with the direction of the project. In addition, the primary focus for the project is to make some connections to the outer perimeter.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Strickland is pleased with the plan. He asked if the trolley ran along the backside. Mr. Daniels replied yes, sometimes it runs along Pan American Place and stops in the middle of the Palisades parking lot.
- Mr. Singleton asked if there's been any discussion for ADA access on the west side. Mr. Preciado responded that most people will take the trolley or park in the lot and walk. They plan to look at adding more signage, so that people understand how to access the cottage areas via a compliant ADA route.
- Chairperson Kinney wasn't fond of the idea of removing trees to build buildings. He strongly recommended Estrada Land Planning return to the committee and report which trees will be moved and which ones will be added.
- Mr. Parzen was concerned about the homelessness and lights-out issue in the cottage areas. He asked if there was a way of using the construction work to activate the entire space, so that the area can be fully utilized. Mr. Preciado replied that they will work with Mr. Daniels and the architect to address visual access and creating space within the groupings of the cottages for functions and activities.
- Mr. Kahng asked if there were plans for future expansion beyond the nine cottages. Chairperson Kinney added the concern was possibly dealing with additional cultures wanting more cottages in the future.
- Ms. Kanzawa inquired about signage for the cottages. Ms. King replied that they received confirmation that a sign would be installed with the new cottages. Ms. Lowery-Mendoza added that the HPR would need to fund a standardized sign for placement on Pan American Road.

Public Comment: Speaker: Ms. Daniele Laman

- Ms. Laman responded to Mr. Singleton's comment regarding ADA access. She stated there were no existing conditions mapped there. There is an ADA ramp over by Scotland and Czechoslovakia. Mr. Daniels replied with a recommendation to add an alternate sidewalk behind the buildings on the South side.

INFORMATION ITEMS – None

SUB-COMMMITTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – None

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS

Golden Hill Planning Group – David Strickland

Mr. Strickland reported GHPG was grateful that Park and Recreation found funds for the design work and feasibility study for Golf Course Drive. It would tie Golden Hill slope to South Park.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Next Schedule Meeting: Thursday, April 2, 2015
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager