

MINUTES

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

April 7, 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
Michael Hager
Andrew Kahng
David Kinney
Don Liddell
Mike McDowell
Michael Singleton
Rob Steppke (arr. 6:14 p.m.)

Members Absent

Luanne Kanzawa

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 6:09 p.m. He re-ordered the agenda to move information item #501 before information item #401. Workshop Item #401 will be heard last.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (ELROD/SINGLETON) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3, 2011 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED (7-0-1) MCDOWELL ABSTAINING.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Beeman stated that the projects should not move forward until funding and endowments are in an account and the need to incorporate solar energy generation into projects to generate income.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

None

STAFF REPORT

Steve Hill - City Council Third District - None

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park Facilities and Special Events District Manager - None

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Operations – He provided an update on the Sewer Rehabilitation project on the SR 163. To date, 7,572 feet of the total 10,988 linear feet of sewer pipe has been lined which is approximately 72% of the project. The contractor is ahead of schedule to complete the work by the end of May. Unfortunately, it was discovered through the cleaning and televising operations, a section of the 15 inch clay pipe approximately 750 feet south of the Cabrillo Bridge is severely deteriorated and needs to be repaired immediately as it cannot be re-lined. The City is working with Caltrans to acquire the necessary permit for this repair.

Committee members inquired as to the time frame needed for repair and additional time would be needed.

Every effort is being made to complete the repair within the designated project time period.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Michael Hager reported the following:

- March was a busy month for the Balboa Park Learning Institute. Approximately 405 people explored wild ideas for visitor experience in Balboa Park, mobile phone applications for museums, the challenges and opportunities of making digital collections free and open, how to use Google analytics, and the basics of sustainability.
- A week-long Collections Emergency Response Training drew people to Balboa Park from around the world.
- On April 18, the Balboa Park Sustainability Program will be featured as a national model in an Online Green Conference produced by the American Association of Museums and offered by the Learning Institute at the San Diego Natural History Museum. The program will focus on green strategies and take a behind the scenes tour of the Park's LEED certified museums. Tuition is free for this program thanks to the support of SDG&E.
- Balboa Park Cultural Partnership has been awarded \$412,000 of the City of San Diego's FY 2012 Community Block Grant. These funds will be used for accessibility improvements for Park institutions in preparing for the 2015 Centennial Celebration. These projects are a major step forward in achieving the Partnership's strategic priority of "optimizing visitor experience and lifelong learning in Balboa Park."
- The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership is very pleased to present, "Balboa Park 2015 Centennial Celebration," a report by BRC Imagination Arts. The report identifies a

dynamic mission for San Diego. The report can be found on the Partnership's website.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. San Diego Museum of Art Calder Artwork Exhibit Extension

Charles Daniels, Park Designer, noted that he is requesting a recommendation on the extension of the Calder Exhibit sculpture in front of the San Diego Museum of Art. The Museum originally requested a one year period of exhibition which has already terminated. The Museum is requesting a one year extension through June, 2012. The Park and Recreation Board will be reviewing the extension as well and then move on to the Commission for Arts and Culture for final action.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (HAGER/MCDOWELL) TO APPROVE OF THE ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF THE CALDER SCULPTURE EXHIBITION. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (9-0-0)

Special Events

301. House of Pacific Relations 75th Anniversary Celebration and Parade – Hannu Mikkonen, President.

Susan Lowery-Mendoza informed the Committee of the request to conduct a pedestrian parade originating on El Prado at the Lily Pond and proceeding to the Organ Pavilion on May 28, 2011 at 9:45 A.M. Ms Lowery-Mendoza also informed the Committee that the House of Pacific Relations is requesting use of the lawn area within the cottages to extend their Ethnic Food Fair celebration to two days. Ms Lowery-Mendoza noted that it is a holiday weekend and an extension of what has occurred in the past. Committee members stated their concerns regarding parking availability, impact to other Park users and that the traffic circle in the Plaza de Panama remain open if at all possible. Mr. Mikkonen stated that there is less congestion having the Food Fair over a two day period by avoiding everyone coming to set-up on the weekend.

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED (HAGER/SINGLETON) TO APPROVE THE PARADE AND TWO DAY ETHNIC FOOD FAIR FOR THIS YEAR ONLY. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (9-0-0).

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Balboa Park Plaza de Panama, Circulation and Parking Structure Project- Mark Johnson, presenter.

Mr. Johnson noted that he and other members of the design team will be presenting some details on design alternatives.

On April 14, 2011 at 5:30 p.m., in the Balboa Park Club, a meeting will be conducted to begin the City's Environmental Impact Review (EIR) to determine which alternatives go forward. A design update was provided and alternatives discussed. El Prado East and El Prado West uses were discussed. The goal of the project is to have the activity on El Prado West mirror the activity of El Prado East. He reviewed the existing conditions and goals of the project.

Scott Jordan of Civitas discussed the potential of pedestrian use of the Plaza de California and a walking area on El Prado. He discussed the Esplande, Plaza de Panama, Organ Pavilion Parking Garage and Roof Top design principles.

David Marshall noted that the bridge is the lynchpin in order to convert vehicular uses to pedestrian uses. The design criteria for new structures in a historic district state the design should not look original and draw attention away from the historic structures. The bypass bridge connection to the Cabrillo Bridge is 60 feet from the California building. The sole purpose of this bypass bridge is to remove vehicles from El Prado. The Alcazar Parking Lot will be re-purposed to ADA parking, valet parking and pedestrian drop-off. The current thinking on the bypass bridge is to use columns instead of abutments to create a more transparent look.

Rob Fitch noted the proposed garage locations. Organ Pavilion parking garage which is consistent with the Precise Plan is in a central location, mostly below grade and requires paid parking. The Gold Gulch and Inspiration Point alternatives were discussed. Existing traffic studies indicate that 40 percent of the vehicles enter the Park from the West Mesa and 60 percent enter from President's Way. The Central Mesa Precise Plan continues traffic flow on El Prado and continues the pedestrian and vehicular conflicts.

Design alternatives of closing the Cabrillo Bridge to vehicles, the Quince Street alternative and the phased approach to the project were discussed.

Public Comments:

- Preserve the Balboa Park architecture, gardens and public spaces. Close the Cabrillo Bridge to traffic and allow it to be used by pedestrians and for tram use.
- Against the relocation of the Plaza de Panama fountain.
- How does it tie into the 2015 Centennial and add economic value to the surrounding communities?
- No one has mentioned the impact to the historic Cabrillo Bridge, only visual concerns
- The Alcazar Parking Lot should become a beautiful part of the Park as a passive area.
- Look at access behind the Air and Space Museum
- What about parking during construction?
- Want all plazas reclaimed
- Gold Gulch Parking Garage location should be included in EIR, less excavation of soil
- Solar panels on roof of parking garage
- EIR should be studying cost effectiveness and the least impact to Park
- Valet parking only benefits those who can pay for it

- Project relies on paid parking
- The Master Plan took nine years and a willingness to negotiate and compromise
- More parking on West side and have a tram system in place

Committee Comments:

- The impacts to Bankers Hill need to be evaluated if the bridge is closed to traffic
- Evaluate the potential biological impacts to Alcazar Garden
- Air quality should be evaluated in the EIR
- Alternatives need to include the Palisades Parking Lot
- Evaluate 6th Avenue for angled parking
- Don't have expertise to say which alternatives should go forward
- Modeling and analysis should be a goal of the process
- The perception is that the alternatives aren't being tested, consultants should be hired as advocates for the alternatives

Mr. Kinney presented a set of plans to Committee members.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Balboa Park Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – Charles Daniels, Park Designer

Mr. Daniels referenced the staff report which describes the pilot program. It is a 230 million dollar nationwide project and the City could become a host site. Factors considered for locations of the charging stations in Balboa Park include the proximity to a power source, accessible parking and beneficial location. In the report exhibits, there are two preferred potential sites listed, the South Carousel and the North Pepper Grove lot. The Organ Pavilion lot and the Palisades lot are also potential locations. There is no cost to the City for installation of the charging stations, the user of the stations would be charged for the electricity and there would be some revenue sharing.

The intent of the project is to provide an incentive for use of electric vehicles and would operate at no cost to the City.

Committee Comments:

- How would the spaces be reserved and who would enforce the time limit?
- The Organ Pavilion lot would not be a good option because of the pending project
- Who pays for the electricity?
- Could the parking space only be used for the charging of vehicles?
- After installation, monitor if the spaces are being used regularly
- Need reimbursement for staffing providing the enforcement.
- Are charging stations going in to other areas of the City?

Mr. Daniels noted that the details will need to be worked out as to the reservation process and operation of the spaces. The user of the charging station would pay for its use. Parking Management primarily oversees parking enforcement issues in the Park. Part of the grant

will be used for monitoring the success of the stations. Charging stations will be installed in other areas of the City. More information will be forthcoming to the Committee as it is available.

SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – None

COMMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kinney adjourned the meeting at 8:34 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, June 2, 2011
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager