

**MINUTES**  
SPECIAL MEETING

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

January 8, 2011

**Meeting held at:**

Balboa Park Club, Ballroom  
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  
Mick Hager  
Andrew Kahng  
Luanne Kanzawa  
David Kinney  
Mike McDowell  
Michael Singleton  
Rob Steppke

**Members Absent**

Scott Glazebrook  
Don Liddell  
Don Steele

**Staff Present**

Bruce Martinez

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 9:13 A.M.

**NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

None

**WORKSHOP ITEMS**

1. Balboa Park Plaza de Panama, Circulation and Parking Structure Project - Mark Johnson  
Mark Johnson of Civitas provided a power point presentation identifying the different aspects of the project. Items discussed were the Cabrillo Bridge, Alcazar Parking Lot circulation, the bypass road, the underground parking garage, managed access to the Plaza de Panama, the Plaza de California, El Prado, the Esplanade, and the roof top park. Mr. Johnson also stated the primary goals of the project are to; rehabilitate the Plaza de Panama for pedestrian use, eliminate vehicle traffic from the Plaza de Panama, increase the amount of parkland in the Park, and complete the project by January 1, 2015.

Committee Comments:

- An inquiry was made to the busiest days of the week for vehicle traffic over the Cabrillo Bridge and pattern of usage.
- Planning procedure process and project alternatives were discussed.
- The project presentation material should be accessible on the internet.
- There needs to be accessibility of Plaza by service or operations vehicles.
- What are the projections of traffic counts after project is completed.
- Dr. Jacobs was acknowledged for his efforts, time, and vision of the project.
- Concerns were expressed about the amount of future activity identified for the Alcazar Garden Parking Lot.

Public Comments: (Speaker slips are filed with the minutes.)

- Inquiries were made to who was going to be responsible for how the Plaza would be used keeping in mind the public's and the institutions' needs.
- Construction mitigation and maintenance responsibility is a concern.
- Support was expressed for the project.
- This world class Park needs a world class tram system from the parking structure to institutions.
- Earthquake retro fitting needs to be part of the project.
- The use of dream brick pavers can be used as a fund raiser.
- Parking structure proposed could be done in a very attractive way.
- Dr. Jacobs was applauded for his public spirit.
- The Aging of Americans needs to be considered in the plans for the Park tram system.
- Save Our Heritage Organization provided a petition regarding opposition to the bypass bridge. A presentation on the Cabrillo Bridge and the Plaza de Panama was also given.
- Oppose the bypass bridge but support the pedestrian aspects of the Plaza de Panama.
- Closing the bridge and increasing the use of public tram system would eliminate the need for the bypass bridge.
- Inspiration Point should be used for parking.
- Gaining green space in the Park is important.
- Close the bridge on a trial basis.
- Alternative entrances to the Park were mentioned.
- Inquiries were made about the Historic District and the impacts to its designation with the potential bypass bridge.
- Do not increase vehicle traffic into the Park.
- Concerns were expressed about the flow of traffic if the bridge is closed.
- Opposition to an underground parking structure was mentioned as it would create safety issues and attract more vehicles into the Park.
- A concern with the amount of influence valet parking has on the potential project design was stated.

- Alternatives to the bypass bridge were requested.
- Concerns for the plant pallets and the historic intent were mentioned.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kinney adjourned the meeting at 11:53 A.M.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Thursday, February 3, 2011  
6:00 P.M.  
Balboa Park Club, Ballroom  
2150 Pan American Road  
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Martinez  
District Manager