

MINUTES

**City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
February 7, 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
Allison Soares
Brer Marsh
William Aaron Jr
Chris Eddy
Victoria Curran
Sarah Dawe
Micah Parzen
Makeda Cheatom

Members Absent

Dang Nguyen
Katherine Johnston

Staff Present

Codi Vierra
Emily Bonner
Christina Chadwick
Charlie Daniels
Victor Nava
Johnny Chou
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 January 5, 2023

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

A motion was made by Mr. Blackson and seconded by Mr. Marsh to approve the January 5, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-2). Abstention: Victoria Curran / Allison Soares

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES - None

NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Web Forum:

Judith Swink- Why is the sidewalk vending ordinance, adopted last year, not being enforced in the Historic District of Balboa Park (Central Mesa including the Prado and the Pan-American Plaza? The Ordinance specifically states that vending is not allowed in that part of Balboa Park at any time.

Public Comment: Daniel Laman- House of Ukraine will host a concert at the Organ Pavilion on Friday February 24, at 6:00 pm. House of Turkey will be accepting donations this weekend and subsequent weekend for the victims of the earthquake. House of USA will be sponsoring an African American Heritage celebration on February 19, at 2:00 pm.

Committee Member Comments:

Howard Blackson – Informed the committee of a PDF document about the value of bus transit lines in Balboa Park.

Brer Marsh- Inquired about in-person meetings requirements and guidelines for the next Balboa Park Committee meeting.

Christina Chadwick (Responded)- This is a state mandated requirement and all committee member must be present. There are very few exceptions to the state mandated requirements.

Christ Eddy- Discussed the exception and requirements for a committee member to attend the in-person meeting via teleconference.

Christina Chadwick (Responded)- explained that Chris Eddy is correct but there are extreme limitations to the teleconference exception.

Brer Marsh- Asked that presentation materials be provide in advance notice. What is the status of the RFP Framework? Update on the Design Review item and Bylaws process?

Christina Chadwick (Responded)- The time for public comment about the RFP is fast approaching. At the risk of compromising the procurement process a public comment will not be made at this time. As soon as she is given approval by the Purchasing and Contracting Dept. an update will be given to the Balboa Park Committee Members. Design Review: The department and several stakeholders are continuing to work on a proposal that works for the department and community advocates. At this time a proposal is not ready. Once a proposal has been created it will be submitted to the board for review. Bylaws: The conversation will be brought back to discussion once clarity has been received from Design Review.

Victoria Curran- Would also like materials in advance. Thanked Dept. Staff for attendance of the December Nights tree lighting event and the behind the scenes tour of the Botanical Garden.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Molly Chase –Katherine Johnston will no longer be serving on the committee. The Mayor's office will appoint another member of the board. Thanked her for service on the Balboa Park Committee Board.

STAFF REPORT

City Council Third District-Emily Bonner- The Councils office plan of action to combat homelessness will be to: Promote a Safe Sleep Site which will offer services that will help unhoused individuals transition out of their current situation. Introduce and ordinance which will determine where people can and cannot camp in public spaces. cannot. The full unveiling of the plan will occur in early March.

Committee Member Comments:

Howard Blackson – Asked if the Board could be of some assistance.

Emily Bronner (Responded)- Will be reaching out to the various board members who are willing to assist and support.

Christina Chadwick- Offered the opportunity for Ms. Bonner to present a public presentation.

Victoria Curran- Inquired if the City Yard located in Golden Hills will be selected

Emily Bronner (Responded)- The Councilmen's office is currently considering

Public Safety-Tyler Hamby, Sergeant, San Diego Police Department- No Report

Parks and Recreation Department Operations- Christina Chadwick, Assistant Deputy Director

Christina Chadwick- Reported the Park Blvd Repave Project and Transit Improvement Project details. Ground Maintenance seasonal planting has occurred at the Alcazar Garden and Plaza de Panama Fountain Area. In response to the recent windstorm that occurred the Ground Maintenance staff, and Forestry Division have been working to assess and appropriately address the various trees in Balboa Park. Please report any concerns about tree using the City of San Diego “Get it Done” app or you can contact me to report concerns. The City has fully started enforcing the street vendor ordinance in the beach area. That doesn’t affect Balboa Park. Civic Dance Arts has brought back it critically acclaimed dance show “Collage 2023”. Performances are scheduled February 10 and 11, throughout the weekend of February 17-19 at the Casa del Prado Theatre.

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
Balboa Park Cultural Partnership – Peter Comiskey
Committee of 100 – Ross Porter
Save Starlight – Steve Stopper

ACTION ITEMS

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

101. None

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

201. Balboa Drive Redesign Alternatives

Presenters: Phil Trom, Program Manager, Ahmad Erikat, Program Coordinator, and Claudia Brizuela, Senior Traffic Engineer, Sustainability and Mobility Department, City of San Diego.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Parzen and seconded by Mr. Aaron Jr. to approve the City Recommended Balboa Drive Redesign Alternative. The motion carried (6-4-0).

Public Comment:

Renee Smith-No matter what type of alternative proposal is selected. I would recommend time limit parking be applicable.

Peter Cominsky- Supports the recommended transportation alternative proposal. Doesn’t recommend time limit parking in the park.

Laura Arranco – Does not support time limit parking in Balboa Park.

Nevo Magnesi- Supports a shared use path alternative.

Michael Singleton- Recommends a buffered bike lane proposal. Supports the hybrid options.

Matt Stewart- Supports hybrid alternative option and opposes time limit parking.

Christine Martinez- Opposes time limit parking and supports recommended alternative option.

Peter Raymond- Supports existing striping alternative proposal. A Paseo could be installed.

Nicole Burgess- Support the Alternative option.

Conner Proctor- Supports the Hybrid, Alternative, and Recommend plan options.

Anar- Support of time limit parking and Alternative or Hybrid options.

Manny Rodriguez- Recommends protective bike lanes be added to the proposed redesign alternatives.

Gaela Fernandez Florin- Supports the recommended option.

Josh Clark- Recommend incorporating the alternative or hybrid options.

Isaac-Doesn't support any of the proposed options

Rachel Graham-Improve safety of bicyclist in the proposals.

Judd Curran- Doesn't support the recommended option. Supports the alternative or hybrid options.

Michael Meacham- Ask that City staff consider all options and community input in regard to this design proposal.

Committee Member Comment:

Micah Parzen- Supports the alternative design proposal. Thanks City staff for all of their efforts in creating the various design proposals.

Sarah Dawe- Supports Micah Parzen comments.

Makeda Cheatom- Doesn't support time parking. Supports the Alternative design proposal.

Howard Blackson- Not in support of the currently presented motion. Recommends the hybrid and alternative. Would like to see how these proposals affect the intersections.

Victoria Curran - Supports the alternative design proposal. Encourages the various alternative forms of transportation.

Christ Eddy- This redesign project can be modified later. Recommends combining the hybrid with the alternative proposal. Immediate support for the recommended. Doesn't support time limit parking.

Brer Marsh- Doesn't support the recommended design. All of the designs do not benefit the visitors and residents that utilize Balboa Park and would vote against these proposals.

Allison Soares- Supports the recommended design proposal.

Special Events

301. None

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

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Balboa Park Restroom Restorations

Presenter: Charles Daniels, Project Officer, Parks & Recreation Department, City of San Diego

Public Comment:

Daniele Laman- How big will the gender-neutral restroom be?

Charlie Daniels (Response)- Will not be able to answer the question until engineering and capital project are able to complete a study on the project and design. Would anticipate it to be longer.

Rene Smith- Thanked Charlie and Christina for their work in helping move this project forward.

Mary Munk- Thanked Charlie for his efforts in the proposed design plans. Doesn't feel the proposed design of the Organ Pavilion restroom will be safe.

Committee Comment:

Codi Vierra- Inquired about the difficulties about the design about the proposed Organ Pavilion Restroom.

Christina Chadwick (Responded). The proposed design was supported by the Balboa Park Committee but due to additional public and stakeholder comments meetings with the community were still conducted. This design is what was determined by City staff and the Mayor's office to be the best solution.

Howard Blackson- Are these designs using the consultants guide to park design and development standards? In reference to the park master plan could these bathrooms be designed to distinguish Balboa Park.

Charlie Daniels (Response)- The consultants guide is utilized in the design process. The consultants guide continues to be updated. Due to the various types of architecture in Balboa Park each design should be customized to some degree to reflect that location, but these designs cover the appropriate design themes.

Micah Parzen- In support of the presented design of the restrooms. Inquired about the priority determination process to allocate funds to projects.

Charlie Daniels (Response)- That is determined by management personnel above his position.

Brer Marsh- In support of the presented designs. Are their plans for redesigning the Velodrome Comfort Station, Marston Point Comfort Station, and Jacaranda Comfort Station.?

Charlie Daniels (Response)- Those comfort stations were determined to not be a part of this design proposal.

Molly Chase- Thanked Charlie Daniels, Rene Smith, Mary Munk, and other design team members for their work in the Balboa Park Restroom Restoration project.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORTS – None

ADJOURNMENT

Notice of Next Balboa Park Meeting: March 2, 2023, 6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Johnson II
Area Manager