

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
November 7, 2019

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

William Aaron
Kenneth Davenport – Vice
Chair
Sarah Dawe
Vicki Granowitz
Katherine Johnston – Chair
Luanne Kanzawa
Don Liddell
Johanna S. Schiavoni

Members Absent

Victoria Curran
Dang Nguyen
James Lawson
Micah Parzen

Staff Present

John Anderson
Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Jeff Van Deerlin

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2019

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. DAVENPORT/MR. LIDDELL

A motion was made by Ms. Davenport and seconded by Mr. Liddell to approve the October 3, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried (6-0-2) with Ms. Dawe and Ms. Kanzawa abstaining.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON -AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniele Laman thanked Andy Field, Interim Director for opening the House of Pacific Relations lawn as scheduled. She noted the theft at Starlight Theater was brought up at the Captain's Advisory and that two active shooter trainings were recently held at the Museum of Art.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Johnston noted that the Downtown Community representative seat is vacant if anyone knows of possible candidates.

STAFF REPORT

City Council Third District – Molly Chase reported the following:

- The fourth bridge shelter is opening today

- Exploring expansion of the Golden Hall shelter
- The Community Action Plan is a client-centered homeless assistance system aimed at preventing homelessness while providing quick paths to affordable housing.
- She asked for input on the budget which is being prepared in January.

Balboa Park Program Manager – Jeff Van Deerlin reported the following:

- The water and sewer group job is slated to begin in January 2020 and he is requesting that SDG&E replace the gas lines simultaneously. The issue involves easement rights that SDG&E is requesting from the City.
- The South Palisades project is moving forward and will be going before City Council for approval which is required by the Municipal Code as labor costs will exceed \$100,000.00.
- The ficus trees in front of the Automotive Museum will be removed by the end of the year as they are damaging the building.
- The seismic retrofit of the California Tower is scheduled to be completed mid-January.

Balboa Park District Manager – Susan Lowery – Mendoza reported the following:

- On Saturday, October 26, Parks and Recreation staff were happy to collaborate once again with the Balboa Park Conservancy at Halloween Family Day. Our staff provides ten fun carnival games, costume contests, raffle with prizes and the opportunity to learn and perform the dance routine to Michael Jackson's Thriller in the Plaza de Panama. It was a fun filled time for all.
- On Saturday November 23, a Celebration of the life of Jared Jacobsen, former Civic Organist will take place at 5:00 p.m. in the Organ Pavilion.
- The December Nights event is less than thirty days away. The event will have many of the same features that it is known for and the community enjoys access to the park's institutions for free. There is one change however to this year's event caused by the delay of the seismic retrofit of the California tower. The Swedish Women's Educational Association activities traditionally held in the California Quadrangle are displaced to other areas of the park and the Museum of Man will be closed. The City's special event team have been meeting and planning for months to have a safe event for all to enjoy.

John Anderson, Senior Park Ranger reported the following:

- Staff are preparing for December Nights, trees are being pruned and the park cleanups underway

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Balboa Park Conservancy

Jackie Higgins shared the following:

- Halloween Family Day seems to grow every year.
- Cal Fire's involvement with the tree inventory, a tree event will take place this Saturday in celebration of Kate Session birthday on the East Mesa picnic area Joe Schloss Way and Jacaranda at 10:00 a.m.
- Working with staff to obtain a Special Use Permit for enhancements to the Casa del Prado
- The Botanical Building project is moving forward and the bridge documents and grant information will be provided to the City in mid-December.
- Read a statement regarding the water and sewer replacement project, impacts to the visitor experience and need for a mitigation plan.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Peter Comiskey shared the following:

- Regarding the sewer and water line project which was to take place during the Plaza de Panama project, the project was presented with little planning time. An impact mitigation plan is needed and coordination with SDG&E to replace gas lines at the same time.

Committee of 100

Mike Kelly reported the following:

- Working for years on the rehabilitation of the Automotive Museum – provided a tile update
- Concerned about the increasing level of crime in Balboa Park, the presence of police is needed, and we cannot afford to wait.

Balboa Park Online Collaborative

No report presented

Friends of Balboa Park

John Bolthouse shared the following:

- Concerned about vandalism – eight incidents alone at the Carousel
- Secured funding for the purchase of a Polaris vehicle for police officers to use in the canyons
- Annual awards luncheon in October was a success and well attended
- Refurbishing the exterior light fixtures at the Museum of Man with support from Committee of 100
- Improving lighting of the footbridge between Alcazar Garden and the Organ Pavilion
- Invitation to the Holiday Poinsettia Party.
- Celebrating Veterans' Day at the Carousel with free rides for veterans, active duty military and their families.

Save Starlight

Mr. Steve Stopper shared the following:

- The theft at Starlight involved forty vehicles pulling into the parking lot unnoticed.
- This theft has set- back their organization again from opening and the theft and vandalism in the park needs to be fixed.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. Rock'n'Roll Marathon 5K. Presenter: Meryl Leventon, Course Director

Ms. Leventon distributed course maps for the 5K which would take place on May 30, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 am. and requested that a waiver to the summer moratorium be granted.

Committee Comments:

- What is the plan for a charitable give back to the park as it is not stated on the narrative? The event is successful financially and has a lot of impact on the park. Ms. Leventon mentioned the community clean-up done with the Friends of Balboa Park, but will have to provide information as to what will be done for the upcoming year.

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED (MR. AARON/MS. KANZAWA)

A motion was made by Mr. Aaron and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa to recommend that the Parks and Recreation Director extend a waiver to the summer moratorium for the 2020 San Diego Rock'n'Roll 5K. Carried Unanimously.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Balboa Park Committee Bylaws. Presenter: Vicki Granowitz, Committee Member

Ms. Granowitz reviewed the draft bylaws and there was discussion about highlighted items on each page. Ms. Granowitz reviewed the Parks and Recreation Board bylaws and the Municipal Code when forming the document. Ms. Granowitz will provide a strike-out version of the document to be voted upon next month, then will be forwarded to staff and the City Attorney's office for review.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. None

SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS

- 601. Land-Use and Policy – No report
- 602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No report

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS

Mr. Aaron thanked Parks and Recreation staff for their responsive and diligent work repairing the cross-country course at Morley Field for the high schools' use and it is beautiful.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, January 9, 2020 (Note date change due to holiday)
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager