

# MINUTES

## City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE

Special Meeting  
March 21, 2023

### Meeting Location:

Balboa Park Administration Building  
2150 Pan American Road West  
San Diego, CA 92101

### 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  
Makeda Cheatom  
Chris Eddy  
Sarah Dawe  
Micah Parzen

#### Members Absent

Kathy Vandenheuvel  
Dang Nguyen

#### Staff Present

Christina Chadwick  
Victor Nava  
Johnny Chou  
Victor Johnson II  
Alyssa Muto

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Web Forum:

Jackie Murphy-So, for all the City Council members and staff, how many took public transportation to the meeting in Balboa Park? How many drove and used up a parking place? If you drove, why? Because your time is too valuable to waste on slow public transportation? Is your time more important than the people who vote for you, or the tourists who bring money to our city? Balboa Park needs more parking, not less.

Maureen King-I have worked in the park for more than 20 years. Each year the comments by the public and especially the tourists get louder about the fact that there is insufficient parking and yet it seems year-by-year more and more parking is lost. I consider the most recent project to be very hostile towards tourists. Tourists do not get around San Diego on bikes and should not have to Uber from one end to the other. They preferred to rent cars so they could go wherever they want while they're here. A large percentage of them are elderly. Personally, for me to use public transport would take four hours out of my day and require three buses each direction! Why should the majority of people suffer because a few local bicyclists want more paths? Do they pay gas taxes, or registration fees for use of the road? I do! If this project goes through before long tourists will be telling others not to go to the park because it's just one big pain!

Susan Binford-Numerous visitors to the Spanish Village Art Center have expressed frustration with the difficulty in finding parking to access the park. The plan to introduce Amsterdam style bicycle lanes is supported by a special interest group that do not reflect the majority of San Diego visitors nor the general public. Please support those who make Balboa Park the fantastic place that it is by enabling adequate parking for visitors and workers.

Marie Palmieri- Dear Council Members, I am a member of the Spanish Village Art Center and San Diego County Art Mart Association. I spend many weekends looking at the traffic when I am exhibiting my art on President's Way. Honestly, almost all the cars going through the park have a minimum of 2 people and generally you see the cars packed with kids. Also, many vehicles have license plates other than California. We have visitors from everywhere, many from Los Angeles, Orange County, etc. I understand the need for bicycle lanes but removing all these car spaces is sad. Where are people going to park? Please, consider the people living far away, like myself in East County. I can not use a bicycle when I come with my friends to visit the park. Thank you for your consideration, Marie (aka Maic) Palmieri

Richard D White-Please consider restoring the parking on both sides of Park Avenue and creating safer bicycle lanes by making two-way pedestrian traffic on the west sidewalk and widening the east sidewalk for two-way bicycle traffic. This is a way that everyone would benefit.

Kathy Long-As a frequent/weekly visitor to Balboa Park, specifically Spanish Village, I am now severely limited in my ability to park on many days. On nice days and weekends the lots between the fountain and the SV are full by 11am. Waiting for an empty spot could take quite a while. Parking in the Zoo lot is sometimes full or at least quite a walk. Often I am needing to carry or cart boxes of pottery, bags of clay and tools. A bicycle is out of the question as I don't ride. Bus stops are miles from my home. For decades I have parked along Park Blvd and pulled my wagon to the Village. That's about as far as I can manage. I'm 70+

Susan Hector- Please save parking at the park. Removing so many parking spaces will remove public access for families, seniors, out of town visitors, and volunteers carrying materials to share with the public. Why is the city favoring single bicycle riders and bus riders over other citizens and taxpayers? Is a mother with 3 children including a stroller supposed to get on a bike or take her children on multiple bus transfers to attend a city cultural event? Who is being favored here?

Beyda Asbridge -I can't imagine that buzzing location without a parking a real tit will affect business for sure.

Penny Ream- As a regular winter snowbird to Cali, (Oceanside from Jan-April) Balboa Park is an essential part of my winter. I & my friends are not so familiar with SD but we do know how to get to Balboa Park and the easy parking; we come early to find a spot the we can navigate. Our favorite part: Spanish Village where we are regular customers at the Gem Shop, Lucy's Brush painting classes and spend way too much \$\$\$ at the woodworkers shop. PLEASE keep the seniors/disabled/tourists in mind when you decide the fate of this parking area. Biking is important but not everyone can bike in (and bike out lots of purchases!). Thank you.

Barbara- Please maintain all the street parking on Park Blvd near Spanish Village and Balboa Park. There will never be enough parking spaces for all the visitors!

Monica Maes- Keep parking accessible. My husband and I frequently visit San Diego and several areas in Balboa Park. In fact, we were there this past weekend. That wouldn't be possible without nearby parking because of his disability.

Yen Szeto-The City of San Diego is taking away all of the street parking, 300+ spots, on Park Blvd in favor of bicycle traffic and buses. This 300+ leaves families with small children, seniors, physically challenged, tourists, non-neighborhood residents, and anyone carrying heavy art supplies, artwork and packages without a nearby access to the park.

Kathy McMillen-This is a plea for more parking to access the Spanish Village, Casa del Prado building, museums. With the loss of Park Blvd. parking, it is even more difficult to be able to participate within this beautiful area. Please, we need more parking not less.

Erica Robbins- It is of the utmost importance to have adequate parking near the Spanish Art Village, Carousel, the Museums, the Rose Garden, and other Balboa Park amenities. Removing ANY parking whatsoever will negatively impact tourists, local families, seniors, physically challenged individuals, and any non-neighborhood residents as it will restrict practical access to the park. Rather than removing parking spaces, the city should build a parking structure to accommodate even more visitors. Bike lanes are simply NOT practical in this case.

Ruth H. Tucker- MANY MORE Tax-Paying San Diego Residents will utilize on-street parking for Balboa Park activities than the FAR FEWER bicyclists will use bike lanes. Could we PLEASE make a RATIONAL DECISION for the Majority of San Diego Residents, especially for those who are elderly, disabled or have small children, to visit and enjoy wonderful Balboa Park: e.g. The Rose Garden, Spanish Village, Museums, Carousel, etc. ENOUGH parking and traffic lanes have been removed for bike lanes that I rarely see bicyclists using! PLEASE do not deny the MAJORITY of San Diego Residents easy access street parking to Balboa Park. Thank you very much.  
Ruth H. Tucker

Mary Rutland- As a senior with an Explorer Pass I make frequent visits to the Park. I rely on parking near Spanish Village to shop there and to be able to walk over the bridge to visit the arise and Cactus gardens. Please maintain that parking lot.

Jessica Morris-Please do not permanently remove the parking on Park Blvd. This will negatively affect the SD Potters Guild and other artists in the Spanish Village due to loss of adequate and nearby parking. It doesn't make sense to lose parking and shut out those who aren't able to bike their way to Spanish Village. And those who cannot afford an Uber? You are pushing out the regulars who support this type of local art. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.  
Sincerely,  
Jessica Morris

Olivia Resch- The red striping on Park Blvd has removed 300 parking spaces from the park. This parking is direly needed. I bring my young children (ages 8 and 5) to the park on a weekly basis to attend ballet classes with San Diego Civic Youth Ballet. Parking was already scarce before this change, and it will only get worse. I am concerned about safety, especially when there are events or rehearsals at the Casa Del Prado theater, and I need to park very far away due to lack of open parking spots. Rehearsals can run until 8 or 9pm and if I am performing (as was the case with The Nutcracker) or fulfilling my volunteer shift duties, I cannot use the loading zone spots (which have also become busier since the re-striping of Park Blvd). Parking very far away with a 5 and 8 year and returning to the car late at night, without a security guard to help us, sounds very scary, especially with all of the homeless in the park (and many of the homeless like to yell which scares myself and my children).

Charles Kreysa- Reducing the parking spots in Balboa Park will make it more difficult for Park visitors. While some visitors come from the surrounding neighborhoods and can take public transportation, many other visitors must drive and require parking. Balboa Park holds world-renowned museums, the Zoo, and Spanish Village. How can Balboa Park appeal to out-of- town visitors if it does not offer parking? Limiting parking leads to limited visitors which leads to loss of revenue. The reduced parking WILL impact revenues at Spanish Village, the museums, and the San Diego Zoo. Please keep the car parking along Balboa Drive and Park Avenue! Thank you.

Arnold Gum-The parking along Park Blvd has recently been restricted/marked red. This area has traditionally been heavily utilized, particularly during weekends and provides access to the rose garden, the cactus and succulent garden as well extended parking for the Spanish Village, Casa del Prado and the museums. The pre-existing parking lots are always full during park hours, often well into the night. This results in excessive waste of time and gas while circling, increasing pollution and discouraging patrons from attending Balboa Park events, thus impacting a large number of societies and organizations that utilize Balboa Park for functions. Given the distributed nature of San Diego, mass transit is not readily available

to most homes and parking is insufficient at most if not all trolley and bus stations. Biking is dangerous, from most places, having to cross fast traffic, highways and canyons. Thus, the further restriction of parking will hurt citizens, tourists, public organizations, Spanish Village Artists, Museums and other users of Balboa Park. Furthermore, resulting reduced foot traffic and increased isolation along Park Blvd will increase the amount of vagrants and mentally incapacitated persons along Park Blvd, resulting in further violence, danger to visitors, unclean behavior and park facility damage.

David Valeiras- Hello, I am concerned about the current plan to remove parking from Balboa Park. I access the park for a number of reasons, including as an Explore Pass member. If I lack easy access to Balboa Park, I may stop being a member. It is already hard enough to park within the surrounding areas. I know a lot of people in very good physical health but none that would bike many of the hills around Balboa Park. Is dedicated bike lanes going to actually be used or wishful thinking on the part of people with good intentions but misconceptions on usage?

Susie Egan-Do NOT do away with more parking!

Spanish Village, the Carousel, the museums, the Rose Garden, and other park venues need all the parking that is available. San Diego seems to be crazed with "social engineering", trying to get everyone to walk, or hop a bus, or ride a bicycle everywhere. It simply isn't possible or practical in this sprawling metropolis. Please do NOT limit us as to what we can do by eliminating our parking. Thank you.

Karen Dyer- Spanish Village and the Park attractions near the Village take residents and visitors through an historic epoch in San Diego history. To this day, the crafts people, volunteers, and arts and crafts guilds host exhibits and demonstrations in Spanish Village. The activities have attracted residents and visitors into the Park and serve as a gateway to the culture of our city. To sacrifice parking at Inspiration Point for "safe parking" for the unhoused is madness. Is the council truly serious about turning one of our city's iconic treasures into a potentially blighted area?

Additionally, there is no alternative location for visitors parking.

Adrienne Brown-Since the city decided not to build a parking deck for the Balboa Park, I believe taking away 300+ parking spaces on Park Ave. does not make sense. I often drive from north county rural area to usher at the Old Globe theater and take advantage of San Diego's premier park, museums, and Spanish Village. I strongly urge the city NOT to take away parking on Park Ave. to create bike and bus lines.

Nancy Tagwerker-I would like to comment on the need to making parking available to all the citizens of the San Diego area. My grandfather was born in Old Town. My father was born in a boarding house in downtown San Diego. My son was born at Sharp Hospital. I don't remember a time when our family was not supporting the museum & arts in Balboa Park. But in order to do that you must have a place to park no matter your age. If you cannot be sure of parking, you will find another place to go where there is parking. If you close those 300 parking spaces on Park Blvd the Zoo will probably have to close their lot & start charging for parking. Adding to the cost of going to the Zoo. A shopper may not go to Spanish Village if they are unsure of parking. There are too many negative issues to go forward at this time with your plan to take away these much-needed spaces. Please don't make bikers your main priority over the rest of the citizens. Please reconsider. Long time San Diego resident & Balboa Park lover. Nancy Tagwerker

Denise Pinnell- Parking near the Spanish Village Art Centre has become very difficult now there is no parking on Park Blvd. Living in the Carlsbad area I have no alternative but to drive (and I have my tools and art to carry). I also have many local friends who love Balboa Park and are getting fed up with the hassle of parking there. I am all for a cycle route but surely there is room within the park grounds (at least near the Spanish Village there are great grass verges where no one really walks) and that would be much more pleasant for the cyclists too. This might not be on the agenda, but I think it is.

Beth Forman-Please do not remove the parking near Spanish Village, the Carousel, the Museums, the Rose Garden, and other park amenities. It is very important for the vendors/artists to be able to park close enough to carry their supplies and wares into the park from a close distance. Taking away all of the street parking, 300+ spots, on Park Blvd in favor of bicycle traffic and buses leaves families with small children, seniors,

physically challenged, tourists, non-neighborhood residents, and anyone carrying heavy art supplies, artwork and packages without a nearby access to the park. I hope this does not happen. Thank you.

Louise F Reding- The City of San Diego is taking away street parking on Park Blvd to reduce the number of people driving cars. Sounds great in theory, but it makes it difficult for Seniors People with physical challenges or endurance issues Families with small children Students, art enthusiasts/collectors/shoppers at Spanish Village and Museum Shops I am personally affected as a member of the San Diego Potters' Guild. Many of the 400 local artists in the Spanish Village Art Center do not live in adjacent neighborhoods, near public transportation, or are older and unable to walk a great distance carrying their materials, tools, and artwork. Like it or not, we are a car culture. I rarely see cyclists in existing bike lanes. I drove from downtown to Hillcrest yesterday and saw not one bike. Tons of cars and few parking spaces.

Cindy Nalley- please don't take away our parking on Park Blvd! We need parking access on that side of the park more than we need bike lanes, the big lots in the park are already too crowded and don't have the accessibility to that side of the park. Our city is already being taken over by bike lanes, I frequently watch the ones on 4th and 5th avenues and rarely see them being used - it's become more bike lanes to benefit very few citizens and less parking for the rest of San Diego's many citizens.

Carol L Young-Parking to attend the Potters Guild events is always problematic. It will be nearly impossible to purchase heavy items and carry them to my car if street parking is removed. Parking should not be removed prior to planning for alternative parking. At age 78, I will not be taking a bus or riding a bike to visit Spanish Village to purchase items. Also, I am a member of three museums in the park. When I attend events at the museums, parking is always a problem, especially in the evenings. It is truly frightening to walk to my car alone in the dark. The lighting is inadequate, and I never see security officials.

Ginger Truschke-I regularly participate in Ikebana flower exhibitions in room 101, Casa del Prado. This past weekend we had over 1600 guests. There is no way we can produce such exhibitions if we cannot park close-by, as we need to carry our items.

Lynn Zimmer-changes on Park Blvd. are premature. There should be a new parking structure before cutting out all of the parking along the road. access for seniors, families, pregnant women, dog owners is diminished greatly for the east side of the park museums, Spanish Village, the theater, etc.

Roberta Klein-The City of San Diego is taking away street parking on Park Blvd to reduce the number of people driving cars. Sounds great in theory, but it makes it difficult for Seniors, People with physical challenges or endurance issues, Families with small children, students, art enthusiasts/collectors/shoppers at Spanish Village and Museum Shops. As a member of the Potters Guild in Spanish Village we need unloading areas with access to the studio, we carry heavy artwork & materials. The City has made it difficult if not impossible for many artists. Stop by and talk to the members, many have been there for years teaching and engaging the public. We need unloading and parking close by.

Dianne Sterling-Eliminating parking spaces will be a great disservice to older people who do not bike or ride buses, especially from communities in the county. Parking in the area give access to Spanish Village and parts of the park.

Natalie Aiello-I am saddened and concerned, that consideration is not being given to the seniors, the families with young children and the disabled, in this move to eliminate parking on Park Blvd. Being a retired senior myself, I frequently visit Balboa Park with my family, or with just my young granddaughter. We regularly purchase an annual family pass either to Balboa Park or Balboa Zoo, and thoroughly enjoy every moment at the park. However, if the parking is taken away, we will not visit the Park as often, and most likely not purchase the annual pass. Thank you for considering my comment!

Stephanie Greener-I've been visiting Balboa Park for 40 years, twice a year when vacationing in San Diego. I've watched parking become more and more of an issue over the years, and now hear there's a possibility of losing 300+ spaces in the area. While I appreciate trying to accommodate buses and cyclists, they can still use the space and roads with the parking spaces left intact. Please don't make visiting the park any harder than it has become over the years. The roadwork and reroute was mind boggling last April. Then we got to try and find parking. Sadly, I'm one of those with a few health issues who now has to be dropped off while my spouse finds parking. Removing more spots might mean that you take this wonderful park away from visitors like me. Thank you for your time.

Christine Brock-I love to attend events at Balboa Park and frequently have to park on the street because there is not enough parking in the lots. If you remove the parking spaces near Balboa Park, I will not be able to go there. I live in Normal Heights where many changes have been made for bicycles. These have adversely affected me, and bicycle riders still don't stop at stop signs and give me a heart attack when they cut in front of my car. Please don't make fewer parking spaces available, we need more. Especially with all the low-income, high rises being built in my neighborhood.

Linda Hart-I think that it is a TERRIBLE idea to take away parking spaces on Park Blvd!! As it is, it is nearly impossible to find a parking place in order to visit that side of the park! The number of bikers who would benefit doesn't come anywhere near to the number of drivers who would be affected. Find another route for the bikers, please!

Bea Davis-Please do not take away the parking spaces on Park Blvd near Spanish Village. I am handicapped and my children already circle through the parking lots and have to give up because there are no open spaces for more cars. They have often had to drop me off and then go down Park Blvd. for blocks in order to find a space to park so that they can come back to push my wheelchair.

Judy Cross-Handicap parking along Park Boulevard near the Rose Garden is vital to those of us who cannot walk .5mile from Inspiration point. This smack of an ADA violation.

Jeffrey Iles-Boulevard must be reconfigured to its prior state. That is, allow cars to park on the curb again. Keep automobile traffic in four lanes (two lanes in each direction). Too many visitors to the park complain about the lack of available parking on the east side of the park. Those that work in the park need parking and vehicle access to transport equipment. Particularly at Spanish Village Art Center where there is a lack of loading space and over 100 artists must each transport their own equipment. Many people that do not qualify for disabled spaces have difficulty transporting equipment long distances so that they may be of service to the public attending the park. Free parking must be maintained at Balboa Park. For over 80 years Balboa Park had a stated mission to be a free place for the people of San Diego and their visitors. Free parking must be maintained.

Sofia Picazo- We strongly oppose the removal of parking on Park Blvd and urge the City of San Diego to reconsider this proposal. This will have a negative impact on Balboa Park Community.

Concerns/impacts regarding parking:

Safety in the park, Accessibility of the Park and museums for families and the elderly, Lack of traffic control, Gridlock in parking lots during peak hours, Walking to cars late at night with transient population on the rise, Events in the park with no traffic control, Balboa Park is the Jewel of San Diego and the lack of the parking limit the amount of people who would like to visit As it impacts the entire park it impacts the individual institutions, the Prado Restaurant and Events

Sarah Parent- Please do not remove available parking along park Blvd. There are more people unable to enjoy the park due to unavailable parking than would be able to enjoy it because they can reach it by bike. At least until parking issues have been resolved.

Keith Langill-Parking on the eastern side of the park, especially within accessible distance of Spanish Village, is vital to all of the artists and visitors who see Spanish Village as an important destination. The

recent decision to take away all of that parking has made an already very difficult situation untenable. How has the cycling community actually contributed to any part of the park's thriving art scene? By demanding rights of way and the reduction of traffic -- they assert special rights, and you have basically caved in like craven cowards. This is not going to make cycling safer on Park-- I bet it actually RAISES incidents and deaths, because it will create considerably more interaction between cyclists and cars. This is a profoundly stupid and short-sighted decision, and one I am certain the Park will come to regret. Can't wait for your first lawsuit!

Mary Bovee- I am strongly against removing more parking space for bike lanes. The parking is already at a minimum. The narrowing of nearby streets has already caused damage ie: auto accidents/damage to parked vehicles. Removal of more parking near Balboa Park will decrease tourist visitation to the park. Families with small children will be unable to use the park. I live near the park and rarely see bicycles used.

Public Comment:

Amy Velarigus- Spoke against the Park Blvd Redesign plan.

Nevo Magnezi- Good evening, and welcome back. I'm sure you are all delighted to be here. My name is Nevo Magnezi. I would like to pose a question to you: what is Balboa Park Committee's role, with respect to the Balboa Park Master Plan? We can all agree that hundreds of hours of staff and volunteer hours went into the document. Should the Balboa Park Committee reference the master plan at all? What happens if the city makes a proposal that is in conflict with the plan-- should the Balboa Park Committee rubber stamp anything the city brings along? If so, then why have a master plan at all?

It is my belief that it is the job of the Balboa Park Committee to advise the city when they go against the plan. Thank you.

Conner Procter- Would like to encourage more remote attendance options. Recommends installing automated parking spot counter signs in the park.

Nicole Bergius- Comments were focused on mobility for all modes around Balboa Park, not just bikes. She shared the book by Donald Shoupp, The High Cost of Free Parking, to emphasize the need to evaluate, visualize, and plan a holistic Mobility plan for visitors to, through, and from the Park. This should be prioritized before more parking is created on Park land. She believes a Parking District for Balboa Park is important to manage parking demand and to plan holistically for a people centric place to enjoy and visit.

Natasha Papousek- Spoke against the Park Blvd Redesign plan.

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**Item 1: Balboa Drive Redesign Alternatives (Mobility Department: Alyssa Muto)**

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

A motion was made by Mr. Parzen and seconded by Mr. Aaron Jr. to approve Item 1 as presented by Mobility Department staff. The motion carried successfully (7-2)

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

A motion was made by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Blackson to approve options South of Cabrillo Bridge and the alternative option for the sections North towards Upas. The motion carried unsuccessfully (3-6).

Web Forum:

Christine Martinez- I am a resident of District 6, and a frequent visitor to Balboa Park. I love being able to bring my family to the park to enjoy the museums, performing arts centers, gardens, and hiking trails. Just this weekend I attempted to visit a new exhibit in one of my favorite museums and circled the park for nearly an hour trying, and failing, to find a parking spot. Lack of parking is a huge deterrent for people outside of walking/biking distance to visit this valuable cultural center. Eliminating parking makes it very difficult for a majority of San Diegans to have access to the park. When my children were younger and in strollers, it would have been impossible to bring them to the park and expose them to our city's Crown Jewel. Even parking spots with time limitations hinder families from truly experiencing everything the park has to offer. I ask this committee to please consider adding parking spots to the park to make Balboa Park accessible to all.

Jason- Dear Balboa Park Committee, I am a resident of the East Village. I am commenting to ask you to please reconsider the plan to add more parking spaces to Balboa Dr and instead add a multi-use pedestrian/bike path. I ride my bike through Balboa Park on a weekly basis. The addition of a multi-use pedestrian/bike path on Balboa Dr would greatly enhance the usability and activity of the West Mesa. Unfortunately, drivers already speed on Balboa Dr and even El Prado. Increasing the number of cars on Balboa Dr will only decrease the safety and recreational opportunities for people who are in the park outside of a car. A massive amount of park space has already been set aside for cars including 11 parking lots, the 163 and parts of the 5. I am asking you to make a small fraction of that space more welcoming to people outside of cars by freeing it up for recreational use. Thank you.

Ellie Hitchcock-I work in Balboa Park and am very much aware of the parking problem in the park. I worked this past weekend and experienced firsthand the serious problem we have with parking. Since the curbs on Park Blvd. have been painted red and have eliminated over 100 parking spaces, it has exacerbated the parking problem. Visitors came in complaining bitterly that they had to drive around for over an hour trying to find parking. Some said their friend gave up and went home very unhappy. This is a major problem for all of the institutions on the Park Blvd. side of the park!

Lucy Williams- Balboa Park is a popular destination for tourists and locals alike, with many attractions and cultural institutions to enjoy. However, parking in the park is often limited, which can cause frustration for visitors and deter some from coming altogether. My family frequently visits the park however the lack of parking makes me think about whether to even come to the park. It is my understanding that the recommended option on your agenda will add parking to the west side of the park. That would be good as it would make it easier to park near the Museum of Us instead of parking a long way away. As a family with young ones, finding closer parking is always great. Please approve the recommended option.

Vicky DeLong- Parking in & around Balboa Park is not sufficient for all the visitors who go to the park. The visitors are not going to ride a bike to Balboa Park. I am one of the artists in Spanish Art Center and need a place to park so I can transport my supplies to my studio. Using a bike or public transportation is not suitable for over 100 artists who need to take supplies to their studios in the park.

Rachel Chen- Hello members of the Balboa Park Committee. I live in Council District 3 and I am writing today to ask you to please approve the redesign of Balboa Avenue. I live too far away to bike to the park and I often park on Balboa Drive when I am coming to the Old Globe - The short walk over the bridge is much easier than parking down in the Palisades or, when it is busy, over in Inspiration Point and it is much easier to leave when the Theater is finished. Please ensure increase the parking on Balboa Drive with the work that is being done. Thank you.

Marcus Adams- I live in the north of the city and I don't get to come down to Balboa Park as much as I might otherwise like to do. I think people who live around the park are very lucky as they can go to the park anytime, they want, even on busy days. On weekends and during summer, it is always a debate whether we want to go to the park at all, but we make the effort when there is something we would really like to do. If there was more parking made available and it was more likely that I could plan with that in mind, then I would definitely come to the park more. Please choose the option that adds as much parking as possible to the park.



Sophia Kim- Thank you for letting me submit this form.

Please approve the additional parking spaces being considered tonight. When I come to the park, I enter over the bridge and on the weekends, there aren't any parking spaces near the bridge, so I end up parking a long way away. Balboa Park is so great, but I have to decide because I know the parking is going to be hard. I think this will help. Thanks again, Sofia

Caron Golden- I understand you are contemplating eliminating street parking on Park Blvd. near Spanish, the Carousel, the Museums, the Rose Garden, and other park amenities. That amounts to some 300 spots that visitors who have young children, have physical disabilities, are elderly, or who are schlepping art supplies, artwork or other heavy packages will be no longer have immediate access to the park. I realize the importance of public transportation and bicycling but removing parking will be a barrier to access to park visitors. Please reconsider this move.

BREE FOX- Removing parking access around Balboa Park near the theater, natural history museum; and the artist guild area, etc. is not only a terrible idea but it will prohibit access for families with small children and other mobility issues. You can count on one hand the number of people biking to this area for these places. This proposal is ridiculous. Businesses will be tremendously affected at a time when the economy is unsteady. Also parking all around that area is limited. What's the alternative?

Bobbie Xuereb- Balboa Park is the pride of San Diego. Eliminating parking on Park boulevard without an alternative is unconscionable. For years a solution to the parking problem here has been bantered but left unresolved. Taking the Park Blvd parking spaces away just makes Balboa Park less accessible to our community and our visitors. Please correct this. Thank you.

Leah Schaperow - I am a small business owner and artist. I spend almost every day at the park-- whether for Argentine tango, yoga classes, or volunteering at the Japanese garden, where I am a member. I want to preserve space to ride my bike while not being in conflict with pedestrians and not being afraid of being hit by drivers. The park has sufficient parking-- the city's study showing 30% average occupancy for parked cars on balboa drive is consistent with my experience biking there to the rest of the park. I am in favor of adding a safe protected bicycle facility along balboa drive, as called for in the balboa park master plan. Thank you.

Lil Barnes- We cannot overemphasize the importance of parking accessibility, particularly on the western side of the park. While goals to reduce the use of cars are commendable, they are not practical. People arrive with the families, their strollers, their picnic supplies, and other items needed for a day at the park. They are NOT going to use public transport. The disabled will be using vehicles for a number of reasons. Those that are not fully disabled but still need to park close and need their car close to the park need to be accommodated. The circumstances of the pandemic have shown that cars provide privacy and safety for those with vulnerable immune systems, and their families and caregivers, to be able to travel to their destinations without exposing themselves to the whole world on public transportation. We must, as a city, leave the parking for cars as is in order to continue to have our Balboa Park be the wonderful, accessible destination that it is. Without parking accommodation, this park cannot be the jewel that we all say it is.

Jason Vance- I live in North Park and would like to speak to the benefits of adding an activity track to Balboa Drive. This is an opportunity for the city to deliver beautiful new amenities for tourists and locals alike. The 4th and 5th Avenue bike paths will connect tens of thousands of people to the park. I'd like to mention two groups of people who are seriously disadvantaged with the proposed design: kids and the elderly. Kids are sporadic and unpredictable. We don't ever want them to be biking in the road where a driver backing up might not see them. Bike paths keep kids safe! The elderly are great on bikes! But they prefer to take things slowly! Do you want to be constantly held up when my mom is peddling down Balboa Drive at 10 mph? Didn't think so. With the design where bikes and cars share a single lane, cars will be slowed down by bikes, which causes traffic. If there was a dedicated bike lane, everyone traffic would be reduced, and parking would improve since more people will choose to bike. Everyone is happy! Thank you.

Helene Dorian- Removing parking along Park Blvd. is a terrible idea. I enjoy events in the park, and I often park there. I am 75 and will not be riding a bike. Neither will any of my friends. If you remove parking, you will remove access for many of the people who want to come to the park.

Bruce Dammann- "I hope the Balboa Park Committee takes a hard look at the design of the parking layout and numbers before again approving the previously approved plan on February 7th. I have a concern that everything is an estimate and based on some work that the community has done and information that the city has provided, we have a doubt that they can achieve the added parking spaces along Balboa Drive that they have estimated. First it was 166 spaces in October, then in January it was 129 spaces and in February it was 100 spaces. Because staff has not prepared a striping plan, the final number could be as low as 24 spaces because diagonal parking at 30 degrees is not much more efficient than parallel parking. Please require a street plan, cross section design and final parking number before any final approval. It doesn't make sense to guess the number of parking spaces since the final amount may be as low as 24. The pleasure and safety of Bankers Hill residents and park visitors is at stake.'

Ellen Reardon- Parking availability is essential for our Balboa Park and the area around Spanish villages to ensure accessible access for visitors and vendors. Yes, bike lanes are the vision of the future but must be weighed against the loss of access to our park as bd arts areas.

Cathleen Riggs- Locals and visitors need parking options and it is unwise to remove parking spaces along Park Blvd. There are so many people who will not be able to opt for a bicycle or mass transit. It is hard enough to park as it is—the outcome of such a loss of parking would ensure that I could not visit (mobility impaired) nor bring visitors.

Public Comment:

Chloé Lauer- With every project, we are either closing the gap on our climate action plan goals, which include an increase to 10% mode share for bicyclists or moving farther away from reaching them. There is no neutral project. Each project is a loud and clear statement of values. This project tells me that the Sustainability and Mobility Department and City of San Diego is not aligned with its own climate action plan goals and is not trustworthy to complete the bike infrastructure outlined in the Balboa Park Masterplan. The city itself reports that the existing spaces on Balboa Drive are vacant 70% of the time. And yet they propose 129 additional subsidized spots for car storage. This is a call for urgency and integrity. Walk the talk. "If you plan cities for cars and traffic, you get cars and traffic. If you plan for people and places, you get people and places."Manny Rodriguez- Not in favor of the proposed Balboa Drive Redesign Alternative plan —Fred Kent, Project for Public Spaces"

Alex Graff- Not in favor of the recommended Balboa Drive Redesign Alternative plan.

Caiti Borruso- I'm an employee at one of the park's institutions, and I move throughout the park five days a week. I take the bus. When the new bike lanes are in, I'll bike on nice days, and take the bus on other ones. Regardless of how I, or you, arrive to the park, we have to move throughout it when we arrive; no one is going to the park to sit in their car. So what is this committee going to do about the experience of being in the park? By recommending adding more parking to Balboa Drive, the City is actively working against so many of its goals: its Vision Zero goals, which aim to lower traffic fatalities to zero by 2025, which is two short years away. Adding parking encourages vehicle use, which increases the threat of traffic violence, especially to the elderly and children. Adding parking goes against the Climate Action Plan that the City is slow to implement; adding parking encourages vehicle use, which increases emissions, which we are supposed to reduce significantly by 2035. Adding parking to Balboa Drive goes against the City's own Balboa Park Master Plan, which calls for a bicycle trail along the street. The sidewalk throughout the West Mesa of the park is not wide enough to accommodate pedestrians, wheelchair users, strollers, and bicycles. I'd like to remind this committee that Balboa Park is the city's Crown Jewel, and we should not be desecrating the Jewel with additional parking. We should be returning space in the park to people, not to cars, including people like me who work in the park and want to be safe on the way to work. With

this slurry seal, the City has the chance to make this street better, not worse, and it should be using its climate and Vision Zero goals as it creates a design. I'd also like to reiterate that at the first BPC meeting that involved this project, the City admitted the current spots were only utilized about thirty percent of the time. Why are you adding parking to a place that's underutilized? Why not make it into a place that community members can utilize, and one with less cars, less toxic emissions, and more safety? Thank you.

Peter Kaminsky- Supports the recommended Balboa Drive Redesign Alternative plan.

Nevo Magnezi- Good Afternoon Board Members. My name is Nevo Magnezi, I am a resident of Hillcrest, and today I am speaking on behalf of Bike San Diego. Our organization is joined by 6 other non-profit organizations today in-person and in-spirit, as shown in our co-written letter which is part of item 1B. First I'd like to start with a story: This past Sunday I was walking along the main path of the West Mesa with my fiancée and her 85 year old grandmother, who was visiting us for the first time. Her grandmother is a woman who is very cautious to ensure that she doesn't fall and risk breaking anything. While we were walking leisurely, two bike riders going north zip past. Since we were walking 3 abreast, they came closer to her at speed. She turns to me and asks "this is a bike path?!" Thinking of city staff's position on the issue, I replied; "This is where the city wants people riding bikes in the park to go." Even first time visitors to Balboa Park know: the current 8 foot wide path on the West Mesa is not appropriate for shared use of users walking and those biking, scooting, skating, and more. It is too narrow. The city's recommendation does nothing for those micro mobility users who want to enjoy the park while traveling north. Many of these users currently go against traffic on Balboa Drive and will continue to do so, unless they are given a better option. The city's recommendation makes traveling south not safer, but more dangerous.

Zack Thompson- Not in favor of the proposed Balboa Drive Redesign Alternative plan.

CP-Recommends resurfacing and restriping Balboa Drive as it currently stands. Recommends reducing the speed limit. Opposes adding more parking.

Peter Raymond- In support of keeping Balboa Drive as it stands.

Adam Deutsch- The word balance was used a bunch [in the presentation from the city staff] but that seems to ignore that the design of the park has never been balanced; it is designed for the use and storage of cars, at the expense of recreational space. We cannot add parking in the park. I know that's difficult, but it's a moral imperative. If this is about safety, sharrows (class 3 bike lanes) are not safe. People using our recreational spaces need to be separated from people driving cars. This is also about climate action. This city has an aggressive Climate Action Plan, and this hinders that. The IPCC just released a report that says From the IPCC Mitigation Pathways B.6" "All global modeled pathways that limit warming to 1.5°C (>50%) with no or limited overshoot, and those that limit warming to 2°C (>67%), involve rapid and deep and, in most cases, immediate greenhouse gas emissions reductions in all sectors this decade. " The ethical option is to open more space, and reduce car dependence.

Nicole Burgess- Balboa Drive Item - Spoke in opposition to adding more parking on the West Mesa for the following reasons: This effort goes against the Balboa Park Plan which calls for a safe pathway on the West Mesa and a decrease in more parking. The effort for our street to be redesigned does not provide an alternative vision for a 2.5mile loop for active healthy lifestyles that would help support connectivity, access, and better user experience to Balboa Park. Another reason of opposition is that the parking on the West Mesa is underutilized by more than 30%. These parking places are theoretically being implemented to replace parking loss on Park Blvd, yet this is on the other side of the park and patrons on the East Mesa will not be using these spaces to access their institutions. This is a misuse of reallocating parking and once again, this committee is requested to look at Mobility to, through, from the park before adding more parking to the West Mesa. The location of the Dog Park at the entrance of Balboa Park creates a conflict for parking for park users and should be relocated south to use space better. As seen in Ocean Beach, it has been beneficial to move the area for a dog park facility to allow our land to recoup from so much dog use.

Mike Singleton- Presented an option to include a 9' wide (3' parking buffer, 4' bike lane, 2' foot travel lane buffer) in the 20' emergency vehicle space required by the City. Michael had pointed out that this inclusion would be safer and could actually increase the angled parking yield (by switching back to head in angle parking requiring less width) and result in minor stripping costs. Board members had asked the City to respond to the proposal from Michael and it was indicated that the City does not believe striping is an appropriate bike facility for this location since it does nothing for protection.

Mike Erichible- Supports the proposed Balboa Drive Redesign Alternative plan. Recommends leaving room in the plan to make adjustments that will allow for non-motorized vehicles.

Carlos Christiania- Supports adding parking space to Balboa Drive. Would like to see more intentionality and discovery to any future roadway planning.

Andrew Maleic- Supports alternative three of the proposed Balboa Drive Redesign Alternative plan.

Committee Comment: -None

Micah Parzen- Thanked City staff and the public for their various comments on the current agenda item. Concerned about how the Committee functions and the longevity of the Committee. Recommends the current Balboa Drive Alternative plan.

Howard Blackson- Would like more information on how the current proposal intersects in the park. Recommends updating the Balboa Park Master Plan. The quality of the experience is what brings patrons to Balboa Park. Opposes the Balboa Drive Alternative plan.

Brer Marsh- Thanked all those that came to participate in expressing themselves in public comment. Opposes the Balboa Drive Alternative plan. Would like to make the transit better to and from Balboa Park. Feels that Balboa Park should be striving for a higher moral and ethical standard for Balboa Park. When you increase risk, you decrease enjoyment of Balboa Park and increasing parking along with the recommended Balboa Drive Alternative plan on the West Mesa will accomplish that. Would consider supporting option 2 and 3 of the Balboa Drive Alternative plan or the alternative solutions Mike Singleton recommended.

The community is unhappy with the decision of this committee. There a 30-40k people living within 20 minutes walk of the West Mesa. Uptown as a community is actually deficient in parks, when you look at the numbers. According to the Uptown Community Plan we should have over 100 acres of parks and if you don't count the West Mesa we have 8 acres. As a community we are 95% deficient in park lands based on population and when we say that to the city they say "But you have Balboa Park". The community deserves to have a say in what happens in its community park. There is also the ethical question of whether the parking needs of the Central Mesa businesses should be satisfied on the west mesa. I don't think it should. The west mesa should prioritize park activities over more parking. The parking needs of the central mesa should be met on the central mesa, as called for in the Balboa Park Master Plan. Restripe the lot behind the aerospace museum or build the parking structure under the Zoo lot as has been approved in previous plans. Expansion of parking on the west mesa increases pollution, risk to pedestrians and cyclists, and excludes other park related activities that could be programmed for that space.

Questions to City staff;

What age group would you say the recommended option is appropriate for?

Alyssa Muto: We don't consider age groups in our planning.

Would you say a sharrow facility to be "All Ages and Abilities"?

Alyssa Muto: That is not part of our standards.

What about an 8 year old, where would they ride?

Alyssa Muto: An 8 year old should ride on the pathways in the park.

How many of the proposed new parking spots are south of Laurel Cabrillo Bridge?

Phil Trom: around 50

Alyssa Muto- The alternative proposals that Mike Singletary presented were reviewed. Unfortunately, due to safety reasons those options were not considered. It also isn't consistent with the Central Mesa Precise plan. The proposed recommendation would also coincide with other future road plans tentatively scheduled in the surrounding Balboa Park Community. The proposed recommendation would be consistent throughout the length of Balboa Drive.

Chris Eddy- Balboa Park is a World Crown Jewel. In favor of the recommended option but only that option. Would like to share Balboa Park with more people from around the world. Would like to see a comprehensive solution and that an underground parking structure could be an option to consider.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Notice of Next Balboa Park Meeting:**

May 4, 2023, 6:00 P.M.  
Balboa Park Club  
2150 Pan American Road West  
San Diego, Ca 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Johnson II  
Area Manager