

MINUTES

City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
January 4, 2018

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
Sarah Dawe
Katherine Johnston - Chair
Andrew Kahng
Luanne Kanzawa
James Lawson
Don Liddell
Micah Parzen
Johanna S. Schiavoni
Rob Steppke (arr. 6:30 pm)

Members Absent

Kenneth Davenport – Vice Chair
Dang Nguyen

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Mario Llanos
Jeff Van Deerlin
Charles Daniels
George Freiha
Michelle Garcia-Quilco

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Johnston called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2, 2017

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

A motion was made by Ms. Kanzawa and seconded by Ms. Schiavoni to approve the November 2, 2017 meeting minutes with corrections. The motion was unanimously approved (9-0-1).

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniele Laman of the House of Pacific Relations provided an update on the new cottages and noted the passing of George and Gladys Novinger. Mr. Novinger chaired the New International Cottage Committee and Mrs. Novinger founded the House of Peru. She noted that incidents of vandalism have increased, ADA parking issues and lack of MTS transit to the park at December Nights.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

No report presented

STAFF REPORT

Jeff Van Deerlin, Program Manager, Balboa Park/Mission Bay Park reported the following:

- The campground for homeless at the 20th and B maintenance yard has closed and the three bridge shelters are now in operation.

- The Save Starlight organization now has a Special Use Permit to operate the Bowl's box office and concession building. He thanked Facilities Division for their efforts sprucing up the exterior those buildings.

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

- The Park hosted successful events in the month of December with December Nights kicking it off and concluding with the Holiday Food Truck event during the last week of the month.
- After a months-long search, the Spreckels Organ Society and San Diego Parks and Recreation Department have announced Spanish organist Raúl Prieto Ramírez will be the next San Diego Civic Organist and Artistic Director of the Spreckels Organ Society. On Sunday, January 7, the public will have a chance to enjoy his premiere concert.
- The Parks and Recreation Departments Civic Dance Arts program invites you to attend Collage-2018 entitled, "Be Bold." The Collage performance is the winner of the Bravo Award for the past three years for Best Dance show in San Diego. It is a stunning performance by 75 professionally trained dancers in our program and will be held in the Casa del Prado Theater from February 2 – 18.

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

- On January 15th, BP Staff will lead our annual Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Day of Service at the Quince off ramp and adjacent areas, including the Trees for Health Arboretum and Cypress Point. The event draws approximately 500 volunteers.
- Over the last couple months, Ranger Staff, Environmental Services, and Balboa Park Grounds Maintenance Workers cleaned up transient debris and litter from Florida Canyon, Cabrillo Canyon and around Golden Hill Park.
- Park Rangers continue to clean and remove transient camps throughout Balboa Park.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Balboa Park Conservancy

Mr. Tomas Herrera-Mishler reported the following:

- Thanked Mario Llanos and his staff for assistance with December Nights issues
- The 150th anniversary of Balboa Park is occurring this year. The Park was established on May 26, 1868, which happens to fall on Fiesta Botanica, an event co-sponsored with Parks and Rec. They are looking for additional ways to mark the anniversary.
- Enjoyed the holiday food trucks and collaboration with park entities and the media coverage
- Supports staff recommendation on relocation of the North Prado Visitor Center

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Mr. Peter Comiskey shared the following:

- At our most recent strategic planning session, three core initiatives were confirmed by the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership Board of Directors, which are Drive effective advocacy, Intensify marketing through park wide communications, and Advance One Park ♦ One Team
- February 28 has been set as the date for the 5th annual Trustees Connected event where the Cultural Partnership brings hundreds of past and current trustees together to celebrate their engagement in Arts and Culture.

- As always, the Community Access Pass and Military Appreciation Pass continue to be successful in providing access to Arts and Culture for thousands of members of our community through collaborations with over 65 non-profit organizations throughout the County.
- Legler-Benbough is supporting the Director, Park wide Communications position at the Cultural Partnership as well as the “partner” position at the San Diego Tourism Authority.
- Maker Faire will be held October 6 -7, experimenting with unique offerings and with growing international recognition
- Recommend looking at not only the success of events, but purpose and timing of events in the park

Committee of 100

No report

Balboa Park Online Collaborative

Mr. Nik Honeysett shared the following:

- December Nights is the largest hit to their network support and network did not go down this year
- WIFI equipment inventory is taking place as some equipment needs replacing
- Invited to write an editorial piece on net neutrality and he is thinking about it with regards to the impact on arts and culture
- Balboa Park App is a partnership produced with a local start-up with over 100,000 downloads which can be used to determine where people are going in the park.

Friends of Balboa Park

Mr. John Bolthouse shared the following:

- Pleased to provide support by operating a visitor information booth at December Nights
- Surpassed the one million dollar mark for the Carousel fundraising campaign
- Announced a new volunteer program at the Carousel
- Hosted the poinsettia display at the Botanical Building
- California Tower speaker project acoustical study is complete
- Hoping to work with some partners to re-create the Honeymoon Bridge spanning Palm Canyon

Save Starlight

Mr. Steve Stopper shared the following:

- Thanked all for their support and recognized their board members who were present
- Great experience working at December Nights, hosting Save Starlight stage
- Their goal is to have a Save Starlight experience by the summer

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. North Prado Area Visitor Center, Presenter: Charles Daniels, Park Designer

Mr. Daniels provided background information regarding the location of the food service and visitor information center identified in the Central Mesa Precise Plan at the intersection of Old Globe Way and Village Place. It is the Department's recommendation to separate and relocate the visitor's center from the food service so that outdoor seating can be retained due to the small footprint of the site. There are other options for alternate sites where the visitor center can be located closer to the parking areas and major access points.

Committee Comments:

- In support of the proposed separation as more food options are needed in the park, the concessionaire has ceased operation of the Village Grill and it will make the request for proposal more attractive to bidders
- Agrees with alternative location, but would like the Committee to evaluate and recommend alternative options before taking this action
- It is a time sensitive issue to get the restaurant back out to bid as the site is vacated
- Clarifying that the intent is to actually remove the visitor's center from its stated location, not to relocate it as we don't know where it is going (yes, to separate it from the food service area to a more prominent location to be determined at a later date within the North Prado area)

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED MR. LAWSON/MR. LIDDELL

A motion was made by Mr. Lawson and seconded by Mr. Liddell to support staff's recommendation. The motion was approved (8-1-1) with Mr. Steppke opposed and Ms. Schiavoni abstaining.

202. Morton Bay Fig Observation Platform, Presenter: Charles Daniels, Park Designer

Mr. Daniels stated that the Department would like to obtain a recommendation that the proposed observation deck in the North Prado area at the Morton Bay Fig tree is consistent with the Balboa Park Master Plan and the Central Mesa Precise Plan. Staff is recommending that the project is consistent with the plans. He reviewed the Parks and Recreation Board Policy No. 1002 for which proposals are evaluated and is contained in the staff report. The visitor experience will be enhanced, there is no fee to access the deck, will be accessible to all, and have an educational component. The project is listed on the 2001 unfunded park improvements list by the Balboa Park Committee. Mr. Bolthouse and Mr. Caughey of the Friends of Balboa Park noted that the funds are in place and hope to have it completed by the end of the year.

Committee Comments:

- Appreciate the project
- Inquired about the timeline
- Concerned about security of the deck (no intent to close off deck, transparent and highly visible from street with illumination)
- Type of material used

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED MR. KAHNG/MS. DAWE

A motion was made by Mr. Kahng and seconded by Ms. Dawe to support staff's recommendation. The motion was unanimously approved (10-0).

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. California Tower Seismic Retrofit Project, Presenter: Michelle Garcia-Quilco, Associate Civil Engineer

Ms. Garcia- Quilco, Project Manager, Public Works, introduced the project team: George Freiha, Senior Project Manager, Farhad Hossan, Project Engineer, and Tony Court, Design Consultant and Structural Engineer.

Ms. Garcia-Quilco provided an update on the status of the project, background, and goal of project which is to seismically enhance the California Tower with the latest California building codes while complying with the Secretary of the Interior's standards for treatment of historic properties. She described the work to be done, cost of the project, source of funding and estimated project schedule.

Committee Comments:

- Pleased to see this important project continuing
- Hope to see more park buildings seismically retrofitted
- Inquired if there is a report on the seismic retrofit needs of the park (not at this time)

SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy –No report

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No report

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS

Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council – Mr. Kahng noted that officer elections were held with the following result; Ricky Franchi, Chairperson and Bill Aaron, Vice-Chairperson and designated representative to the Balboa Park Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, February 1, 2018
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager