

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
November 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
Vicki Granowitz
Katherine Johnston – Chair
Luanne Kanzawa
Dang Nguyen
Micah Parzen
Johanna S. Schiavoni

Members Absent

William Aaron
Kenneth Davenport – Vice Chair
James Lawson
Don Liddell

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Mario Llanos
Jeff Van Deerlin

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF September 6, 2018

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

A motion was made by Ms. Dawe and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa to approve the September 6, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved (8-0-0).

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON -AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniele Laman of the House of Pacific Relations reported the success of Halloween Family Day with over 1,000 children visiting the cottages, live music, candy, and the passport program. She thanked the City for installing new roofs on the cottages. Vandalism is occurring around the cottages and she inquired about security when construction begins. Also, expressed concern about closing the lawn area for six weeks in September which affects their lawn program.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Johnston deferred her report which will be covered under the Information Items portion of the agenda.

STAFF REPORT

Molly Chase, City Council Third District reported the following:

No report

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

No report

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

- Halloween Family Day – happy the Park and Recreation participated by providing the Thriller Flash Mob dance, costume contests and prizes, and carnival games. Attendance is estimated at 10,000 persons. We went through 230 pounds of candy by 2:00 p.m.
- A Right of Entry permit is in processing for the installation of a photovoltaic system on the Casa de Balboa rooftop funded by the Museum of Photographic Arts and the San Diego History Center.
- The historic Spreckels Organ blower motor which is over 100 years old gave out in late September. After the motor was removed, additional parts were found to be damaged and in need of repair. The Spreckels Organ Society, L.W Blackinton and Associates and our City Facilities staff found the most qualified vendors to make the repairs. A purchase order has been submitted to cover the costs and it is hoped that the repairs will be made in the next couple of weeks.
- The December Nights event, the largest holiday event just five weeks away. It will be held December 7 -8 and the City is taking a much larger role in managing the event. This coming Monday, November 5 at 8:30 a.m. at the Central Balboa Park Assembly meeting, convened by the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership, an informational session will be conducted for park institutions and organizations to learn more about the event and logistics. The County Health Department will also be present to answer questions related to vending of food at the event. I want to thank Michael Warburton for helping to inform all about this important meeting.

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

- We have done several clean up group projects around the Marston Grounds and Canyon areas, that include transient camp clean ups. Additionally, we have done some irrigation retrofits and planting there.
- Several areas of the park have been planted with fall color, including Alcazar Garden, Zoro Garden, cascades and North Fountain.
- The fall display is now up in the Botanical Building
- We have secured a vendor and received a PO to replumb the Alcazar Fountains and are waiting on a schedule from the contractor. We hope that construction will begin in the upcoming weeks.
- We have another area in Grape Street Dog Park fenced off for a new turf renovation.
- Ranger staff continues to work with PD and Environmental Services to identify and clean transient camps in the Park.
- Rangers have been painting parking lots and curbs around the Park.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Balboa Park Conservancy

Jackie Higgins shared the following:

- Thanked all for supporting the October 18 event
- Halloween Family Day happy with the turnout and partnerships
- Alcazar Garden plans and restoration project funding
- Community conversations about the tree inventory will held next Tuesday

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

No report presented

Committee of 100

No report presented

Balboa Park Online Collaborative

No report presented

Friends of Balboa Park

Mr. Bolthouse shared the following:

- Distributed their newsletter
- Thanks for supporting their Annual luncheon celebrating park volunteers
- Project updates – Holiday pumpkins and poinsettias in the Botanical Building
- Morton Bay Fig Tree project – hoping for completion first quarter of 2019
- New landmark sign being installed for the Palisades area
- Vandalism occurred at the Carousel – broke original glass
- Offering free carousel rides for veterans on Veterans Day

Save Starlight

Mr. Steve Stopper shared the following:

- Offered Starflight, an interactive theater
- Planning for December Nights
- Four aggressive men tried to steal cable on the roof of the Starlight box office

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. Fleet Science Center Gala. Presenters: Chris La Zich, Vice President of Advancement, Fleet Science Center

Ms. La Zich noted that this is their third gala which will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2019. They fundraise approximately thirty percent of their annual budget at the gala. Having 220 guests, it is difficult to have a reception and seating for dinner inside the museum and is requesting to use the area between the fountain and their building as a reception area with beverage service.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Kanzawa and seconded by Ms. Schiavoni to approve use of the Bea Evenson fountain area for their gala. The motion was unanimously approved (8-0-0).

302. Bloom Bash – Art Alive 2019. Presenter: Sarah Grossman, Associate Director, Special Events and Corporate Relations, The San Diego Museum of Art

Ms. Grossman introduced Mitch Mitchell, Chair of Bloom Bash who stated that they are trying to bring new people to the park. The event gets more popular every year and they had to turn people away who wanted to attend. By expanding into the Plaza, they will be able to accommodate 1600 guests.

Committee Comments:

- Supportive of outdoor activation and impressed with what the Museum of Art's exhibits
- In support and like the place making activity happening there
- The Museum is at the forefront of attracting a younger audience
- Would like to see other programs that are affordable or free as well
- Interested in musical activations of the Plaza

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

A motion was made by Ms. Dawe and seconded by Ms. Curran to approve the request for use of the Plaza de Panama for this event. The motion was unanimously approved (8-0-0).

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Proposition 68: California Parks, Environment, Water Bond Grant Funding Opportunities.
Presenter: Chairperson Johnston

Chairperson Johnston provided information on Proposition 68 which was approved by the voters on June 5, 2018, providing 4.1 million in funding for natural resources related programs which could possibly be used to fund projects in Balboa Park. The grant is administered by the State Parks and Recreation Department. A public workshop was held in Balboa Park on October 24 and many stakeholders concluded that the park may not be eligible for this grant, however there are other possible funding sources. Ms. Johnston would like to create an ad-hoc committee with the goal of researching and determining the most competitive Balboa Park.

502. Balboa Park Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Priorities. Presenter: Chairperson Johnston

Chairperson Johnston noted key dates for the budget process. She suggested that the Committee may want to provide input by providing a letter identifying critical needs of the park such as increased security for Council consideration when evaluating budget priorities. She formed a five person ad-hoc committee to evaluate needs including the Unfunded needs list. The Ad-hoc committee members are: Ms. Dawe; Mr. Parzen; Mr. Dang; Ms. Johnston; and Ms. Schiavoni.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy – No report

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – No report

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, January 3, 2019
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager