

MINUTES

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

March 3, 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
Mick Hager
Andrew Kahng
Luanne Kanzawa
David Kinney
Don Liddell
Michael Singleton
Rob Steppke

Members Absent

Mike McDowell
Donald Steele

Staff Present

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park
Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park
Steve Hill - City Council Third District

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M. Mr. Kinney announced that the agenda will be re-ordered in the following manner: Approval of Minutes, Non-Agenda Public Comment, Information Items 501-503, Special Events followed by Reports.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2011 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (HAGER/DILNO) (9-0-0) KAHNG/STEELE ABSTAINING.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 3, 2011 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (KANZAWA/HAGER) (9-0-0).

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

- Judy Swink noted several opportunities to walk through the Central Mesa. Walk San Diego will depart on Saturday, March 26 at 9:00A.M. from the intersection of Park Blvd. and Presidents Way. The Friends of Balboa Park will conduct a walking tour on Saturday, April 2. She also noted the C-3 Breakfast and Panel Discussion with Mark Johnson on Thursday, March 31, 2011.

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT (Continued)

- Christian Jaffe noted that the Centennial should be properly celebrated, which can revitalize San Diego. Transportation to and from the Park on a street car could be a fun way to get to the Park. Class 1 streetcars are clean and green and are an ideal solution to mass transit in San Diego. Information can be found at sandiegohistoricstreetcars.org.
- Kevin Swanson noted the Centennial is fast approaching. He asked about the coordination of the Centennial Celebration as he has not seen any plans posted by the various Park groups or the City.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Kinney reported the following:

- The Park and Recreation Board did not meet in February.
- Scott Glazebrook is resigning from the Committee as he has moved out of the Golden Hill community.

STAFF REPORT

Steve Hill - City Council Third District

- Mr. Hill noted that the 2015 Committee is scheduled to give an informational presentation to the Natural Resources and Culture Committee on March 23, 2011.
- On Tuesday the Council voted unanimously to approve the agreement with Connections Housing to provide a permanent homeless facility at the World Trade Center at 6th and A Street. The project is expected to be complete in two years.
- Councilmember Gloria has been working tirelessly on the effort to convince the State's legislative leaders to not dismantle the redevelopment program which is vital to downtown, North Park and affordable housing.

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

- Staff is working with the Committee of 100 to restore the Casa del Prado Panama-California Sculpture Court. The project will provide for cleaning and restoration of sculptures, provide interpretive signage, seating and lighting.

Upcoming Special Events:

- Finish Chelsea's Run, Saturday, March 5
- The Thursday Club Rummage Sale, March 12 – 13 at the Balboa Park Activity Center
- Saint Patrick's Day Festival and Parade, March 12
- San Diego Race for Autism – March 26

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Operations

- Park Asphalt Project- As mentioned last month the project was to start sometime in February. Unfortunately there was a minor oversight in the project in that they started work without notice to staff. Upon discovery, we made every effort along with assistance from Assets Management staff to mitigate impacts. Due to the location of the project, we knew impacts would be minimal. Work was completed in front of the Balboa Park Club, around the back of Recital Hall, the roadway south of the San Diego Automotive Museum, the road around the Air and Space Museum and the back parking lot, Lower Inspiration Point Parking lot, and Morley Field Dog Off Leash parking lot. The project went as well as possible considering the noticing, and we actually gained approximately 47 additional stalls by employing vertical as opposed to parallel curb parking on the east end of the inspiration Point Parking lot.
- The Mayor's office is working with a company named Ecotality to develop an electric vehicle charging infrastructure in San Diego. Ecotality was awarded a \$100 million federal grant to develop this infrastructure. The pilot project will be conducted in six states. San Diego and Los Angeles are the only two cities in California in the pilot program. Because of Balboa Park's destination status, they would like to install charging stations here. Charging stations would be focused in the Central Mesa. Final numbers and locations have yet to be determined. We will be coming back when more information is available.
- The 2011 Annual Balboa Park Arbor Day is set for March 10, 2011 10:30 A.M. This year's area selected is located near Upas Street and Texas Street in Morley Field. Approximately twenty-two Ficus trees of six different species will be plated. This year kids will actually plant some of the 15 gallon trees. This project is being done in cooperation with the Friends of Balboa Park and the San Diego Zoo. An interesting aspect of this project is that the Zoo will have an active role in the maintenance of these trees, as they will eventually collect the brows of the trees to feed animals within the Zoo.
- The Metropolitan Transit System's has approved the application for a community-based transportation planning grant for the City/Park Streetcar Feasibility Study.
- Unfortunately, Mr. Don Steele will not be re-joining the Committee for another term due to his health concerns.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Michael Hager reported the following:

- On March 23 and March 30, in concert with the Balboa Park Learning Institute, the Sustainability Program is offering a four part series at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center. The workshop series includes: 1) Basics of Sustainability 2) Energy, Water and Waste 3) Transportation, Agriculture and Land Use and 4) Green Economy and Green Jobs.
- The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership convenes the Central Balboa Park Assembly which will feature a presentation from the Balboa Park Conservancy leader, Chuck Hellerich and Carol Chang on Monday, March 7, 2011 at 8:00 A.M. in the Rondevel Room of the San Diego Zoo.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES (continued)

- Staff members from the San Diego Museum of Art, Mingei International Museum and the San Diego Museum of Man will present at the California Association of Museums’ annual conference in Pasadena, on March 4, 2011 about the Learning Institute’s ongoing audience evaluation project.
- Explore “wild” new ideas for visitor experiences in Balboa Park in a dynamic 24 hour workshop with Nina Simon on March 17 and 18, 2011.
- Twenty-five (25) to thirty (30) museum and library professionals will be in Balboa Park the last week of March for disaster training certification.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. Walk to Cure Diabetes – Alexis Rodriguez – Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

Susan Lowery-Mendoza reviewed the event that was conducted last November and recommended approval of the same route for November 12, 2011. She also recommended that a Ranger staff be assigned due to a noise complaint. Alexis Rodriguez thanked the Committee for granting Park use for their event which had 4,000 in attendance and was well received. She stated that their ideal route would be the route that the Heart Walk uses in order to lengthen the route to a 5K for those who could not navigate the bridle trail, reduce shuttle costs and to see the beauty of Balboa Park.

Committee Comments:

- Look at using Redwood Circle for entertainment zone to keep amplification away from residents.
- Option B presents less of an impact to Park users

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED TO APPROVE THE ROUTE B OPTION AS PERMITTED IN 2010. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (HAGER/LIDDELL) (9-0-0)

302. Race for RACE – Micah D. Parzen, Executive Director

Susan Lowery-Mendoza reported that she and her staff have been working with Museum staff on their request to conduct a 5K run/walk on Saturday, April 9, 2011 starting at 7:00 A.M. The Race is in conjunction with their Race exhibit and will start on the Cabrillo Bridge, utilize the West side of the Park and return to the Museum. The Race starts early enough to minimize impacts and it is anticipated that the bridge will re-open between 8:30 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. Mr. Parzen apologized for the late notice as there has been a turn-over in Museum staff. Mr. Parzen stated that they have mitigated the impacts as much as possible and he asked for the Committee's support of this onetime event which will support their educational programs and this exhibit.

Committee Comments:

- Asked if the dog off leash area would be closed and noted that the fence should be adjusted to provide trail access at that point.
- The Committee appreciated the early start to minimize the impact on the road closure

**MOTION MOVED/SECONDED TO APPROVE THE RACE FOR RACE EVENT.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(HAGER/SINGLETON) (9-0-0).**

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Park and Recreation Department Guidelines on the Use of Synthetic Turf in City Parks – Jim Winter, Administrative Services Section

Jim Winter informed the Committee as to what synthetic turf is, applications being considered and the reasons why the Department wanted to establish guidelines. The population has increased resulting in higher demand for fields; the desire for potable water offsets; and associated maintenance costs are some of the areas of consideration. He reviewed the guidelines and the pros and cons to synthetic turf use. Some of the factors included: health codes; specific equipment needed for maintenance; use by permit only; heat gain; shade and drinking fountains; irrigation of field; recyclable materials; size of area; and test sites.

Mr. Winter stated that staff is keeping watch of the industry and the guidelines are a working document.

Committee Comments:

- Is the heat gain due to the dark rubber?
- There is no oxygen production from synthetic fields.
- What about run-off and regional water controls?

Committee Comments: (continued)

- Health issues; maintenance of turf and how it is cleaned?
- Fields will be secured, barring general public use
- Guidelines look good
- Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council will review at their next meeting
- Downtown parks have removed synthetic turf from dog parks.

502. Plaza de Panama, Circulation and Parking Structure Project, Project Update and Next Steps - Mark Johnson

Mr. Johnson noted that design alternatives and refinements are being made to the various elements of the plans. There is ongoing additional analysis and traffic counting within and surrounding the Park to gather more information. Mr. Johnson has been approached by many groups to provide information and listen to others. The Plaza de Panama Committee is now represented on the MTS Streetcar Advisory Board.

In April and May, there will be informational workshops to the Historic Resources Board, Park and Recreation Board and Planning Commission. Development Services Staff will be handling the environmental review process. The submittal is being prepared and the Committee will receive a copy of the formal submittal and correspondence from the City. There will be public notice of the review to those affected and the City will be posting a notice that the environment review process is beginning. Mr. Johnson provided an approximate time line of the processes and asked for time to meet with the Balboa Park Committee members to discuss the project either at a special meeting or the next meeting to gather input as to which alternatives should go forward.

Committee Comments:

- Are there a minimum number of alternatives to be reviewed?
- Concerned that the process may be too far along to look at other alternatives
- Would like to look at removal of vehicles from the Pan American lot
- Would like to see if the garage could be moved more towards the canyon to obtain more usable park land

Public Comments:

- SOHO supports the Precise Plan, not the closure of the bridge
- SOHO Board members support the mission of SOHO, and they are opposed to the by-pass bridge and the effects on Alcazar Garden
- SOHO Board members are volunteers and they are here tonight because of the importance of the project and their desire to maintain the historic integrity of the Park
- Want to walk across the bridge and building more parking in the Park brings more cars
- The scale of the Plaza is too large and will probably be empty most of the time
- Recognize the dramatic entry, just remove the parking from both Plazas
- Create a drop off swale for valet and the restaurants in the Plaza

Additional Committee Comments:

- Thanked Jay Shumaker for his design efforts
- The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership is in support of the Plaza de Panama Committee's project for the future use of the Park
- Asked about how the Shumaker Plan differs from the Master Plan?
- A 22 foot width lane is preferable with speed tables for pedestrian crossing areas

503. SR-163 Sewer Lining Project, Dirk Smith- Public Utilities Department

Mr. Smith reported that he and Harry Herman, Project Manager provided an update from last month's meeting. They have had planning meetings and understand the concerns about the closures. The work will terminate by 9:00 A.M. on the weekends. The contractor has agreed to make this timeframe work. They hope to start work the evening of March 14 and a full closure of SR 163 will be needed on the weekends. Closure times will be 11:00 P.M. to 9:00 A.M. Saturdays and Sundays and 8:00 P.M. to 5:00A.M.on weekdays.

The Committee thanked the gentlemen for their consideration.

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 reported that Gerry Braun, Director of Special Projects in the Mayor's Office, requested that the Plaza de Panama Committee make a presentation to the Recreation Council. The presentation is scheduled for their next meeting on April 6, 2011.
- Uptown Planning Group – Don Liddell reported that he was elected to serve another four year term.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kinney adjourned the meeting at 7:51PM

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, April 7, 2011
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club, Ballroom
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager