

# MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board  
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE  
May 5, 2016

**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**

Amy Bernal (Ar. 6:13 p.m.)  
Andrew Kahng  
Luanne Kanzawa  
David Kinney – Chair  
Don Liddell  
Dang Nguyen  
Micah Parzen  
Rob Steppke

**Members Absent**

Kenneth Davenport – Vice Chair  
Johanna S. Schiavoni

**Staff Present**

Casey Smith  
Jeff Van Deerlin

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF April 7, 2016**

**MOTION:      MOVED/SECONDED   MS. KANZAWA/MR. KAHNG**

A motion was made by Ms. Kanzawa and seconded by Mr. Kahng to approve the April 7, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved (7-0-1) with Mr. Kinney abstaining.

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES** – None

**NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Ms. Danielle Laman, liaison for House of Pacific Relations (HPR), reported the following: Safety and Security Coop is seeking grant to fund the establishment of a web based platform to share security information. New affiliate member of HPR, House of Chamorros.
- Kevin Swanson, resident of Paradise Hills, representing Lori Saldana for Mayor Campaign. Kevin, on behalf of Lori Saldana, expressed concerns about funding for Balboa Park. He encouraged people to visit LoriforMayor.com website.
- Cheryl Brierton, resident. Cheryl updated committee on plans to fill the vacancy for Golden Hill Community representative on the Balboa Park Committee.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

No report presented

**STAFF REPORT**

City Council Third District, Council Representative Stephen Hill – No report

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, District Manager, Balboa Park Facilities and Special Events, Reported the following:

- The elevator Modernization project is continuing at the Old Globe. The Air and Space Museum elevator was the next scheduled elevator for a modernization, but the project timeline is being expedited as the elevator is currently out of service.

Upcoming Events:

- May is a busy event month and the start of graduation ceremonies being held in the park.
- May 7-8 San Diego American Indian Pow Wow
- May 14 – Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony – Spreckels Organ Pavilion to West Mesa
- May 14 – San Diego Zoo Centennial Event – Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Plaza de Panama and El Prado
- May 29 – Ethnic Food Fair

Casey Smith, District Manager, Balboa Park Operations, Reported the following:

- Garden Party will be held on Saturday, May 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Food Truck Friday scheduled for Friday, May 6 has been cancelled due to weather however there will be several opportunities this summer beginning in June.
- On April 14<sup>th</sup> the park hosted over 550 Navy sailors as part of the “Day of Service” and they assisted in several areas of the park including painting portion of the Cabrillo Bridge.
- The landscaping at the Chess Club will be renovated over the next few weeks.
- City staff assisted the Friends of Balboa Park with their Arbor Day event on April 29.
- The new Nature Exploration Area for Morley Field was presented and discussed with the committee. The Nature Exploration Area is a pilot project by the department and is designed to encourage kids to explore nature and address Nature Deficiency Disorder. The project will be designed and installed by City staff.
- The first light to be restored on the Cabrillo Bridge will be removed on Wednesday, May 18.

Jeff Van Deerlin, Program Manager, Balboa Park, Reported the following:

- Jeff notified the committee that City Council will be reviewing Park and Recreation’s budget on Monday, May 9 between 9 a.m. and noon and invited the committee to attend. There are five CIP’s that do impact Balboa Park with the Mayor’s proposed budget and they are; West Mesa Restrooms, Seismic retrofit of the California Tower, Bud Kearns Pool upgrades, Balboa Park Golf Course Club House upgrades and Golf Course Drive improvements.

**BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES**

*Balboa Park Conservancy*

Mr. Tomas Herrera-Mishler shared the following:

- Tomas informed the committee that the City spends \$13 per capita on parks which is the same at Anchorage, Omaha and Oklahoma City. New Jersey spends \$14 per capita, Seattle spends \$86 per capita and Detroit spends \$1 per capita.
- On April 18 the Conservancy held a stakeholder gathering and shared the results of the values survey conducted in November. There were 500 responses to surveys. Accessibility was the number one priority. They plan to start using a project matrix based on the surveys to begin prioritizing projects.
- The San Diego Foundation is funding several Conservancy projects including the Cultural Landscape Report (The Committee of 100 and San Diego Floral Association are also providing funding and direction), an Economic Impact study of the park, a tree inventory of the park and a signage inventory and analysis. The projects will be brought to committee for input and review.
- A Botanical Building steering committee has been formed and will be meeting soon to begin reviewing the Botanical Building enhancement project.

- The Conservancy supports the three community plan updates and the ESRI event on the agenda.

### *Balboa Park Cultural Partnership*

Mr. Parzen shared the following:

- BPCP recently held our annual Board of Director's retreat with Strategic Planner Gail Anderson. Gail will be returning to BPCP later this month to continue the strategic planning discussions and finalize her report. We look forward to examining and implementing the updated plan for the benefit of BPCP and the Park.
- Sustainability: Thanks to our inspired and dedicated institutions, last year was a big year for sustainability in Balboa Park. This year, in 2016, BPCP's Sustainability Program is looking into ways to better communicate the many success stories outward to the community. Based on a recent survey conducted at the Sustainability Program's Earth Fair booth, the public expressed passionately about water-wise and alternative energy project in the park. The Sustainability Program is looking forward to better communicating our successes to the public and interested parties like those in this room.

Luanne Kanzawa shared the following:

- The Balboa Park Learning Institute is currently planning the Smith Leadership Symposium to be hosted in September 14, 2016.
- Ten people registered and attended our workshop, "Establishing Your Professional Brand" with job hunter, Kolby Goodman at the Casa Del Prado.
- 114 people joined us on April 13 for the Balboa Park Learning Institute's launch of the Online Learning Portal hosted at the Prado Ballroom.
- Twenty people registered and attended our workshop, "Copyright and Licensing" with Renato Rodriguez from the San Diego Natural History Museum.
- The Online Learning Portal has two recently uploaded programs; "21<sup>st</sup> Century Leadership Skills with Marsha Semmel" and "Copyright and Licensing," Both are available for purchase at [onlinelearning.bpcp.org](http://onlinelearning.bpcp.org)

### *Committee of 100 - None*

### *Friends of Balboa Park*

Mr. John Bolthouse shared the following:

- On April 29, fourteen trees were planted at the Pepper Grove Playground as part of the Friends of Balboa Park Arbor Day Event.
- The Friends hosted the Easter Lily display at the Botanical Building with help and funding from the Balboa Park Trust of the San Diego Foundation. The lilies were on display for most of March and April.
- The Persian Carpet Garden is virtually complete.
- The Friends helped to celebrate the Spreckels Organ by upgrading the wording on the sign to announce that it is the largest outdoor organ in the world.
- This past Saturday, three Rotary Clubs participated in projects at Zoro Garden, Inspiration Point and at the Kate Sessions Nursery. The Rotary Clubs were from Uptown, Downtown Breakfast and San Diego Rotary.
- The Gate House Project is coming along. It's meticulous work trying to restore to original form. We are anticipating a July/August ribbon cutting ceremony.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Consent**

None

**Adoption**

**201. Golden Hill Community Plan Updates: Recreation Elements. Presenter: Howard Greenstein, Park Designer, City of San Diego Planning Department**

**202. North Park Community Plan Updates: Recreation Elements. Presenter: Howard Greenstein, Park Designer, City of San Diego Planning Department**

**203. Uptown Community Plan Updates: Recreation Elements. Presenter: Howard Greenstein, Park Designer, City of San Diego Planning Department**

**Committee Comment(s):**

- The items were discussed at length by the committee. The Committee asked several questions and Howard Greenstein, Park Designer and Robin Shifflet, Development Project Manager responded. The questions primarily centered around what was being requested or adopted by the committee, clarifying the process of approval for the committee, what other groups will be reviewing and approving, what has changed in the proposal since the last time the updates were presented, and the next steps involved.

**Public Comment(s):**

- Leo Wilson, Chair, Uptown Planning Group. The community plan for Uptown has gotten better. Concerned that the plan is getting away from needed park space in Uptown and is instead using existing park land in Balboa Park as a short cut. Recommended holding off on approval.
- Matt Thompson, Resident. Concerned about Joint Use Park areas and over-reservation of these areas which takes away from resident's ability to use the areas. Also concerned about synthetic turf areas and dogs.
- Cheryl Brierton, Resident of Golden Hill. Expressed concerns about the golf course and recreation center and benefits to adjacent community.
- Davis Swarens, Chair, Greater Golden Hill Planning Group. Planning group has not had opportunity to review the current revised plan. Concerned about the accessibility of the identified park areas for areas of the community.
- Kevin Swanson, Wants to see Independent Budget Analyst review the plans for economic, environmental and social impacts of diverting or not allocating the funds to the community or Balboa Park.

**MOTION:      MOVED/SECONDED   MS. BERNAL/MR. PARZEN**

A motion was made by Ms. Bernal and seconded by Mr. Parzen to recommend adoption of the park equivalency components of recreational elements in each of the community plans as presented in motion 201, 202 and 203. The motion was approved (5-3-0) with Mr. Liddell, Mr. Steppke and Mr. Kahng opposed.

### **Special Events**

**301. Environmental Systems Research Institute “ESRI” User Conference Closing Event. Presenter: Michele Cole, ESRI Head of Events Marketing**

Committee Comment(s):

- Committee provided comments related to changes to the event, use of turf areas and impacts or restrictions to park users.

Public Comment(s):

- Peter Comiskey, Director, Balboa Park Cultural Partnership. Commented that the event was a very well run event that works with and supports the parks institutions.

**MOTION:      MOVED/SECONDED   MS. KANZAWA/MR. PARZEN**

A motion was made by Ms. Kanzawa and seconded by Mr. Parzen to approve as presented. The motion was approved (5-1-1) with Mr. Liddell opposed and Mr. Kinney abstaining.

**302. San Diego Reader Burgers and Beers. Presenter: Alyssa Prestige, Marketing Coordinator**

Committee Comment(s):

- Committee asked if there were any issues with previous events.

**MOTION:      MOVED/SECONDED   MR. LIDDELL/MS. BERNAL**

A motion was made by Mr. Liddell and seconded by Ms. Bernal to approve as presented. The motion was approved (6-0-1) with Mr. Kinney abstaining.

**303. Susan G. Komen 3 Day Walk. Presenter: Stacy Bruce, Production Manager**

Committee Comment(s):

- Committee asked if staff was supportive of the event.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Liddell and seconded by Mr. Kahng to approve as presented. The motion was approved (6-0-1) with Mr. Kinney abstaining.

### **WORKSHOP ITEMS**

None

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**501. 2016 Suja Rock ‘n’ Roll San Diego Marathon and 1/2 Marathon and 5K Update - Natalia Mendez, Coordinator, Community Relations, Competitor Group, Inc.**

Committee Comment(s):

- Committee was grateful to the organizer for taking the time to meet with the West Mesa Subcommittee.

**502. Balboa Park Unfunded Park Improvements. Presenter: Casey Smith, District Manager, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department**

- Tabled until next meeting by consensus.

**SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS**

**601. Land-Use and Policy – No Report**

**602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No Report**

**COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS** – None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, June 2, 2016  
6:00 P.M.  
Balboa Park Club  
2150 Pan American Road West  
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Casey Smith  
District Manager