

Hadley, Steven

From: SD Charter Review
Subject: FW: Charter Review Committee 5-14-15 Item 3(G) Park and Recreation change - OPPOSE

From: **Son Appareil** <sonappareil@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, May 11, 2015 at 7:48 PM
Subject: Re: Charter Review Committee 5-14-15 Item 3(G) Park and Recreation change - OPPOSE
To: "Inquiries @ Syntropic" <inquiries@syntropic.com>

FYI:

Dear Council President Lightner and Members of the Charter Review Committee:

In my capacity as President of the newly-formed Balboa Park Heritage Association, a California non-profit public benefit corporation, I write to you to strongly oppose Item (G) on your May 14, 2015 Agenda: § 55 Park and Recreation

1) Allow educational organizations to lease/build buildings on public park land, specifically, Balboa Park.

This proposed Amendment could lead to the development of open public Balboa Park lands for privately controlled buildings, dedicated and secured recreational facilities and grounds, and additional development incompatible with the Public Recreational use of precious Balboa Park lands and assets.

To our knowledge, the sole proponent of this proposal is the operator of a Bankers Hill Charter School having designs on acquisition of a favorable leasehold in Balboa Park and development of a school campus. This proponent states their proposal is "a possibility for a small change that could open up a big idea." They suggest that revenues from such a "public-private" partnership could be a partial solution to the millions of dollars in unfunded "deferred maintenance" liabilities facing the Park.

That "big idea" is a prescription for disaster for both the Public and the Park. It is the City's moral and legal obligation to properly maintain the Park. This duty is non-delegable. Breaching this duty should never be used as justification to surrender parts of the Park to private use. The Park could be converted to a commercial mall and revenue-producing site for multiple charter schools. Generating revenues is not the purpose for public parks.

We urge this Committee to reject this proposal as wholly incompatible with both the critically important Charter protections now applicable to the Balboa Park lands, and to the moral and legal duty of this Committee, the City Council and Office of The Mayor to maintain, protect and defend this precious and unique public property from unneeded and unnecessary encroachment.

We request this communication be placed in the Minutes of the Meeting of May 14, 2015, and in the Public Record of this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

David Lundin
President , Balboa Park Heritage Association