

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE March 2, 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

Victoria Curran
Luanne Kanzawa
Andrew Kahng
David Kinney – Chair
Dang Nguyen
Micah Parzen
Rob Steppke

Members Absent

Amy Bernal
Kenneth Davenport – Vice Chair
James Lawson
Don Liddell
Johanna S. Schiavoni

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Mario Llanos
Jeff Van Deerlin

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2017

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

A motion was made by Mr. Kahng and seconded by Mr. Steppke to approve the February 2, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved (5-0-2) Ms. Curran and Mr. Parzen abstaining.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniele Laman of the House of Pacific Relations noted that the Hall of Nations has been broken into twice and the person is now in custody. The President of the House of Pacific Relations is now Heather Wilson. She questioned if there is a maximum capacity in the park as it will be a very busy weekend with multiple events occurring. She invited all to the upcoming lawn program by the House of Chamorros.

John Stump thanked the Committee for support of the Tropical Fish Society and the San Diego Koi Club.

Jack Carpenter noted that all people coming to the park are directed to Pershing Drive and there is inadequate signage. A meeting was held with interested parties and Caltrans will be installing two new signs that will read Museums/Zoo.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

A draft donor recognition and naming rights for the park system was discussed at the last Park and Recreation Board. The process may be helpful for the Department and its non-profit partners.

STAFF REPORT

City Council Third District, Molly Chase – Chief of Staff reported the following:

- Congratulations to Victoria Curran and James Lawson, newly appointed members of the Committee
- Councilmember Ward introduced an equal pay ordinance for contractors and others who do business with the City of San Diego
- Balboa Park continues to be a top priority and is in support of Regional Parks and bond funding
- Able to provide discretionary funds of \$9,000.00 for park signage coordinated by staff and the Friends of Balboa Park

Jeff Van Deerlin, Program Manager, Balboa Park

- Extended a welcome to Ms. Curran and Mr. Lawson and congratulated Mr. Parzen, Ms. Kanzawa and Mr. Davenport on their reappointments.
- Recognized Mario Llanos as he was appointed District Manager, Balboa Park Operations

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

- A contract has been let to replace the Marston House roof. The project is scheduled to start March 13 and will be completed within 90 days.
- Regarding the permit approved for Tater Tots and Beer Festival held last Saturday, February 25, the park ranger assigned to the event noted that while no glass was present, there were issues with a truck blocking an area of the parking lot, reserved parking spaces which were not approved, plastic wrappers on cups blowing away and smoking which is prohibited in the park. Since the event was fenced and participants did not have in and out privileges, attendees could not leave the area to smoke. This report will be kept on file as only a one time permit was issued.
- The search for the next Civic Organist is continuing. Advertisement for the position which also serves at the Spreckels Organ Society's Artistic Director has been published in periodicals around the world. We are hoping to receive many applications and have the top finalists perform concerts in late summer.

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

- In the last Storm this past Monday, we lost (12) more mature trees. We lost (5) on the West Mesa and (7) on the East Mesa.
- The Citywide Park Forestry and Balboa Park Maintenance Crews are still catching up on downed tree removals from the past several storms. Additionally, we have been proactively removing a few mature trees that look unstable due to surrounding trees falling, heavy leans or disease. Crews have been focusing on heavily populated areas first—as a result large trees over trails have not been attended to...mostly because it is too muddy to get heavy equipment to them. We hope to start hitting trees blocking trails in the next week or two.

- Currently we have some vacancies for Balboa Park Maintenance that we need to fill. We have lost some staff to promotions, transfers, and retirement. Currently we have the following vacancies: (1) Horticulturist, (1) Equipment Operator I, (1) Park Ranger, (5) Grounds Maintenance Worker II (we will have seven vacancies total after March 10th), (1) Grounds Maintenance Worker I.
- The week of March 20th, BP staff is working with the BP Conservancy, The La Jolla Village Garden Club, and Tree San Diego to plant approximately 30 boxed trees at the Morley Field Dog Park. City staff will plant and add irrigation to the new trees donated by the La Jolla Village Garden Club on Wednesday the 22nd. On the 23rd Tree San Diego and Urban Core will lead 120 fifth graders from Chollas-Mead Elementary in instructing them how to water new and mature trees in the same area as part of the Junior Tree Steward Certification project.
- BP staff noticed that since the last storm man street lights were not working throughout the Park this past week. Streets Department found the problem and the lights were all on very early this morning.
- Ranger staff has gone out the last three Thursdays with the police department conducting transient sweeps in Florida Canyon, West and Central Mesa resulting in numerous contacts and several arrests.
- Rangers have a clean-up throughout the Park (Florida Canyon, Golden Hill Park, and West Mesa) with Environmental Services to address issues related to transient encampments.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Balboa Park Conservancy

None

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Mr. Peter Comiskey shared the following:

- Thanks to your approvals, BPCP was able to run our 4th Annual Trustees Connected Celebration – we encourage trustees from all BPCP members to come together to celebrate Balboa Park in our community.
- Over 400 Trustees RSVP'd to this event and I want to publically thank Kristen Mihalko from BPCP, Sheldon Margolis and his amazing team from Veterans Museum and the fantastic efforts of Jaime Diez – City of San Diego Grounds Maintenance Manager. The area in and around Veterans Museum looked spectacular and received rave reviews.
- For the Balboa Park Sustainability program, BPCP will be recognizing the milestone of 10 LEED building certifications with a reception on April 5 for the key individuals and organizations who contributed to this major accomplishment.
- The 2016 sustainability annual report has been provided for you and additional copies are on the back table. We hope you enjoy reading about accomplishments and community partnerships such as the launch of a carbon footprint reduction program with the San Diego Airport and joining the Green Museums Accord.
- Also, in an effort to reduce landfill waste, we have been working with our members to increase recycling opportunities in the Park and perform building waste audits to better benchmark our progress – while I haven't done one of these myself – we invite you all to put on a pair of gloves and some old jeans and dig through a dumpster or two. We look to have some exciting updates on new recycling opportunities to announce soon.

- In addition to our first One Park ♦ One Team happy hour at Panama 66 welcoming 35 team members, our online learning portal continues to see increased registrations and participation in the custom courses that are being designed for park team members.
- The Learning Institute is also planning to host a Cultural Competency workshop soon with Charmaine Jefferson. We last welcomed Charmaine to the park for the 2016 Smith Symposium.
- Finally, I was thrilled to join Balboa Park team members Andrea Caldwell, Nik Honeysett and a Balboa Park Trustee to advocate in Washington DC on Tuesday for the American Alliance of Museums. We were discussing and advocating for specific positions regarding funding for cultural organizations as well as worrisome considerations for changes in charitable deductions. We met with the offices of both U.S. Senators and our five San Diego County House of Representative members. I will report that there was strong recognition of Balboa Park and the value we bring to this region and I would encourage our park to continue to be present during these national advocacy opportunities.

Committee of 100

Mr. Kelly stated the Committee of 100's interest in restoring the Palisades area and the idea of restoring the four murals on the California State Building that currently houses the San Diego Automotive Museum came up. In 1935, these murals represented commerce, agriculture, scenic beauty and industry. The murals will be printed and mounted until further funding is obtained to install the murals on tiles.

Friends of Balboa Park

Mr. John Bolthouse shared the following:

- Congratulated Mario Llanos for his new position
- Received a 2016 Park and Recreation Game Ball at an award ceremony for the restoration of the light standards on the Cabrillo Bridge
- The Gatehouse ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on March 29 at 10:00 a.m.
- Arbor Day will be held March 25 at Marston Point

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

None

Adoption

201. Balboa Park Entry Monuments.

Charles Daniels, Park Designer, Park and Recreation Department provided information and a staff report regarding the proposed entryway monuments along Park Blvd south of Presidents Way. The Department is requesting a determination that the monuments are consistent with the Balboa Park Master Plan and the Central Mesa Precise Plan and also a recommendation on the proposed general development plan for the monuments in this location. Also to be considered is the Council Policy regarding donations. The concept of entryway monuments was introduced by Precise Plan amendment for the Zoological Society's Park Blvd. Promenade project. Staff finds the project consistent with the amended Precise Plan, the Council Policy regarding donations and the general design of the kiosks. The land use does not change with the installation of the monuments.

Jack Carpenter of the Friends of Balboa Park commented that he has presented this project twice to the Committee and eight presentations to other groups.

Vicki Estrada of Estrada Land Planning noted that people complain about the lack of entry signs and this location is the priority. People associate domes with Balboa Park and the subtle brass plaques for donor would be on the interior side of the structure.

Committee Comments:

- In favor of the concept
- Inquired about the street median landscaping in that area
- Inquired about the font for the Balboa Park lettering
- Anticipated costs and timing (\$300,000.00 and would begin when funded)
- Great project
- Questioned if the donor recognition policy will apply (decision rests with the Director)
- Read letter by Mr. Stump and is wondering what would happen if the park name changes (will change monument)
- Thanked Charles for clarifying the role of the Committee
- Inquired about design of the other monuments (will be different as they won't fit at each location and the style may be different)
- Encourage the Friends to fund the work of landscaping the median
- Monuments are useful and attractive, but not excited about the design
- Would like to have a workshop on the design

Public Comments:

- Submitted letter for the record, project doesn't conform with the policy on racial discrimination, the Climate Action Plan or the Historic Park Blvd. Trolley line and bikeway plan. The name Balboa Park is not appropriate any longer. Conceptually approve of monuments, but not the Spanish Colonial style.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. STEPPKE/MS. CURRAN

A motion was made by Mr. Steppke and seconded by Ms. Curran to approve the General Development Plan in concept for the new entryway monuments on Park Blvd. A design workshop was requested when the design is further developed to look at maintenance concerns and request that the design of each monument be brought forward to the Committee for future monument sites. The motion carried (6-0-1) with Mr. Kinney abstaining.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Kanzawa and seconded by Mr. Nguyen to recommend that the entryway monuments proposed are consistent with the Central Mesa Precise Plan. The motion carried (5-0-2) with Ms. Curran and Mr. Kinney abstaining.

Special Events

301. 40th Annual America's Finest City Half Marathon and 5K.

Ms. Lamp of In Motion Inc. requested to have a beer garden at their post-race festival area on August 20, 2017. They have found that it helps slow race participants down from leaving the site

before they refuel. Only race participants receive one beer, they will not expand their festival area and they do wish to make a donation to Balboa Park.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. NGUYEN/MS. CURRAN

A motion was made by Mr. Nguyen and seconded by Ms. Curran to approve the addition of the beer garden. The motion carried (6-0-1) with Mr. Kinney abstaining.

302. Maker Faire San Diego

Mr. Comiskey noted that this will be the third year for the event in Balboa Park scheduled for October 7 – 8, 2017. He requested use of the parking lot near the Natural History Museum as activities will be concentrated in that area in place of the Palisades parking lot.

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

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

303. Out of the Darkness Overnight

Mr. Rodriguez informed the Committee that his 16 mile walk will be held for the first time in San Diego to support the local chapter. He requested that a rest stop be accommodated at the Park and Presidents Way lawn in the evening of May 20, 2017 so that participants may receive a box lunch, use a porta potty, get on the sag wagon if needed and receive emotional support. No road closures are associated with the event.

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

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

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. None

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy – No Report

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No Report

Balboa Park Committee

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COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS –

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager