

# MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board  
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE  
May 3, 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**

Sarah Dawe  
Katherine Johnston – Chair  
Andrew Kahng  
Luanne Kanzawa  
Don Liddell  
Dang Nguyen  
Micah Parzen  
Rob Steppke

**Members Absent**

Victoria Curran  
Kenneth Davenport – Vice Chair  
James Lawson  
Johanna S. Schiavoni

**Staff Present**

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
Mario Llanos  
Jeff Van Deerlin

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2018**

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

A motion was made by Mr. Kahng and seconded by Mr. Nguyen to approve the April 5, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-2) with Mr. Steppke and Mr. Parzen abstaining.

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES** – None

**NON -AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

Daniele Laman of the House of Pacific Relations noted that there was not a safety and security meeting this month, megaphone volume is an issue and the Ethnic Food Fair is upcoming.

René Smith inquired about the SANDAG document and Trolley Line 560 showing completion in 2012-2025

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

No report presented

**STAFF REPORT**

Molly Chase, City Council Third District reported the following:

- Council in budget review, no major service reductions presented
- Looking at a dedicated police team for Balboa Park as we have had in the past
- Possible transfer of Public Works employees to form a dedicated facility repair team in Balboa Park
- Two new roofs are in the budget for Balboa Park
- Urban Forestry budget

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

- The Police Department budget scheduled May 7 from 9 – 12 if anyone wants to advocate on behalf of the park
- Provided an update on the solar project for the lower Inspiration Parking lot which will be completed in two phases with a lesser impact on parking

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

- Repair to bridge overpass at Museum of Man to be completed by Facilities Division in next 30 days (the date is being coordinated with the park) to repair some cosmetic damage caused by an oversized vehicle. The repair is estimated to take 1 – 2 days and the bridge will be closed to vehicular traffic.
- Twilight concerts in the Park begin June 19 in the Organ Pavilion every Tuesday- Thursday throughout the Summer. The schedule is being printed and will be available next week.
- Looking forward to our co-sponsored events this month Cinco de Mayo and Fiesta Botanica on May 26

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

- Last Month staff led volunteers from Texas Roadhouse at Morley Field and Bird Park for a Volunteer Event that included planting trees and plants, painting, trail maintenance, and weeding...special thanks to The Friends of Balboa Park for coordination of the event. In addition, thank you to The Balboa Park Conservancy and Cal Fire for assisting with the tree planting portion of this project. The Tree Balboa Park project is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment—particularly in disadvantaged communities. The cap-and-trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investment projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are made in disadvantaged and low-income communities. For more information, visit California Climate Investments.
- Recently staff planted 33 trees for Arbor Day across from the Zoo Parking lot in partnership with the Friends of Balboa Park. We are at approximately 190 trees planted for the year.
- Today we had a Sugar Gum Eucalyptus removed adjacent to the Casa Del Prado Theatre. The tree was approximately 153 feet high and had a DBH of 63 inches. It is estimated to be approximately 105 years old. The subject tree contained symptoms of *Armillaria mellea*, a decay fungus that causes white rot of the lower trunk and root systems of infected trees. We have been monitoring it and have multiple Arborist reports. Upon removal, our suspicions were confirmed and the center of the trunk exhibited significant decay that could have led to failure. Kudos to our two Park Arborists.

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

### **Balboa Park Conservancy**

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

- Provided an update on the Cinco de Mayo event
- Noted that the Cultural Landscape Report will be presented on May 10 at the House of Hospitality
- Noted that three public workshops are planned for Signage and Wayfinding study
- Fiesta Botanica upcoming on May 26
- Tree inventory update, Open Tree Map app and Cal Fire Grant updates

### **Balboa Park Cultural Partnership**

Mr. Peter Comiskey shared the following:

- Thanked Mayor Faulconer for his proposed budget, including strong support by Councilmember Ward that recognizes the value of Arts and Culture
- Thrilled that the Mayor chose Balboa Park to announce his biggest Infrastructure budget ever and Councilmember Ward for ensuring the needs of Balboa Park are being heard loud and clear.
- ***Balboa Park Summer*** is a campaign that will launch to promote Balboa Park as a destination, targeted to San Diegans as well as people visiting from out of market
- The Balboa Park Sustainability Program is now working directly with each of our members to create a venue specific Sustainability Action Plan.
- New Community Access Pass partners include e3 Civic High School and the Hoover High School VeloYouth program
- Update on the Military Appreciation Pass which has now been distributed to more than 1,700 active duty military families

### **Committee of 100**

No report

### **Balboa Park Online Collaborative**

No report

### **Friends of Balboa Park**

Mr. George Hardy shared the following:

- Provided an Arbor Day update
- Plans for a butterfly release on May 26 in Zoro Garden
- Historical signs being installed near the carousel and to mark the site of the Isthmus
- Update on the Carillon speaker replacement project which they hope to have complete by June 25
- Music in the Park is their annual luncheon theme
- Entry monument update
- Honeymoon Bridge reconstruction with a possible tie into a Palm Canyon improvement project
- Update on the platform around the Morton Bay Fig tree
- Noted the passing of Mike Waggener, long time organizer of the Twilight Concerts in the Park

## **Save Starlight**

Mr. Steve Stopper shared the following:

- Noted several upcoming planned events, involved with International French Festival, Make Music Day performances, and Yoga in the A.M.
- Acknowledged park institutions staff who have been helpful and provided valuable guidance to him

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Consent**

101. None

### **Adoption**

201. None

### **Special Events**

301. House of Pacific Relations Ethnic Food Fair, Presenter: Heather Wilson, HPR President

Heather Wilson provided a revised event layout as they are now only using the International Lawn, requested a waiver to the summer moratorium for this scaled back event, and noted that roads should not need to be closed which will save on traffic controller expenses.

**MOTION      MOVED/SECONDED MS. DAWE/MR. NGUYEN**

A motion was made by Ms. Dawe and seconded by Mr. Nguyen to support staff's recommendation. The motion was unanimously approved (8-0).

## **WORKSHOP ITEMS**

401. None

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

501. City of San Diego Parks Master Plan Update. Presenter Shannon Scoggins, Park Designer

Ms. Scoggins announced the retirement of Robin Shifflet. The Parks and Recreation Department is undertaking a new Parks Master Plan which take three years to complete. Public input is needed and workshops are being established in all Council Districts. She encouraged all to keep informed by signing up for project updates on the website: [www.CityofSanDiegoParksPlan.com](http://www.CityofSanDiegoParksPlan.com)

Committee Comments:

- With the recent community plan updates, are equivalencies being looked at? (equivalencies will be standardized across the City)
- Which phase is project in now? (just kicked off – in first phase, existing conditions)
- What level of detail will you be getting into for Balboa Park? (identify priority projects and action plans)
- Will all planning groups have presentations? (the expectation is that they attend workshops)
- Please keep the Committee informed to help facilitate public involvement
- How are projects being funded? (currently by developer impact fees)

- Will current standards for parks be changed (opening it up to look at the population/acreage/market/access based standards)
- Equivalencies need to be addressed first, an acute issue

**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 7:07 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, June 7, 2018  
6:00 P.M.  
Balboa Park Club  
2150 Pan American Road West  
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
District Manager