

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
January 5, 2017

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

Kenneth Davenport – Vice
Chair
Luanne Kanzawa
Andrew Kahng
David Kinney – Chair
Don Liddell
Micah Parzen
Johanna S. Schiavoni

Members Absent

Amy Bernal
Dang Nguyen
Rob Steppke

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Mario Llanos
Jeff Van Deerlin

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MS. SCHIAVONI/MS. KANZAWA

A motion was made by Ms. Schiavoni and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa to approve the September 1, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved (5-0-2) with Mr. Davenport and Mr. Kahng abstaining.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniele Laman of the House of Pacific Relations provided a safety and security update and announced that Heikki Grönlund is their incoming President.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

No report presented

STAFF REPORT

City Council Third District, Councilmember Chris Ward reported the following:

- Expressed that he is excited to be the incoming District 3 Councilmember and introduced Molly Chase, Chief of Staff. He also acknowledged the work of Steve Hill and the seamless transition he has created.
- Looks forward to forming partnerships to get the work done that the Committee and the community would like to see happen.

Stephen Hill, District Director for Assemblymember Todd Gloria reported that he enjoyed being council liaison to Balboa Park working with the Committee. He provided his contact information so that if there is anything the State Legislature can do for Balboa Park, he is available to help. Assemblymember Gloria will continue to focus on housing and transportation issues and be looking for anything Balboa Park related. The Committee thanked Mr. Hill and applauded his service to Balboa Park.

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

- December Nights was another success, with even higher attendance than previous years with no major incidents or injuries.
- Recreation staff were pleased to offer carnival games and costume contests at the Halloween Family Day in October and activities during the Holiday Food Truck Festival on December 29.
- Regarding the Everywon 5 and 15 K that the Committee approved for December 11, the organizer cancelled the 15 K portion of the race so Morley Field area and Golden Hill Park were not used.
- The Old Globe Theater elevator modernization project has been completed and the next project will begin shortly at the San Diego Museum of Art.
- Our San Diego Civic Dance Arts program has won its 3rd Bravo Award for Collage 2016. Collage 2017 – Entitled “Joy” will be in the Casa Del Prado Theater beginning February 3 – 19.
- Rains are causing a lot of roof leaks in the park – eight buildings have reported issues.

Mario Llanos, Acting District Manager, Balboa Park Operations, reported the following:

- Announced the addition of Gerry Garcia as the weekend Grounds Maintenance Supervisor added in to this Fiscal Year’s Budget. Additionally, announced John Anderson as our new Senior Park Ranger, who took over for Ryan Robertson who moved over to Open Space.
- In the upcoming weeks a 3-way stop sign will be installed at Florida Drive and Zoo Place as a result of complaints and analysis completed by the Traffic and Engineering Department.
- On January 16th, the 9th Annual Interfaith Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service will take place in the landscapes between 6th Avenue and Balboa Dr. from the Chess Club and the Marston Parking lot at the SW corner of Balboa Park. City Staff will work with an estimated 500 volunteers to trim and clean debris and mulch the landscape and beautify the entire area.
- A couple of months ago a donation was left to Park and Recreation, by Mr. Phillip Green who was a longtime lover of all things Horticulture in Balboa Park. Over the years he had giving several smaller donations for trees on the West Mesa and had a rapport with some City staff. Mr. Green passed a few months back and left a donation of over \$650,000 to Park and Recreation. It will be an Endowment to be used specifically for Horticulture in Balboa Park.

Jeff Van Deerlin, Program Manager reported the following:

- Measure J passed with 71% of the vote which will fund Regional Park Improvements.
- A clean-up was held of the Starlight Theater on December 10, filling (3) 40 yard dumpsters.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Balboa Park Conservancy

Mr. Tomas Herrera-Mishler shared the following:

- The Cultural Landscape report is coming together by Von Marie May and she has completed the portion from the park's beginning to 1915.
- Wrapping up an economic impact report
- Tree inventory underway
- Signage inventory complete
- Design proposal for the Botanical Building
- Additions to staffing: Sarah Beckman, Director of External Relations and Jackie Higgins, Director of Planning, Design, and Programs
- House of Hospitality energy study
- December Nights media exposure increased this year

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Mr. Parzen shared the following:

- Addition of two team members, Cody Nelson, Director of Events and Public Programming and Theresa Wulf, Director of Community Engagement.
- The Sustainability Program had four major accomplishments:
 - Invited to GreenBuild, the world's largest conference dedicated to green building.
 - Launched a new partnership with the San Diego Airport and the Good Traveler.
 - Developed a free pop-up exhibit in Spanish Village for the public to learn about BPCP's sustainability efforts.
 - Balboa Park is now home to ten LEED certified buildings.

Ms. Kanzawa shared the following:

- The Balboa Park Learning Institute is planning the annual Trustees Connected Celebration on February 16, 2017.
- Our Digital Learning Manager has produced and published five new courses.
- Hosted three One Park- One Team Get-Togethers since November.
- Continuing conversations with the San Diego Museum Council around partnership opportunities in 2017.
- Over 20 students from Johns Hopkins University will be in San Diego from January 9 – 20 for the Museums Studies On-Site Program, working closely with the San Diego Museum of Man to create an app.

Friends of Balboa Park

Mr. Bolthouse shared the following:

- Collaboration is great amongst park organizations.
- Proud to partner in making possible the restoration of the Cabrillo Bridge light standards.
- Recognized board member Jim Hughes for leadership on the restored Gate Houses.
- Proud to partner with RSVP celebrating Park and Recreation Department staff with a luncheon in December.
- The Annual Poinsettia Display featured over 700 plants was magnificent.

- A grant has been received for new signage in Balboa Park highlighting the history of park and building areas.
- A grant was received to update technology on two of the information kiosks.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

None

Adoption

None

Special Events

301. House of Pacific Relations Ethnic Food Fair, Presenter: Heather Wilson, 1st Vice President

Requested a waiver to the summer moratorium for the Ethnic Food Fair to be held on May 28, 2017.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. KAHNG/MS. SCHIAVONI

A motion was made by Mr. Kahng and seconded by Ms. Schiavoni to recommend that the Park and Recreation Director extend a waiver to the Summer Moratorium for the 2017 Ethnic Food Fair. The motion carried (6-0-1) (Mr. Kinney abstaining).

302. Trustees Connected, Presenter Peter Comiskey, Executive Director

Requested approval of the February 16, 2017 event to be held the Veteran's Memorial Garden. The event rotates venues every year and brings trustees together.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Parzen and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa to approve the event as presented. The motion carried (6,0,1) Mr. Kinney abstaining.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. West Mesa Comfort Station Replacements, Presenter: George Freiha, Sr. Engineer

Mr. Freiha presented renderings for the two replacement comfort stations being planned for 6th and Thorn and 6th and Nutmeg. They are prefabricated with galvanized roofing, masonry stucco walls and ceramic tile. The Thorn St. location will feature four unisex single stall restrooms, two ADA compliant restrooms and a maintenance room. The Nutmeg location will have the same design with ten unisex restrooms, two ADA compliant restrooms and a maintenance room. The estimated project cost is \$900,000.00 and the project should be complete by August 2018.

Committee Comments:

- Concern about the unisex feature- single stall approach increases safety
- Existing Structures may be considered historic
- Doors opening outward or inward and is it a full length door? The architect responded that the appropriate door swing will be inward for standard stalls and outward for ADA stall and the door is full length with a 1" clearance.
- Concerned about adequate lighting

Community Comments:

- Individual stalls are an excellent innovation in restroom design.
- Wise use of prefabricated buildings, tend to have better quality.
- Concern about design of facilities without a formal design review. Chess Club rehabilitation by City staff had no design review and disappointed with the Big Belly trash cans and their locations.
- Question the large size and addition of stall of the comfort station at Nutmeg.
- Similar comfort stations are located with much success in the beach areas.
- Concern about the way it looks and color scheme- Will use color palette found in park.
- If door become misaligned, who will repair? Design is reviewed by Facilities Division.
- The Balboa Park Conservancy offered to perform a design review.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. World Peace Sanctuary San Diego, Presenters Pete Wheeler and Vicki Estrada

Pete Wheeler, Chairperson reported that he and Vicki Estrada have been working 18 months on the project. It has been a dream of his and his deceased wife to create a world peace sanctuary and it was pointed out that the East Mesa of the park is in need of beautification. Vicki Estrada found examples of other gardens presented a design that could work on the landfill area by offering opportunities to reconnect with nature and create 12 small gardens for groups and clubs to plant and maintain.

Committee Comments:

- Like the concept but wondered about the process to determine the best use of the area as many ideas have been presented for this area.
- Should not be too difficult to achieve but more analysis with the Precise Plan is needed.
- How will it be managed?
- It is a big goal and would bring people together.

Public Comment:

- There are some examples of this type of project but need to look at existing Morley Field users and space allocation.

SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy – No Report

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No Report

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS –

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, February 2, 2017
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager