

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE May 4, 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

Amy Bernal
Victoria Curran(arr. 6:30 pm)
Kenneth Davenport – Vice
Chair
Andrew Kahng
Luanne Kanzawa
David Kinney – Chair
Don Liddell
Dang Nguyen
Johanna S. Schiavoni(arr.
6:05 pm)
Rob Steppke

Members Absent

James Lawson
Micah Parzen

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Mario Llanos

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF April 6, 2017

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

A motion was made by Mr. Steppke and seconded by Ms. Bernal to approve the April 6, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-2) Ms. Kanzawa and Mr. Nguyen abstaining.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniele Laman of the House of Pacific Relations provided an update and noted two incidents of vandalism with rocks breaking windows, one at the House of Czech and Slovak and the other at the House of China. The Puppet Theater also had a break in. A warrant was issued for one individual known to cause vandalism in the park. House of Poland will be featured this Sunday and the Ethnic Food Fair will be held on May 28, 2017.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Kinney stated that at the last Park and Recreation Board, the Park Director presented the proposed budget that had some reductions that weren't as significant as compared to past years. There are \$90 million in Capital Improvement Projects within the budget for parks. On May 8, 9:00 a.m., the Park and Recreation Department budget will be heard by City Council.

STAFF REPORT

Assemblymember 78TH District, Stephen Hill – District Director, reported the following:

- The California Legislature identifies May as small business month.
- Recognized Chair Kinney for his many years of service to the Balboa Park Committee and presented a certificate of recognition from Assemblymember Todd Gloria

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

- Looking forward to Mr. Kinney's leadership continuing through service on the Park and Recreation Board
- Pleased to participate at Arbor Day in the Park
- The proposed budget keeps recreation centers and libraries operating at the same level, but there are significant cuts proposed for arts and culture of \$4 million which is concerning to Councilmember Ward. There will be a call to increase that funding on Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. with 250 arts and culture organizations present.
- Thank you to Mario Llanos, District Manager for his responsiveness to concerns in the park with a shortage of staff
- Earth Fair was a great event with lots of people in the park. Councilmember Ward had a booth at the event
- A Balboa Park working group has been formed and a public meeting is planned for May 30, 2017 at the San Diego Museum of Art to prioritize projects for the park and develop a dedicated revenue stream.
- Office hours will be held at Golden Hill on May 24, 2017

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

- Update on the Marston House roofing project – unfortunately 3 weeks behind due to problem with materials. Rain is expected this weekend and the roof will have to be covered.
- Staff is in final planning with volunteers for the Twilight Concerts in the Park programming. There always seem to be last minute band cancellations or conflicts to work around.
- May is the start of graduation season and the Spreckels Organ Pavilion is a popular facility to host these events. Staff worked with the larger schools to access the services of special event traffic controllers for better traffic flow in and out of the park.
- Regarding the traffic issues of May 11, staff has forecasted the date of the St. Patrick's Day Festival (which always falls on the Saturday before St. Patrick's Day – not after) and met with representatives of the Thursday Club and determined that these two events will not fall on the same weekend.

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

- Last week staff planted 14 trees as part of Arbor Day in partnership with the Friends of the Park
- Last Saturday City staff worked in Zorro Canyon with twelve volunteers from Hunter Irrigation to remove non- natives from the canyon. Additionally, 18 volunteers from Downtown Rotary assisted in planting Zoro Garden in anticipation of the butterfly release in a few weeks at Fiesta Botanica coming up on May 27. Thanks to the Friends of Balboa Park for assisting in coordination and purchasing plants for the planting.
- On the same day, 21 Rotarians assisted at the Balboa Park Nursery to pot up nursery stock for future use in Balboa Park.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Balboa Park Conservancy

Mr. Roger Conlee, Board Member shared the following:

- Announced the name change of the Project Planning and Design Committee to the Park Improvement Committee. Paul Myer is the Chair and Jim Hughes of the Friends of Balboa Park will be the Vice-Chair of this committee.
- Davey Tree Service has been awarded a contract to conduct a tree inventory of the park, working under Jackie Higgins, Director of Planning, Design and Programs.
- Everyone is invited to Fiesta Botanica on May 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., a Cinco de Mayo celebration and the Food Truck Friday events with entertainment that will continue all summer long.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Mr. Peter Comiskey shared the following:

- On April 19th on the Plaza de Panama, BPCP publicly announced achieving the milestone of 10 LEED certified buildings in Balboa Park along with partners SDG&E, San Diego Green Building Council and the City of San Diego. In addition to being honored in person by Councilmember Chris Ward, organizations from the certified buildings were presented with certificates from Assembly member Todd Gloria's office praising their "commitment to showcasing sustainability as a hallmark of Balboa Park."
- The Vine Affair is coming June 2. Event-goers will be treated to festive, unique themes at each museum participating in a stylish celebration of wine, art, beer, artisan food and live entertainment. This can't-miss event is on Friday, June 2, 2017, 6:00-10:00 p.m. Attendees will progress through five Balboa Park museums while enjoying unique art installations, live music, wine and wine education.
- Our One Park ♦ One Team get togethers continue monthly. This month over 50 Park team members attended a behind-the-scenes tour of San Diego Museum of Man's newest exhibit, "Living with Animals."
- Our annual One Park ♦ One Team BBQ is coming soon. We have over 400 people signed up and expect to see over 800 team members at the event. Members of this committee are One Park One Team as well! Come to the BBQ – please email me for more information.
- Balboa Park Learning Institute moderated a panel on community engagement programs for San Diego Museum Council. There were over 30 people in attendance.
- Mayor Faulconer has proposed to decimate funding for arts and culture in the coming year by \$4.7 million, from \$15.1 million to \$10.4 million. This 31% cut would be devastating. Of that, \$4.7 M, \$1.8 M will be cut from the funding of Balboa Park organizations alone.
- **Please rise up for the arts this coming Monday - May 8 at 7:30am.** The budget review begins at 9am in Council Chambers. This cut – any cut – is simply unacceptable. Visit riseupforthearts.org.

Committee of 100

No report

Friends of Balboa Park

Mr. John Bolthouse shared the following:

- Congratulations to Chair Kinney for a successful tenor
- Thanks to Mario, Molly on the Arbor Day and Zoro Garden projects for the support and acknowledgement
- Friends are making progress on the plan and funding for the perimeter project at the Morton Bay Fig Tree. It will be a tremendous gift to the park for the park's 150th birthday.
- At Bird Park, near the north-east corner of the park a weeding project is planned
- Two information kiosks are planned to receive technology upgrades with high luminescence screens
- Thanks to County Supervisor Ron Roberts, a \$22,000 grant was received to expand the historic landmark blue sign program. The next sign will be installed on the Ford Building, a partnership of the Friends and the Air and Space Museum.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. Environmental Systems Research Institute "ESRI" Use Conference Closing Event. Presenter: Michele Cole, ESRI Head of Events Marketing

Mr. Kinney noted that this event has been conducted in the park on five other occasions but since it occurs during the summer moratorium, the policy states that the organization must return every year to request a waiver of the moratorium for events occurring in the summer.

Ms. Cole provided a letter of support from the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership. She provided background on ESRI and the annual convention held in San Diego in July. They partner with the museums and the public integrates very well with event in the public spaces. Everyone comes up from the convention center with their families and has a wonderful time with an educational focus in the park while being aware of the environmental impact. She provided the layout of the event and the transportation plan.

Susan Lowery-Mendoza provided a staff recommendation that the Committee endorse the event and recommend that the Park Director waive the summer moratorium for this event. This event planned for July 13, 2017 works extremely well in the park and there have been no issues with use of the public spaces in the past.

Mr. Kinney stated that the Committee takes any waiver of the summer moratorium very seriously and has not recommended approval of some that were proposed in the past. Because the guest are mostly transported by coach, there aren't the problems with too many vehicles coming to the park and it is a great collaboration.

Committee Comments:

- Wish more companies would use this model to get visitors out of the Gaslamp District to experience the park.
- Inquired about the financial contribution to the park. Ms. Cole replied that the museums receive donations from the event and she would like to reach out the Conservancy to offer software for use in the park
- Request that this review occur earlier in the year

Public Comments:

- Peter Comiskey stated that is a very well run event and supportive of the park institutions

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED MS. SCHIAVONI/MS. BERNAL

A motion was made by Ms. Schiavoni and seconded by Ms. Bernal to recommend a waiver to the summer moratorium for the ESRI event. The motion was unanimously approved (9,0,1) with Mr. Kinney abstaining.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. None

SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy – No Report

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No Report

COMMITTEE MEMBER’S REPORTS –

West Mesa Subcommittee– None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, July 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