

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE

June 2, 2011

Meeting held at:

Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing address is:

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

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Jeri Dilno
Jason Elrod
Andrew Kahng
Luanne Kanzawa
David Kinney
Don Liddell
Minnie Rzeslawski
David Strickland

Members Absent

Michael Hager
Mike McDowell
Michael Singleton
Rob Steppke

Staff Present

Steve Hill, City Council Dist. 3
Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park
Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (DILNO/ELROD) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2011 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED (5, 0, 3) KAHNG, RZESLAWSKI, STRICKLAND ABSTAINING.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Brenna Ogg suggested construction of pedestrian and bicycle bridge spanning Florida Canyon, connecting Upas St. and Park Blvd.

Kevin Swanson commented on the 75th Anniversary of the House of Pacific Relations. There was a parking challenge behind the Spanish Village with people waiting. Parking issues will have to be evaluated for the 2015 Celebration if there is not enough parking on regular days in the Park.

Christian Chaffee with the Historic Street Car Project, commented on the beauty of the Class I historic streetcar. There is a unique opportunity to bring these cars back to the Park that everyone rode when the Park was created.

Jarvis Ross commented on a UT article, clarifying comments made. Alternate means of transportation should be explored, such as the trolley service on Park Blvd. and to the West end of the Cabrillo Bridge.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

David Kinney noted the following:

- The Park and Recreation Board approved the extension of the Calder artwork at the San Diego Museum of Art.
- Provided an update on Balboa Park Conservancy and the 2015 Host Committee are working closely and will be sharing an administrative assistant, who will have an office at the Hall of Champions. The Balboa Park Conservancy and the 2015 Host Committee will be making presentations at our August meeting.
- Mr. Kinney noted that he has one set of the newest plans for the Plaza de Panama project. Arrangements for viewing the plans can be made by contacting him.

STAFF REPORT

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park Facilities and Special Events District Manager

- Summer programs are underway. The Twilight Concerts in the Park concerts are beginning June 21 through August 25, all are invited to enjoy free concerts in the Organ Pavilion from 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.

STAFF REPORT

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park Facilities and Special Events District Manager, (continued)

- The House of Israel within the House of Pacific Relations recently renovated their interior space and will have a celebration to mark the completion of the project on Sunday, June 14, 2011.
- Upcoming Special Events in June:
Sunday, June 5, 2011- San Diego's Rock'n'Roll Marathon

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Operations District Manager

- Balboa Park has a Geranium named after it. The red- orange Martha Washington geranium was created by hybridizer Jim Zemcik. Three years ago Crystal Ritchie and Mike Rasmusson selected a new hybrid geranium that would be produced at the Kate Sessions Nursery here in Balboa Park. Staff selected this geranium because of its orange-red color, its pest resiliency and it blooms year-round. If you haven't seen it yet, tomorrow the Geranium will be planted in front of the lily pond replacing the Gerber Daisies.
- SR 163- The project is still waiting for Caltrans' approval to do the pipe-bursting work. Once approval is received, we will let all know of the construction dates for the pipe-bursting and the other two segments.
- Recently there has been some confusion and inquiries about the length and time for the closure of the Cabrillo Bridge as it pertains to the seismic retrofit being done by Caltrans. As an update to the Committee - last week staff received confirmation from Caltrans the Seismic Retrofit Project of the Bridge will begin in January 2013 to late summer 2014. During construction, pedestrian and vehicle traffic will have full access to the bridge except for a 3-month period between January 2014 and April 2014.
- Last week the City Council lowered the Drought Ordinance level and it is expected that with this action the fountains in the Park will be rescheduled to operate 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.. This change will be implemented within a week.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Luanne Kanzawa reported the following:

- Three staff members from Balboa Park Learning Institute, the Museum of Photographic Arts and the San Diego History Center presented at the American Association of Museums' annual conference last week in Houston about the Learning Institute's on-going audience evaluation project.
- The Learning Institute has partnered with a number of organizations for exciting learning opportunities in June such as the USD Nonprofit Human Resources and Risk Management Symposium, the Art of Science Learning Conference at UCSD and the Americans for the Arts 2011 Annual Conference.
- The Balboa Park Sustainability Program will host a "Finance Speak" Luncheon on July 13, 2011 in the old Globe Rehearsal Studio and a Micro-Business Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Program on July 14, 15, 21 and 22 at the Hall of Champions.
- An Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant of 2 million was awarded in 2010 for energy efficiency projects in Balboa Park. These projects have now begun and are meeting the grant and City requirements.
- A Community Development Block Grant of \$412,000.00 was awarded in 2011 for ADA Improvements in Balboa Park. An agreement between the Cultural Partnership and the City of San Diego is being developed.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. Finish Chelsea's Run – Leisha Battles, In Motion Inc. on behalf of Chelsea's Light Foundation

Leisha Battles requested approval to conduct a 5K Run/Walk and Expo on Saturday, March 3, 2012 with the course to remain the same as their 2011 event. Set-up would begin on Friday, March 2. It is estimated that the Cabrillo Bridge will re-open at 9:30 a.m.

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED (DILNO/RZESLAWSKI) TO APPROVE THE 2012 FINISH CHELSEA'S RUN EVENT. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8,0,0).

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Plaza de Panama, Circulation and Parking Structure Project

Chairperson Kinney noted that discussion will focus on design ideas for the Plaza de Panama and the top of the parking garage, two significant spaces for which public input is needed.

Mark Johnson noted that an invitation is forthcoming for all to attend a walking tour in mid July which will be posted on the website. The EIR report is in progress. He reviewed the project visions and goals, the overall site plan and the Plaza de California restoration. West El Prado will be restored as well as the Esplanade and the Plaza de Panama and he described how it looked and functioned in the past with some design ideas to meet today's needs.

Craig Vickers presented design ideas for the parking garage rooftop space that will add to the richness of the Park, over two acres in the heart of the Park, noting the possible connections with the House of Pacific Relations, the canyon environment, and the views. Different elements could be incorporated such as open lawn, restrooms, different kinds of gardens, shade, and plaza areas.

A break-out session was held with the design team for input on the design alternatives. The meeting resumed at 8:07 p.m. and Chairperson Kinney thanked the consultants.

401. Plaza de Panama, Circulation and Parking Structure Project, continued

Committee Comments:

- Questioned the overall cost of the project and how much is privately funded and other funded.
- Are the plans contingent on the by-pass bridge?
- Questioned an email received about a Memorandum of Understanding for the Plaza de Panama Committee which is on the Natural Resources Committee Agenda

The consultants noted:

- The project cost is estimated at 40 million. Of that, 14- 15 million would be funded through a bond.
- The plans can be modified to allow for traffic flow.
- The Memorandum of Understanding is non-binding, indicating general support so that fundraising can be facilitated

Public Comments:

- Confused by the Memorandum of Understanding, encourage people to attend the meeting on June 8.
- A letter was received from Caltrans stating that the bypass bridge would likely have a significant impact to the bridge and the State owned Cabrillo Freeway Historic District. A letter from the Neighborhood Historic Preservation Coalition was also received.
- Presented a handout from the National Park Service Department of the Interior website regarding preservation as it is defined. Concern that Balboa Park could lose its historical district status.
- Do the project right the first time, you are ripping up the heart of the Park.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. None

SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – None

COMMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT

Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council – Andrew Kahng – The Council approved their 2011/2012 operating budget. They are operating at a deficit which has a correlation to cancellation of rental by outside groups due to the recent large increases in rental fees. The Council's budget sub-committee is preparing a report showing the impact of the increase in fees for both the City and the Recreation Council.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (LIDDELL/KINNEY) TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:19 P.M. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8,0,0).

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, August 4, 2011
6:00 P.M.
Ballroom/Balboa Park Club
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager

