

# MINUTES

City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Board  
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE  
March 1, 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  
Kenneth Davenport – Vice  
Chair  
Katherine Johnston – Chair  
Luanne Kanzawa  
Don Liddell  
Dang Nguyen  
Micah Parzen  
Johanna S. Schiavoni  
Rob Steppke

**Members Absent**

Andrew Kahng  
James Lawson

**Staff Present**

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
Mario Llanos  
Jeff Van Deerlin  
Charles Daniels

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2018**

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

A motion was made by Ms. Kanzawa and seconded by Ms. Schiavoni to approve the January 4, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved (8-0-2) with Mr. Davenport and Mr. Nguyen abstaining.

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES** – None

**NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

Daniele Laman of the House of Pacific Relations stated that the meeting was noticed 48 hours prior to the meeting and asked how HPR can be added to the standing agenda. At the Safety and Security meeting, the Lime Bike issues was raised. The House of China and House of India have upcoming events.

Betty Peabody requested that the members of the Committee to introduce themselves and areas represented.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

No report presented

## **STAFF REPORT**

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

- Currently conducting interviews to fill seven custodian vacancies
- At our next meeting the Heart and Stroke Walk will be reviewing the changes they are making to this year's event to address the complaints generated from their 2017 event.
- Upcoming Events:
- March 3 – Finish Chelsea's Run – West Mesa
- March 9 -10 City Wide Basketball Championship – Municipal Gym
- March 10 – 11 Rummage Sale – Balboa Park Activity Center
- March 17 – St. Patrick Day Parade and Festival – West Mesa
- March 18 – Hot Chocolate 5 and 15 K – East Mesa
- March 24 – Race for Autism – West Mesa
- March 31 – Egg Hunt Morley Field – East Mesa

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

- On January 15, the volunteer office collaborated with BP Staff to host 591 volunteers. Their hard work and dedication resulted in a significant impact to 7 ½ acres of Balboa Park's West Mesa at the Quince Off-ramp into the Park. This included spreading over 120 yards of mulch, the removal of over 300 yards of greenery and litter, painting 5 picnic tables, and the planting of 17 trees.
- As we get closer to spring, we are planting several Gardens such as Alcazar garden and Zorro Garden and Canyon.
- Street Division has been replacing light poles in the Pepper Grove, Space Theatre and North Carousel Lots as part of a P&R one time light pole expenditure last FY.
- ESD Abatements- Ranger continue to work with ESD and cleanup of the Florida Canyon and Golden Hill. We have had eight (8) abatements and have removed over 20 tons of debris.
- Trail Improvements- Portions of the trails connecting the golf course and south park have been restored, we have started cutting back brush along the Bridal Trail, and continue to widen the trails in Florida Canyon
- Enforcement- Ranger Staff have issued twenty-two (22) citation for illegal lodging, twenty six (26) Parking citations (Violation of Posted Signs, Red Curbs, Disable Parking without Placards, Parking in areas without a permit) and six (6) citations for encroachment issues in the public restrooms. Total of fifty-four (54) Citations, ranging between infractions and misdemeanors.
- Fires- Rangers have responded to six (6) fires in the park, primarily in the canyon along the 163 and the west side. No injuries or major destruction. Most of the fires have been transient related due to the cold or cooking in the brush.
- Volunteer Projects- Rangers continue to have volunteers project every Saturday between 8am – 12pm, they have been working in Marston Addition, Florida Canyon and along the bridal trail on the west side. We typically get a small group about 4-8 volunteers. Project consist of litter removal, painting over graffiti and brush management.

## **BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES**

### **Balboa Park Conservancy**

Ms. Jacqueline Higgins, Director, Planning, Design and Programs reported the following:

This is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Balboa Park. The Cultural Landscape report covering the period of 1868-1910 will be discussed on May 10. The Cinco de Mayo event and Fiesta Botanica (held on actual founding day of the park) will be held in May. The Signage and Wayfinding plan will be presented later in the meeting.

### **Balboa Park Cultural Partnership**

Mr. Peter Comiskey provided updates regarding the following:

The Trustees Connected event; Jennifer Davies is the new SD Tourism Authority appointment as Director of Cultural Tourism, Balboa Park; Community Access and Military Appreciation passes; Aaron Boyles as our new Manager for the Balboa Park Sustainability program; and proposed Arts and Culture Funding reductions.

### **Committee of 100**

Mr. Mike Kelly noted the plight of the Electriquette in the park. The owner/operator hasn't been able to maintain service or expand operations and has removed the rental kiosk. Mr. Kelly would like to see them stay in the park and pleaded to try to find a way to keep them operational.

### **Balboa Park Online Collaborative**

Mr. Nik Honeysett shared the following:

Celebrating BPOC's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Some equipment is getting old and they are replacing it; applied for public charity status; hope to bring the 7 CEO's Conference to the park; and data and analytics discovery underway to merge metrics of park.

### **Friends of Balboa Park**

Mr. John Bolthouse shared the following:

Shared their Newsletter; thanks for the endorsement of the Fig Tree project; Lilly display unveiled April 1 in the Botanical Building; Arbor Day is April 27 east of Park Blvd. where school children will help plant trees; April 16, Texas Roadhouse BBQ volunteer clean-up event with 600 persons at Morley Field.

### **Save Starlight**

Mr. Steve Stopper shared the following:

Come a long way, but have a long way to go. Vandalism is still occurring. They have a Kick-starter campaign underway.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Consent**

101. None

#### **Adoption**

201. Balboa Statue Presenters: Charles Daniels, Park Designer and Jesus Benayas, President, House of Spain

Mr. Daniels stated that the Department is requesting a recommendation on the proposed statue and plaque of Vasco Nunez de Balboa. He reviewed the proposed location, criteria in which the project is evaluated by, noting that the Commission for Arts and Culture does not consider the proposed statue to be artwork so maintenance would be the responsibility of the Department, and stated the Department recommendation.

Mr. Benayas clarified that he has ten minutes to present and that the item is an action item on the agenda, not a workshop item that the last time this item was presented was in 2015 and the location and the statue are now proposed for a different location. He stated his dissatisfaction that the item is not a workshop item; that the Kumeyaay leaders have not been involved; that the chair and members of the Committee have changed and are acting differently; disingenuous comments were made by a Committee member; Committee members are uninformed about the subject; dirty politics are in play; that the Brown Act was violated for noticing of the meeting; and that the meeting should be rescheduled and is not acceptable. Balboa is a man of integrity, simply blamed for things he did not do and would be called a human rights activist today.

Staff responded that the meeting was noticed 72 hours in advance on the website and also physically posted at the Balboa Park Administration Building, prior to 6:00 p.m. Monday, February 26, 2018.

#### Public Comments:

- In favor, coming to Park since she was a child, a San Diego native, would be amazing to have the statue
- In favor, letter presented, explorers left home for unknown and found the new world
- Cannot find the statue of Balboa, why not have a statue of the man who discovered the Pacific?
- Lived 75 years in San Diego, math and science teacher, don't see any data as to how many people are represented. Majority of Indians in San Diego not willing to make a stand, don't care
- Protest the terms in which Balboa has been described which is offensive and divides us
- Need a statue of Balboa in the park, would enhance the experience and commemorate the history
- It is embarrassing not to have a statue of Balboa in the park. Hope the name of the park is not changed.
- The City Park Commissioners named the park for the 1915 exhibition to celebrate the opening of the Panama Canal. Erect a statue of Balboa in the park.
- In opposition of the statue, the Kumeyaay do care about what goes on in the park, all history need to be acknowledged
- Does care and is in opposition, do not want to glorify Balboa
- Balboa in not a part of San Diego history
- The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership is not in favor, the addition of the statue would be divisive

- Statue would be in front of the Fleet Science Center which is against the statue, it isn't a good way to tell history, only tells who put up the statue
- In opposition – 3<sup>rd</sup> time he has driven 70 miles to oppose this statue, last time he met with House of Spain, they said they would help to change the name of the park to Kumeyaay Park. Is speaking on behalf of the Campo tribe. Wish issue would die.
- This has been Kumeyaay land for thousands of years and still dealing with encroachment over and over, it is an affront and insult to their community, their land. Erect the statue in Spain. Representing the Santa Ysabel tribe
- Allowing the statue to go up would change the meaning of humanity, all seven members of tribal board are in opposition.
- All cultures must be represented and mutually respected – in opposition
- Park needs to welcome people of all backgrounds
- The park is Kumeyaay territory and Kumeyaay were forced to leave it in 1910
- Oppose the statue, statue would put another stake in the heart of the Kumeyaay, will come again to oppose
- Why would we honor such a man who was cruel on Kumeyaay territory and not the Kumeyaay themselves?
- People who are here tonight are here for the sentiment of the people. Putting up this statue washes over history.
- Standing in solidarity in opposition to the statue, Mr. Benayas doesn't know his history, Balboa was probably the first to ever feed Indians to his dogs.

**Committee Comments:**

- Why the staff recommendation was made and is it consistent with the plans? (staff is concerned about responsibility for maintenance of the statue and the public opposition)
- Asked for clarification of the statue location in reference to the Master Plan and Precise Plan
- Committee is charged with making land use decisions. Thinks it is inappropriate to have a lightning rod of this nature deemed as appropriate use of park land. Apologize to Kumeyaay and other community members for coming again to speak out and thanked colleagues and the Cultural Partnership members who voted unanimously in opposition of the statue.
- Don't know history and if Balboa should be honored or not we are in Balboa Park – difficult to disconnect
- Not a historian, but know this issue is divisive and want everyone to feel welcome and included in the public park

**MOTION MOVED/SECONDED MR. PARZEN/MS. SCHIAVONI**

A motion was made by Mr. Parzen and seconded by Ms. Schiavoni to support staff's recommendation with an amendment, removing "at this time" portion; to read, do not recommend approval of the proposed statue and plaque of Balboa. The motion was approved (9-1-0) with Mr. Davenport opposing.

**Special Events**

301. Sculpture and Cocktails. Presenter: Dieter Fenkart-Fröschl, Chief Operating Officer

Mr. Fenkart-Fröschl requested use of the north side of the Plaza de Panama for a Sculptures and Cocktails event. The seven sculptures in the Plaza de Panama were installed in 2016 and will be in place until November, 2019. This event is planned to be held on June 21, 2018 so the summer moratorium would need to be waived.

Committee Comments:

- Seems like a great event have enjoyed the different activations in the park

**MOTION MOVED/SECONDED MS. CURRAN/MS. DAWE**

A motion was made by Ms. Curran and seconded by Ms. Dawe to recommend that the Park and Recreation Director extend a waiver to the summer moratorium for the Sculpture and Cocktails event on June 21, 2018. The motion was approved unanimously (10-0-0).

**WORKSHOP ITEMS**

401. Signage and Wayfinding Initiative, Balboa Park Conservancy, Presenters: Jeff Hertzler and Harry Mark, RSM Designs

Mr. Hertzler noted that a steering committee was gathered which identified key issues. He reviewed signage masterplan concepts which can be accomplished by updating and enhancing existing park signs with eight different subtle but impactful modifications.

Committee Comments:

- Gateway monuments compatible with initiative? (monuments already in planning, but will take cues from the initiative)
- Precise Plan need to be amended? (to be determined)
- How many signs are there and how long to implement, associated costs?
- Impressed, light years ahead of what we have now
- Would like to have a workshop on the item in the future □ May want to re-think the color scheme

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

501. Inspiration Point Solar Panel Project Update, James Chen, Bryan Olson, Sr. Civil Engineers, City of San Diego Environmental Services Department.

Provided an update on the solar project. Since the last presentation, some changes were made to the project which will save 3.6 million over 20 years. The project will be located in the lower Inspiration Parking lot only, the inverters will face the inside of the structure, revised layout so the no trees will be removed from the lot.

Public Comments:

- To install a solar farmed with the esthetics not defined, contracted services with a 20 year license on park land is something the Committee should have been allowed to vote on. Recommend that Committee ask the City bring this project forth as a land use item.

Committee Comments:

- Has come forth as an information item three times and the Committee can't provide input

- Don't like that it will occupy the site for 20 years which interfered with the masterplan being implemented
- Fundamental process problem with the project
- Approved by the City Council with the facilities identified at the time
- The park has a strategic sustainability plan which should be reviewed to be in compliance with it.

**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 8:15 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, April 5, 2018 6:00  
P.M.  
Balboa Park Club  
2150 Pan American Road West  
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
District Manager