

# MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board  
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE  
October 7, 2021

**Meeting Location:**

Online Meeting

**Mailing Address:**

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

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members Present**

Molly Chase - Chair  
Katherine Johnston  
Makeda Cheatom  
Allison Soares  
Chris Eddy  
Brer Marsh  
Howard Blackson  
Victoria Curran

**Members Absent**

Sarah Dawe  
William Aaron Jr.  
Dang Nguyen

**Staff Present**

Codi Vierra  
Christina Chadwick  
Victor Nava  
Johnny Chou

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Molly Chase called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 September 2, 2021**

**MOTION:      MOVED/SECONDED MR. BLACKSON / MR. EDDY**

A motion was made by Mr. Blackson and seconded by Mr. Eddy to approve the September 2, 2021 meeting minutes with the amendment of Victoria Curran being present. The motion carried (8-0-1) K. Johnston abstained

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES - None**

**NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

Daniele Laman – HPR International Cottages reported House of Philippines had private event with 2 councilmembers in attendance last Friday. This upcoming Saturday evening House of Mexico will have a private event. Next Saturday, House of Korea will have an event at the Organ Pavilion and Balboa Park Club. The House of Czechoslovakia will have 2 lawn programs on October 16 & 17.

Brer Marsh reported City staff have made changes to Pershing Dr. to configuration of the road to create safer accessibility. Acknowledged the tragedy of Laura Shinn and Johnny Sepulveda.

Bruce Dammann via webform - In mid-2019, the City Council approved 9.3 million that was earmarked for the Jacob's Plan to be allocated to projects in Balboa Park. As a result, \$4.3 million was directed to improving the public restrooms in the Central Mesa. In 2016 Public Works began design work on two new restrooms located in the West Mesa area of the park and as of this date construction at the site has not begun. Public Works developed the West Mesa plans for the restrooms without any public input and approval by any of the organizations in the park or neighborhood planning groups. As a result of this experience there was discussion that there was going to be more public outreach for future projects in the park. A year has passed since the funds were approved for the Central Mesa restrooms and it would be appropriate for the Balboa Park Committee to request an update on the project from the Park and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department, identifying the project program, scheduling and public outreach that will be implemented for the project.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** – Chairperson Molly Chase thank Mario Llanos for his service. Congratulated him on his new job. Welcomed Victor Nava to the team. Thanked Christina for setting up the BPC briefing for

**STAFF REPORT** -

City Council Third District – Codi Vierra reported if anyone is interested in the Commission for Arts and Culture regarding various funding opportunities, they can contact her for future workshops. Congratulated Mario for his service, Councilmember Whitburn presented Mario a commendation. Councilmember attended the House of Philippines event and will be attending the House of Mexico and House of Korea's event. City Council Meetings will continue to be virtual.

Assistant Deputy Director – Christina Chadwick introduce New Team Member Victor Nava – On behalf of the Developed Regional Parks Division, it is our pleasure to announce the appointment of Victor (Vic) Nava to the position of District Manager for Grounds Maintenance Operations in Balboa Park. We look forward to introducing you to Vic soon.

Comic-Con Exterior Restoration – The exterior renovation of the Comic-Con building is underway, thanks in part to the Committee of 100 and City Facility crews. The project is expected to be complete before the Museum opens to the public in November.

Balboa Drive Road Repair -- Completed the first leg of the inlay work on Balboa Drive between Upas & Quince and have re-opened the gates at Upas. For the second phase of this project we will be closing down the road between Quince & El Prado. This segment should take two weeks or so to complete.

Botanical Building Phase I – Limited Notice to Proceed has been issued. The City's Engineering and Capital Projects Department, together with Parks and Recreation, are now working internally to prepare for the first phase of construction with EC Constructors. Details on park impacts will be available soon.

Pershing Drive Bike Lane Installation – In a move to separate cyclists and scooter riders from cars on Pershing Drive, Mayor Todd Gloria has directed City staff to install bollards to create bikeways in both directions. This will be a temporary measure until the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) begins construction on permanent protected bikeways on Pershing Drive, where two San Diegans have recently lost their lives after being struck by cars. The installation is ongoing.

West Mesa Restrooms – West Mesa restrooms are now open to the public.

## Balboa Park

District Manager – Johnny Chou reported Plaza de Panama pavement repainting was completed in mid-September.

**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 – Jackie Higgins reported Forever Balboa Park continues to work to bring together 23 diverse 24 parkwide programs. Launched volunteer programs in the park. Most notably the garden stewards and tree stewards. Recruited a dozen new park ambassadors and visitor center volunteers to assist with question. Continue to collaborate with the City on the restoration of the botanical building and garden. Visitor center has been receiving a lot of request for custom tour (i.e. garden, architectural and historical). Uptick in vendors in Plaza de Panama. The Design Review exploratory committee have generated a formal proposal for a 1-year pilot to serve as resource for strengthening the park design project.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership – Michael Warburton reported the RFP for the Visitor experience plan has been release. The BPCP will be working with American for the Arts to Arts and Economic Prosperity report for 2022.

Balboa Park Online Collaborative – No report.

Committee of 100 – Roger Showley reported the Auto Museum grizzly bears fabrication is proceeding on the two California grizzly bear statues that will be installed on the roof of the San Diego Automotive Museum where the originals stood during the 1935-36 fair. FAA and airport authority approval are being sought for cranes to hoist them into place. The C100 board is visiting fabricator Mike Matson's studio on Monday, October 11 and the BPC and staff are cordially invited to see the full-size (and life-size) bear model. The AIGA San Diego graphics arts group has received 18 entries in C100's first-ever poster contest. This competition celebrates the installation of permanent reproductions of the murals on the Auto Museum earlier this year. The winner will be announced in coming weeks following a juried review. The city is rapidly finishing up the painting of the Federal Building with C100 financial support. It will be completed in time for the Nov. 26 museum opening. The funding is coming in part from a first-ever GoFundMe campaign drive by C100 which has attracted about \$12,000 of the \$17,400 C100 has committed to the city to cover paint, supplies and rental equipment. A bucket of paint makes a big difference! C100 had many questions that remain unanswered in the 99-year lease that the City Council approved on Tuesday, October 12. A positive result was the council's endorsement and school district's agreement to form a city-district working group to coordinate the rebuilding of the school in a way that integrates it into Balboa Park. The first task is to ensure that a generous landscaped setback be included along Park Boulevard in lieu of the present unsightly intersection at the Park Boulevard/Interstate 5 offramp and hardscape entry to the high school. C100 hopes the Balboa Park Committee takes a leadership role as the community planning group for the park. C100 has championed the return of this professional advisory group that previously advised BPC and the Parks & Recreation Board. A one-year pilot has been proposed and we are awaiting city attorney clearance to move forward.

Save Starlight – No report.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**101. Natural History Museum Landscape General Development Plan Presenters:** Charlie Daniels, Park Designer, City of and San Diego and Vicki Estrada, Principal Estrada Land Planning

**MOTION:      MOVED/SECONDED   MR. BLACKSON / MS. JOHNSTON**

A motion was made by Mr. Blackson and seconded by Ms. Johnston to approve the Natural History Museum Landscape GDP. The motion carried unanimously (9-0-0)

Public Comment: Mr. Blackson, Mr. Marsh, Mr. Marshall & Mr. Hill

- Mr. Blackson commented on a creation of a formal waiting space and seating location.
- Mr. Marsh commented on the benches and the location.
- Mr. Marshall suggested making the pickup areas along the sidewalk so it would be closer and within view of the driver and passenger.
- Mr. Hill from Mayor Gloria's office stated they are in support of the project.

**ADOPTION**

201. None

**Special Events**

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

A motion was made by Mr. Blackson and seconded by Mr. Nguyen to approve consent item 301 and 302. The motion carried unanimously (10-0-0)

**Special Events** (Special Events that require road or plaza closures or will potentially impact park and/or institution operation, are brought to the Committee for a formal recommendation. They can be moved to consent by action of the committee.)

**301. March for Babies Date Change**, Presenter: Cassandra Dawson, Manager, Event Logistics  
Requesting a permanent date change for this annual event historically scheduled on the 4th Saturday in April moving to the 3rd Saturday in May to better fit with their fundraising timeline. The event would be held on May 21, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Their festival will be held on the south lawn of 6th and El Prado and the walk starts and finishes from there, heading east of El Prado across the Cabrillo Bridge to the Bea Evenson fountain, turning left and heading north towards the Carousel turning left, walking down Centennial Walkway to El Prado and heading west to the festival site . Set-up will occur on Friday, May 20, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Anticipated attendance is 2,000 persons.

**Staff recommendation:** To approve the change of date as requested. The date is available, and the change will alleviate a scheduling issue that would arise when Earth Day was scheduled on the same weekend.

**MOTION:      MOVED/SECONDED   MR. MARSH / MS. SOARES**

A motion was made by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Ms. Soares to approve consent item 301 March for Babies Date Change. The motion carried unanimously (9-0-0)

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

401. None

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**501. House of Korea Oct. 23 Event.** Presenter Patrick Roche presented a slide presentation for the House of Korea's event on October 23.

**502. Balboa Park Pipeline Replacement Phase II update.** Presenter Deb Matheson, PIO Ortiz Corporation presented the construction schedule and overview of the pipeline replacement project in Balboa Park.

Public Comment: Mr. Blackson

- Mr. Blackson was inquiring about the striping and slurry seal of the roads.

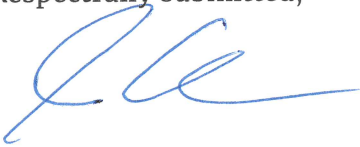
**SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS** – None

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORTS** – None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Notice of Next Balboa Park Meeting:** November 4, 2021  
6:00 P.M.  
Virtual Meeting

Respectfully submitted,



Johnny Chou  
District Manager