

**MINUTES**

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

April 1, 2010

**Meeting held at:**

Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room  
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  
Vicki Granowitz  
Andrew Kahng  
David Kinney  
Don Liddell  
Mike McDowell  
Michael Singleton  
Rob Steppke  
Donald Steele

**Members Absent**

Laurie Burgett  
Mick Hager

**Staff Present**

Todd Gloria, City Council  
Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park  
Mike Rodrigues, Balboa Park

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Granowitz called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED (STEELE/McDOWELL) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2010 MEETING AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED (8-0-1) DILNO ABSTAINING.**

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES**

None

**NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Vicki Granowitz reported the following:

- Ms. Granowitz thanked everyone for the kind messages and beautiful flowers that she received.
- She announced that this will be her last meeting as Chairperson of the Balboa Park Committee and she is ready for David Kinney to takeover and continue the path that she laid to support the Park and its projects. Mr. Kinney thanked Vicki for her commitment

as Chairperson and he noted several projects and amazing accomplishments that she took the lead on and followed through with. David also acknowledged and thanked Laurie Burgett for her volunteer service on the Committee.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Todd Gloria, City Council Member for the Third District reported the following:

- Mr. Gloria provided Vicki Granowitz with a proclamation and thank you for her dedicated service as the Committee Chairperson.
- Mr. Gloria noted that there are a lot of activities occurring in the Park and he was pleased to attend the Tour for the Endowment of the Arts on March 13. He acknowledged Park maintenance staff and what a fine job they are doing to keep the Park maintained.
- Mr. Gloria attended the San Diego Zoo's re-opening of the Polar Bear exhibit as well as Thursday Club Rummage Sale. He is in full support of the Balboa Park's 2015 Celebration and will continue to advocate for additional support. Mr. Gloria's phone number is (619) 236-6633.

Mike Rodrigues, Acting Balboa Park Facilities and Special Events District Manager reported the following:

- He recognized the San Diego Civic Youth Ballet for taking the lead on the construction project to replace the raised dance floors in two Casa Del Prado rooms.
- Civic Dance Arts will be offering two weeks of Summer Dance Camp this summer.
- The Municipal Gymnasium Spring Program Brochures are now available.
- The Annual Easter Lilly Display is now taking place in the Botanical Building through April.
- Upcoming special events include EarthFair on April 18, March of Dimes Walk on April 24 and the Student Shakespeare Festival on April 24. Expect Cabrillo Bridge closures on both these days.

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Grounds Maintenance and Operations District Manager reported the following:

- Balboa Park had its Arbor Day ceremony on Thursday, March 25 in conjunction with the Friends of Balboa Park. Approximately 20 Coastal Live Oak trees were planted along Golf Course Drive across the street from the Golden Hill Rec. Center. The use of Coastal Live Oaks is part of our long term plan to use drought tolerant native species. The area also had mulch spread along the road to enhance the walking trail.
- On Saturday, April 10, 2010 we have a significant volunteer project schedule throughout the Park. City staff has made every effort to mitigate impacts to the stakeholders including choosing a date in which few special events are scheduled, utilizing parking away from the central mesa, and City staff being highly involved with selecting and preparing the projects. It is anticipated that the projects will be completed by noon.
- We had another significant size Eucalyptus tree fall On February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The tree was located at Balboa Drive and Juniper Street. The trunk of the tree fell onto a vehicle destroying it. The owner was at the vehicle removing his dog from the back when he

heard the snapping of the tree. We were lucky nobody was injured. This year alone we have had two close calls with either someone in the vehicle or at a vehicle and a tree has fallen destroying the vehicle.

- SR 163 Sewer Lining Project Update- Talking with Dirk Smith, Project Manager he stated that they are still negotiating with Caltrans on lane closure and times. If they obtain the permit before the next meeting they will forward us the lane closure and times so we can project impacts to the Park. In addition, if they get the permit and plan to start work before your next meeting they will also inform us so stakeholders can be noticed. He thanked Ms. Granowitz for supporting staff during her tenure as Committee Chairperson.

### **CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES**

David Kinney reported the following:

- The San Diego Science Festival “Family Day” held in Balboa Park on March 20 was a success. Many of the Museums opened to the public free of charge and offered hands on science related exhibits/demonstrations. The San Diego Science Expo day was held at Petco Park on March 27.
- Planning sessions for the Centennial 2015 Celebration are continuing. The celebration plans include special exhibits, concerts and performances.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Consent**

101. None.

#### **Adoption**

201. House of Hungary proposal to install a Sándor Márai monument

Mike Rodrigues stated that the staff recommendation is to not accept the proposed donation of the memorial plaque based on Park and Recreation Board Policy 1002.

Peter Czipott from the House of Hungary provided a handout which addressed the Park and Recreation Board Policy 1002. He requested that the Committee reconsider the proposal.

A brief discussion by the Board followed which included other locations and options.

**MOTION: IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED ( KINNEY/DILNO) TO SUPPORT THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO DENY THE MEMORIAL PLAQUE DONATION AND TO ASK STAFF TO WORK WITH THE COTTAGE TO INVESTIGTE OPTIONS TO PLACE THE PLAQUE ON WESTSIDE LAWNS OF BALBOA PARK. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (9-0-0).**

## Special Events

301. Freedom Walk - Tricia De La Paz, Operation Homefront

Mike Rodrigues introduced Tricia De La Paz, the event organizer for the annual event. Tricia De La Paz requested to have the annual event move from the afternoon/evening hours to the morning for 2010 since it will be held on a Saturday. She also requested to have the Navy Rock Band perform thirty minutes of military patriotic music during the post walk ceremony at the Veteran's Memorial Lawn. Note: the Navy Rock Band is a new component of this existing event.

**MOTION: IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED (SINGLETON/McDOWELL) TO APPROVE THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO ALLOW THE EVENT TO MEET IN THE MORNING HOURS AND ALLOW THE NAVY ROCK BAND TO PERFORM FOR THIRTY MINUTES AFTER THE WALK. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (9-0-0).**

302. Walk to Cure Diabetes – Alexis Rodriguez, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation  
Mike Rodrigues introduced Alexis Rodriguez, the event organizer for a new special event proposal for Balboa Park. Ms. Rodriguez requested to use the Westside Lawns of Balboa Park for the Walk to Cure Diabetes special event on Saturday, November 13, 2010. The event will include a non competitive “fun walk” using the park paths between Juniper St. and Upas St. as well as a post-walk community festival with entertainment.

**MOTION: IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED (KINNEY/McDOWELL) TO SUPPORT THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE EVENT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE WALK TRAVELING SOUTH OF LAUREL STREET. THE WALK ROUTE MUST REMAIN NORTH OF LAUREL STREET. THE EVENT WILL NEED TO BE RE-VISITED BY THE COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THE NEXT YEAR'S EVENT. THERE MUST BE AN APPROVED OFF -SITE PARKING/SHUTTLE PLAN IN PLACE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (9-0-0).**

303. San Diego Hash House Harriers – Kerrie Smith, Event Organizer

Mike Rodrigues introduced Kerri Smith with the Hash House Harriers. Kerri requested to bring the Annual Red Dress Run with about 500 participants through the Westside of Balboa Park on Saturday, May 22 between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The participants will enter the Park from 6<sup>th</sup> Ave at Quince St. and proceed across Balboa Drive and through the Bridle Trails, exiting at Marston Point. There will be short term road closures while runners are on course.

### Committee Comments:

- Don Liddell requested additional information regarding the proposed route through Maple Canyon and asked if the organizer consulted with the Open Space Park Ranger.
- Andrew Kahng has some concerns regarding alcohol consumption along the proposed route.
- Vicki Granowitz asked if the proposal went to the Bankers Hill Park West Committee for review prior to coming to Balboa Park Committee.

**MOTION: IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED (McDOWELL/SINGLETON) TO ACCEPT THE STAFF RECOMENDATION TO TRAVEL THOUGH THE PROPOSED AREAS OF BALBOA PARK WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MAPLE CANYON UNTIL THE ORGANIZER CAN MEET WITH THE WEST MESA COMMUNITY GOUP TO FIND A ROUTE THAT WORKS FOR THEM. THE MOTION FAILED (3-6-0) (STAPPKE, KAHNG, LIDDELL, STEELE, KINNEY, GRANOWITZ OPPOSING).**

**MOTION: IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED (LIDDEL/STEELE) TO DENY THE EVENT AS PROPOSED. MOTION CARIED (5-4-0) (McDOWELL, SINGLETON, DILNO, KINNEY OPPOSING).**

### **WORKSHOP ITEMS**

401. Draft Report of the Balboa Park Task Force on Funding, Management and Governance. David Kinney shared the draft report with the Committee.

Committee Comments:

- Andrew Kahng was impressed with the report.
- Rob Steppke liked the report.
- David will keep the Committee posted on how the draft report progresses during future meetings.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

501. None

### **SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT**

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – None

### **COMMMTTEE MEMBERS REPORT**

- Andrew Kahng reported that participation at the Balboa Park Activity Center has increased. The Recreation Council funded the annual floor resurfacing project for \$8,000.
- Don Liddell noted that the stop signs have been installed at 4<sup>th</sup> Ave and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave at Quince St. and Nutmeg St.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McDowell adjourned the meeting at 8:15 P.M.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Thursday, May 6, 2010  
6:00 P.M.  
Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room  
2150 Pan American Road  
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Rodrigues, Acting District Manager

Reviewed by,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
District Manager