

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
November 7, 2024

Meeting Location:

Balboa Park Club Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing Address:

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

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Allison Soares
Chris Eddy
Dang Nguyen
Michael Robinson
Tim Shields
Kathy Vandenheuvel

Members Absent

Molly Chase
Howard Blackson
Makeda Cheatom
Mary Mckenzie

Staff Present

Jon Richards
Tyler Canales
Anthony Harrington

CALL TO ORDER

Allison Soares called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES October 3, 2024

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Shields / Mr. Eddy

A motion was made by Mr. Shields and seconded by Mr. Eddy to approve the October 3, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion carried (4-0-2).

NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Web Form:

None

In-Person:

Daniele Laman – Provided an update regarding the Balboa Park Safety and Security Meeting. Requested that information be shared with Institutions when incidents happen. Informed on the upcoming HPR lawn program.

Nathan White – Presented his idea for a “Field of Dreams” at Morley Field. Would hope to be able to fund through private/public partnerships.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

None

STAFF REPORT

Emily Bonner, Council District 3 – Released platform to include working better with CalTrans. Mayor signed pedicab ordinance. Next Council meeting will be on 11/12.

Michael Bravo, 78th District – None

Sargent Decesari – Updated on incident at House of Israel. Have video of possible suspect. Was a hoax device and SDPD do not believe House of Israel was specifically targeted. There was a demonstration over the weekend. SDPD will be around for them, but does not want to infringe on patrons 1st Amendment protections.

Jon Richards, Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation – Welcomed Anthony Harrington as the new District Manager for Balboa Park Facilities. The Botanical Building has been accepted by the City as of 10/24. Opening is scheduled for December Nights on 12/6. There is a 24/7 security guard assigned to the building and the Poinsettia display will be back for December Nights. Thanked Grounds Maintenance staff for all the work they have done inside and around the building. WDC Pavilion will be coming down between 11/11 and 11/25. Many lights have been repaired/replaced at Morley Field. BPAC and Muni Gym will be closed for a couple of weeks for floor resurfacing. 2 RFPs are currently out for Balboa Park sites. Starlight Bowl RFP will close on 11/14 and Village Grill RFP will open on 1/16/25. 6-Month calendar for Balboa Park, Mission Bay and Shoreline is now online and will be a rolling calendar. Susan G. Komen walk is 11/17 on the West Mesa. They will have an event at Mission Hills Park as well. Father Joe's Turkey Trot will be on 11/28. December Nights will be 12/6 and 12/7.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Forever Balboa Park – Have a strong youth program. Held an event on 11/3 where Youth Ballet and Symphony performed. Have a program for K-3rd graders to learn about STEM. Had an activation at the WDC Pavilion on 11/1. Working on Phase 1 of Botanical Building. Have 150 volunteers for December Nights. Excited to highlight Phase 2 for the gardens that will go around the Botanical Building. Will have Plant It Forward events on 11/8 and 11/20. New CEO will start on 11/12. Thankful for the 24/7 security at the Botanical Building.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership – Waiting for updates on Measure E vote. Please that Councilmembers are supportive of Arts and Culture. Urges people to advocate for Arts and Culture and Parks and Recreation funding. Sees many opportunities to make improvements. Appreciated Parks and Recreation's guidance during the House of Israel incident.

Committee of 100 – Ross Porter – Thankful for the Poinsettia display returning and the update on the incident. Thankful for the civic engagement of the Balboa Park Committee. Municipal Gym project will begin in January.

Save Starlight – Steve Stopper – Introduced Vincent Puma as the new Executive Director. Waiting to see what happens with the Starlight RFP. His heart is in the park and hopes to be around as long as he can.

Village Arts & Education Foundation – Frank Casciani – None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

Chris Eddy – Would like to see a study/survey of lighting and plan to repair/replace. Alcazar would be a good site.

Jon Richards (Responded) – Most lighting repairs have to be done by Streets Division. Please send those issues through Get It Done app. Staff is currently working on a lighting plan for Alcazar when funding is available. Going to purchase 2 solar lights to help with the issue in the short term.

Michael Robinson – Inquired if there was video surveillance in the park.

Jon Richards (Responded) – The City does not have that in the park.

Kathy Vandenheuvel – Wanted to note that there were issues with light on 26th St.

Jon Richards (Responded) – Please submit that through Get It Done app. It helps to document the issue.

Kathy Vandenheuvel – Reviewed the draft CIP list presented at last meeting. Was surprised Golf Course Drive was not on there.

Jon Richards (Responded) – Will ask to have an update regarding it at the next meeting.

CONSENT ITEMS

Item 1. 2025 Balboa Park Committee Meeting Calendar.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Shields/ Mr. Eddy

A motion was made by Mr. Shields and seconded by Mr. Eddy to accept the consent items. The motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

Item 2. Balboa Park Plan Update

Jon Richards – Park and Recreation has had a meeting with the Planning Department. Working on a funding plan for it. Hope to have it in place for FY26.

INFORMATION ITEM

None

ADJOURNMENT – 5:04 pm

Notice of Next Balboa Park Meeting:

January 9, 2025
4:00 P.M.
In-Person

Respectfully submitted,

Tyler Canales
District Manager