

MINUTES

**City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
January 5, 2023**

Meeting Location: Online Meeting

Mailing Address:
Balboa Park Administration Building
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Molly Chase - Chair
Howard Blackson
Dang Nguyen
Brer Marsh
William Aaron Jr
Makeda Cheatom
Chris Eddy
Katherine Johnston
Sarah Dawe
Micah Parzen

Members Absent

Victoria Curran
Allison Soares

Staff Present

Codi Vierra
Christina Chadwick
Victor Nava
Johnny Chou
Emily Bonner
Victor Johnson II

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Molly Chase called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Johnny Chou read the statement listed on the agenda that this Committee meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the California Executive Order 29-20 which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES December 8, 2022

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Aaron Jr. / Mr. Eddy

A motion was made by Mr. Aaron Jr. and seconded by Mr. Eddy to approve the December 8, 2022, meeting minutes. The motion carried (10-0-0) Unanimously.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES - None

NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Committee Members:

Howard Blackson-Would like to propose an amendment to the Balboa Park Committee bylaws that would reflect section 26.30 in the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board bylaws subsection 3. The amendment would allow committee members with the necessary skills and expertise to augment in an ad hoc committee which is allowed in our Municipal Code if we choose to adopt in our bylaws.

Chris Eddy-Asked if this is a City Attorney interpretation or if we still have to go through the process? Would like the difference between an Ad hoc committee and a standing committee clearly identified in the amendment proposal language and to include what each committee is clearly able to accomplish.

Public Comment:

Clifford Wheeler-Encouraged the Balboa Park Committee members to inquire and report about the revenues collected from the Balboa Park December Nights Event.

Rene Smith- Continued to lobby the Balboa Park Committee to close the Jacaranda spur between Pershing Drive and Jacaranda Drive.

Danielle Laman- Thanked City staff for completing some recent facility requests. Updated the Balboa Park Committee members on the recent Safety and Security meeting. Inquired about when the Balboa Park Committee will return to in-person meetings.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Chairperson Molly Chase – No Report

STAFF REPORT

City Council Third District – Codi Vierra – Reported a that a new Council term has begun. One new member has been added. Council Member Whitburn is still chair of the Cities Audit Committee, Member of the Land Use and Housing Committee, and Community and Neighborhood Services Committee. The Council member is continuing to serve as an alternate to the Mayor on the League of Cities and as an alternate to Council President on the San Diego Consortium Policy Board (Work Force Partnership). He is also a member of the Metro Transit System (MTS) Board of Directors. He is representative on the Sandag Regional Planning Committee and now the cities voting member on the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). As a reminder the deadline is for budget priority memos are due Friday January 13. Emily Bonner will be joining the office staff handling constitutes and community issues in Balboa Park.

Emily Bonner- Work for Council Member Whitburn and work alongside Codi Vierra. I will be taking on more of a role in Balboa Park and addressing constituent issues. I you have any issues please let me know I can be contacted directly or by email.

Sergeant SDPD Balboa Park-Tyler Hamby-No Report

Assistant Deputy Director, Christina Chadwick- Would like to share some updates on behalf of my team. The City is moving forward with the redesign of Park Boulevard. That will occur imminently. The schedule start date has been modified due to in climate weather and few other scope of work changes. The new schedule will be distributed by me or by other of the City including the Communications Department who intends on sending out press releases over the next several days. If you have any questions about the project once you receive information from me please let me know that way we can work to address any concerns or questions that you have. Again, their will be a modified schedule so please stay tuned. As was shared last month the City's Facilities Division is moving forward with exterior restoration of the Palisades Building also known as the Recital Hall. The project will start in mid-January in about a week or two. After we initiate some of the initial work the entire building will get replastered and painted. I would like to thank the Facilities Division for prioritizing that work and other task associated in the Palisades area. We continue to work with the Assets Management Division and others associated with the Casa Del Prado as we reach milestones as we continue to update this community group about how we intend on using the grant dollars that we received. The Parks & Recreation Department held a successful Breakfast with Santa event on December 17. Over 150 guests were in attendance. I would like to thank all of you who where able to join us for the event. The event was a success, and it was nice to have everybody in Balboa Park to celebrate the holidays. The Balboa Park Activity Center will be closed to resurface the floor starting January 17 and will likely open back up to the public on January 30. If any changes to the timeline should occur City staff will be sure to let you know. City staff will be moving forward with field renovation work

at the Morley Field Sports Complex starting January 17. City staff will keep you informed of that project as well. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to let us know.

District Manager, Johnny Chou-No Report

District Manager, Victor Nava -No Report

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES (Time allotted to each speaker is determined by the Chair; however, comments are limited to no more than three (3) minutes)

Forever Balboa Park – Elizabeth Babcock - None

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership – Peter Kaminsky- Informed the Balboa Park Committee of a recent meeting to conduct an “Open Box” experience plan for Parks & Recreation. In the next quarter Peter will be working with various other Advisory Boards to roll-out this plan and would be happy to give this committee progress reports. Peter would also like to solicit the help of this committee for support of the upcoming Parks & Recreation budget and funding for the Penny for Arts & Culture.

Balboa Park Online Collaborative – No report.

Committee of 100 – No report.

Save Starlight – Steve Stopper- Informed the Balboa Park Committee about a recent Union Tribune article. Save Starlight is currently working on a proposal for a new lease with City Council. Save Starlight will be conducting a Remembrance Event to Walter Jones on Saturday January 28th.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent (These items are adopted without discussion; they can be moved to adoption by any committee member)

101. Balboa Drive Redesign Presenters: Phil Trom, Program Manager, and Claudia Brizuela, Senior Traffic Engineer, Sustainability and Mobility Department, City of San Diego.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Marsh / Mr. Aaron Jr.

A motion was made by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Aaron Jr. to move to adoption item 201. The motion carried (9-0-1) Abstention: Dang Nguyen

Adoption (Each adoption item requires individual action; they can be moved to adoption by any committee member)

201. Balboa Drive Redesign Presenters: Phil Trom, Program Manager, and Claudia Brizuela, Senior Traffic Engineer, Sustainability and Mobility Department, City of San Diego.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Marsh / Mr. Blackson

A motion was made by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Blackson to move to table the item to the next meeting. The motion carried (8-2-0).

Webform:

John Percy- The Bankers Hill committee group feel that there is not adequate information or study to indicate a need for more parking spaces on the West Mesa. The committee recommends keeping the the current parking layout and lowering the current speed limit from 25 mph to 15 mph.

Bruce Diamon- Is not in favor of the recent park and circulation study for the Balboa Park West Mesa.

Johan Hartuni- Ask the Committee to reject the angle parking proposal on Balboa Park Drive.

Will Rattigan -Expressed his organizations concerns for the proposed redesign of Balboa Park Drive. Would highly recommend a two-cycle track be placed along Balboa Park Drive and would encourage the city to conduct additional studies.

Public Comment:

Alexander Dumas-Is not in support of the proposed redesign of Balboa Park Drive. Feels there is too much parking and would encourage people to walk, bike, or take public transportation to various destinations.

Peter Comiskey-Thanked the city staff for their work in planning of the resurfacing of the Balboa Park Drive. The Cultural Partnership has contracted an independent parking capacity study and will be sharing their information at a later date and time. I do encourage the Committee to recommend the plan presented by city staff tonight.

Danielle Laman- I agree with Peter Kaminsky comments. Is Balboa Park Drive during large Special Events?

Nuevo Megnezi- Does not agree with the proposed redesign of Balboa Park Drive. Feels that it would adversely affect the surround Balboa Park residents. "We don't need a parking lot we need a park".

Byron Cohie- Is not in favor of the proposed redesign of Balboa Park Drive for various bicyclist safety reasons. Would propose adding a hard divided bike lane.

Caiti Borruso- Is not in favor of the proposed redesign of Balboa Park Drive. Would ask to strongly reconsider how to improve the park guest and pedestrian experience. Removing cars from Balboa Park would be the best way to improve that experience.

Trevor Kappa- Is opposed to adding angle parking on Balboa Park Drive. The current propose redesign of Balboa Park plan doesn't coincide with the current city climate action plan.

Anar (Bike SD)-Opposes adding additional parking to Balboa Park Drive. The city is ignoring the wishes of the community and the Bankers Hill Committee group. Recommends a class-4 cycle track on the eastside of Balboa Park prior to redesigning parking on the westside of Balboa Park. Also, recommends market rate pricing for parking in Balboa Park and use the revenue generated to use towards further improvements of Balboa Park. "Don't need a parking lot we need a park".

Adam Deutsch-Not in support of the proposed redesign of Balboa Park Drive. If accessibility is the concern than repaint existing parking stall blue. The current proposal doesn't reflect the cities climate action plan.

Jason- Opposed to the proposed redesign of Balboa Park Drive. Recommends adding a protected class for bike paths.

Conner Proctor- Is opposed to the proposed redesign of Balboa Park Drive. Recommends closing Balboa Park Drive to eliminate cars in Balboa Park. The current West Mesa parking plan provides adequate parking.

Zaccary Bradt-Opposed to the proposed redesign of Balboa Park Drive. Would like all cars to be removed from Balboa Park Drive. The proposal doesn't follow the city's current climate action plan. Would prefer the City install a multi-use pathway.

Matt Stewart- Oppose the proposed changes to Balboa Park Drive. Recommend one vehicle lane with a two-lane bike lane and parking along one curb.

Mitch Silverstein-Opposed the proposed redesign of Balboa Park Drive. Would recommend closing Balboa Park Drive for more pedestrian and bike friendly alternative. Please explore these alternative options further.

Zach DeFazio Farrell-Opposes the redesign of Balboa Park Drive. Recommends a bi-directional bike lane be added to encourage a healthier lifestyle.

Rachell Graham-Opposed to the addition of parking spaces along Balboa Park Drive. Recommends a two-way class four protected bike way on the eastside of Balboa Drive.

Keala Rusher- Opposed to the proposed parking redesign of Balboa Park Drive. Would recommend turning Balboa Park Drive into a bike or mixed-use pathway.

Manny Rodriguez- Opposed to the proposed redesign of Balboa Park Drive. Recommends adding a two-way class four protected bike path.

Committee Comment:

Howard Blackson- What Policy are City Staff using for this replacement directive that seems to be driving the use of the facility?

Philip Trom - This was not driven by policy but by a systematic review and approach to the previous changes to Park Boulevard and other slurry projects. With both locations be relatively equal in distance This was an attempt to look at balance and not policy.

Molly Chase- Just wanted to remind everyone that this Committee did ask staff to look for any improvement to streets when we were looking to improve Park Boulevard. Not only the surface lots for restriping but restriping opportunities in general.

Brer Marsh- Wanted to thank Christina, Phil, and Claudia for attending the Bankers Hill Committee Group meeting. I oppose the proposed redesign of Balboa Park Drive and recommends the increase in public transportation options. And building more parking is the wrong path. I don't understand why community suggestions haven't been considered.

Philip Trom- Considering all the surround types of roads and projects on the west side. This design is believed to increase the safety and a better alternative for cyclist than what is currently their now. All of those suggestion were considered but we also had to take into account the Park Boulevard project and how it will impact and balance the park.

Brer Marsh- Creating space for more active transportation should be prioritized above more parking spaces. Would City staff be willing to look at a cycle track option.

Philip Trom - The reason why we are here is to gather input from this committee and any changes would have to be coordinated within a short deadline to meet the final stripping plans for the scheduled upcoming project.

Molly Chase (Chair)- Your motion is not to take any action on this redesign proposal until the creation of a design review committee or subcommittee that would be focused on a design review.

Chris Eddy-I think the motion is dead on arrival because we cant confirm if we can establish a subcommittee to review this type of work. With the information we have received I would trust this committee to make a reasonable decision. The Balboa Park Committee should consider more climate action friendly alternative parking ideas. I believe that reverse parking stalls would be under utilized and a traffic hazard. Would the accessible parking spaces also be a reverse angel parking? I also recommend a designated loading and unloading zone. I don't disagree with tabling the issue but tabling the issue until a committee can be created for review is a bad idea.

Micah Parzen-Supports the Cities proposed redesign of Balboa Drive. The large scale solutions of public transit should be addressed and considered for this project so that all city constitutes can utilize the park on a regular basis. I would make the motion to support the current City staff recommendation.

Molly Chase (Chair)- I would second the motion. I would like to as staff to have a conversation about any potential street closures or future use of Balboa Drive in a different way and other sections of the park.

Howard Blackson- Would like to second Brer Marsh initial motion but I would like add that we only table it and not table it to a committee.

Brer Marsh- I'm willing to accept that proposal.

Makeda Cheaton- Ask that the committee think about the marginalized community members that visit this park. Please consider balancing the needs of the city's minority groups and the institutions that are bringing in people to the park.

Christina Chadwick-I would like to clarify that there are two components to this proposal tonight. One is the slurry and then the second is the stripping part. There is nothing permanent about striping and the city would be able to remove that paint at anytime in the future. Approving the proposal this evening would not preclude you from continuing to discussions the future of Balboa Drive in anyway that would balance the needs that we foresee related to parking today. Also continue to keep in mind future usage as well. I just wanted to make sure that was clear moving forward with this proposal would not preclude this committee from continuing to discuss other alternatives.

Molly Chase (Chair)- If this gets put on hold will the area still get slurry without being restriped or will the entire section of Balboa Drive not get improvement because this committee failed to take action?

Philip Trom - I agree with Christina. This is just paint and can be restriped at a later time. This opportunity should not be missed. City staff would like approach this project and the Park Boulevard project in a systematic way and part of a comprehensive solution. We ask that you consider the safety improvements that will come with this alignment and road diet.

Chris Eddy- Doesn't understand why this can't be rescheduled until we make a decision.

Howard Blackson- Agrees with Chris and would like to take the time to do it right the first time.

Special Events

301. Vegan Food Popup-San Diego EarthFest.

Presenter: Michelle May, Event Organizer is requesting the use of Park Boulevard and Presidents Way Lawn for a eco-friendly food fair featuring a line-up of diverse vendors and non-profit groups from San Diego, Orange County and Los Angeles. Set up, event date and clean-up will be all on the same day. Set up begins at 10am-12pm, event time is 12pm-4pm, and clean-up is 4-

5pm.

Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for San Diego EarthFest to host their one-time event.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Marsh / Mr. Blackson.

A motion was made by Ms. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Blackson. to approve the San Diego Earth Fest Event. The motion carried unanimously (9-0-1) Abstention: Sarah Dawe

Public Comment: None

Committee Comment-None

Makeda Cheaton-Would recommend more restrooms and handwashing stations for the event. Inquired about intoxicant sponsors?

Michelle May- Will be following the cities recommended trash and portable toilet guidelines in accordance to the City's permit. This is a family friendly event. No marijuana or alcohol sponsors for the event.

302. San Diego Nice Guys-Nice Guys Xmas Event.

Presenter: David Walters, President of San Diego Nice Guys is requesting the use the Lower Inspiration Point Parking Lot for a Holiday Festival for 750 families with estimated attendance at 2500. The families will receive food and be treated to entertainment and gifts provided by the Nice Guys. This is an invitation only event. Set-up will begin on December 8, 2023, at 8am-6pm. The event date will be Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 7am-3pm and the break-down will occur on the same day as the event from 3pm-6pm.

Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for San Diego Nice Guys to host their one-time event.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Eddy / Mr. Aaron Jr.

A motion was made by Ms. Eddy and seconded by Mr. Aaron Jr. to approve the San Diego Nice Guys Xmas Event. The motion carried unanimously (10-0-0) Unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Committee Comment-None

WORKSHOP ITEMS (No action taken; subject discussed by the committee and staff.)

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Bicycle and Shared Mobility Parking Expansion Locations

Presenter: Ahmad Erikat, Program Coordinator, Sustainability and Mobility Department, City of San Diego.

Public Comment:

Peter Comiskey-Be mindful of the various entry spaces in Balboa Park and Spanish Village. Not a personal fan of the new design of the bicycle racks.

Nevo Magnezi-I am in support of the Bicycle and Shared Mobility Parking Expansion and Location. I am happy to see all the various locations the bike racks will be located. Please keep in mind finality of the bike racks.

Committee Comment:

Brer Marsh-In support of this proposal. Please include the East Mesa of Balboa Park and in front of the Zoo Entrance as locations for bike racks and scooter corrals. Did you receive the bicycle parking recommendations sent by Bike SD.

Ahmad Erikat- If it was sent to the designated email address than it has been received but I have not personally seen the email. Please feel free to share if you have a copy.

Howard Blackson-Design is important to the facilities that are being brought into Balboa Park. A distinction should be made clear between micro mobility and transit facilities. Who is served and benefits from each of these two categories. Please update our plans and bylaws so that we can do better and be better educated on the decision that we make at this committee.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORTS – None

ADJOURNMENT

Notice of Next Balboa Park Meeting:

February 2, 2023
6:00 P.M.
In-Person

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Johnson II
Area Manager