

WORKSHOP NOTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
Balboa Park Committee
May 1, 2008

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Jennifer Ayala
Laurie Burgett
Jerelyn Dilno
Vicki Granowitz
Mick Hager
Kathleen Hasenauer
Andrew Kahng
David Kinney
Mike McDowell
Michael Singleton
Donald Steele

Members Absent

Staff Present

Bruce Martinez

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Granowitz called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M.

WORKSHOP ITEM 401 BALBOA PARK STUDY

Update from Vicki Granowitz

- **May 15th Joint Power Authorities/ Agreements**- Tentative guest will be Richard Little from the Keston Group who will provide an academic overview of JPA's.
- **June 5th JPA's/Governance models** -Dorothy Leonard, Chair- Mission Trails Regional Park Advisory Committee, and Bob Hutsel – Executive Director - San Dieguito River Park Foundation, have been invited to share their experience with JPA's and other governance models.
- **June 18th Conservancies**- Guests include: Mike Nelson, Executive Director – San Diego River Conservancy, James Mann, former Executive director - St. Louis Forest Park Forever, and Gary Bess, Director of Parks Recreation and Forestry – City of St. Louis.
- **July 3rd** - Regular Balboa Park Committee meeting has been canceled. July 24 is the proposed rescheduled date. The committee approved.
- Kathleen Hasenauer will assist in the committee's analysis of leases, grants, and permits including right of entry and special entry. Currently there are 22 lease agreements within Balboa Park.
- Irvine's Great Park was featured in an LA Times article and may also provide helpful information.
- To best inform the process, Vicki Granowitz called for the committee to be thinking who else should be invited to present.

- August and September will be “clean –up” months where the committee will evaluate all collected information and add to what’s needed before making their recommendation.
- Review of Balboa Park Study Questions: Does the City of San Diego have adequate funding to support Balboa Park? If they do, should they? What different governance models are available for implementation?
- Regularly updated information about the Balboa Park Study and the Balboa Park Committee’s process can be found online at sandiego.gov.
- The Balboa Park Committee meetings are being recorded and thoroughly documented, along with a complete archive of documents reviewed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ester Salazar:

- Works at Mercy Hospital, Masters Degree in Social Work.
- Grew up using public facilities, loves Balboa Park
- On behalf of San Diego children she would like the Park to remain free.
- Recalls San Diego Zoo free days, and is “appalled” at the \$10 museum fees, making it increasing difficult for working families to access.
- Shared that her mother and aunt worked at the Balboa Park Tea House when she was a child, and now the “old” Tea House has been “thrown out” for something “new”. She is worried about historic Park loss.
- *“I’m most concerned that facilities remain open and free to the people of San Diego for the benefit of our kids. It warms my heart to see children enjoy the Park, and I want to see that continue.”*

Judith Swink:

- Affiliated with Citizen’s Coordinate Century 3 (C3) since the 1980’s.
- Has enjoyed long standing involvement in Balboa Park planning process
- Shared enthusiasm and gratitude for the Balboa Park Study and the follow-up process taken on by the Balboa Park Committee.
- Is pleased to see such a wide range of topics covered and guest presenters.
- Pointed to Mission Bay and the history of funded projects stewarded by the Mission Bay Park ad hoc Committee, specifically around the issue of watershed.
- Has connected with Vicki Granowitz around C3 archives and uncovering potentially helpful information for the Balboa Park Committee.
- *“I look forward to working and learning with you all as you move forward with a recommendation for the future of Balboa Park”.*

BUDGET BRIEFING - Stacy LoMedico, San Diego Park and Recreation Director FY 2009 Proposed Budget

- \$3.2 billion general fund budget. Changes in \$ listed below:
- Salary and benefit adjustments - \$876,884.
- Non-Discretionary (water, sewer, gas, electric, vehicles) - \$855,573.
- Information Technology – (\$34,134).

- Change in Vacancy Factor- vacancies are carried from weeks to years, currently vacancies factor is 3% of budget - (\$494,806).
- Terminal Leave - \$164,983.
- Contractual changes - \$111,366.
- 5 New Facilities: FTE changes + 7.48, \$954,529. Carson Elementary School Joint use (CD6), Del Sur Neighborhood Park (CD1), Mira Mesa Hourglass Field House (CD5), Fay Elementary School Joint Use (CD7), La Miranda Elementary School Joint Use (CD8).
- Annualizations – FTE changes + 2.90, \$427,404.
- Brush Management Program FTE changes+ 13.00, \$2,081,315. June 30th goal: 210 acres of Park land. Goal was surpassed two weeks ago.

Other Budget updates:

- Cherokee Point due to open in 2-3 weeks.
- Reimbursable Grounds Maintenance support + \$71,957.
- Children’s pool court order for drudging + \$40,000.
- Year Round Power Beach Wheelchair Program+ \$25,000.
- Multiple Sclerosis program is now in the planning stages and will be working closely with Park and Recreation. Transfer for operational support + \$109,708.

Reductions of Area Managers, District Managers, and Grounds Maintenance Supervisors:

- FTE Change = (18.0), (\$1,458,596).
- Reduction of 3 District Managers and 9 Area Managers in Community Parks I and II.
- Reduction of 2 District Managers for Balboa Park and Mission Bay Park.
- Reduction of 1 Area Manager for Balboa Park
- Reduction of 3 Grounds Maintenance Supervisors, 1 in Balboa Park, and 2 in Mission Bay Park.

Other Areas of Reduction

- Reduction in Reservoir Recreation Program – (\$1,458,596), closure of San Vincent Reservoir Dam reconstruction and adjustments based on current reimbursement rates.
- Conversion of Skate Parks to Unsupervised Facilities – FTE change (7.30), (\$449,572). Reduction of 4 Recreation Center Director’s and 3.30 Recreation Leaders.
- Reduction of Frozen Park Ranger Positions – FTE change (4.00), (\$356,002). Reduction of 3 Park Rangers and 1 Senior Park Ranger (Frozen in the Budget since FY 2004).
- Reduction of 3.5 months pool operations at 3 facilities – FTE change (4.50), (\$323,250). Reduction of 1.50 Pool Managers and 3.00 Pool Guards (all hourly). Revenue loss of \$23,000.

Other Areas of Reduction continued:

- Reduction in Permanent Pool Staffing – FTE change = (3.50), (\$260,302). Reduction of 1.50 Pool Managers and .50 Supervising Recreation Specialist (converting full time positions to three quarter time).

- Reduction of 5 GMW's in Developed Regional Parks – FTE changes (3.00), (\$315,276). Reduction of 2.50 positions in Balboa Park and 2.50 positions in Mission Bay Park.
- Reduction of Administrative and Permit Support for Developed Regional Parks- FTE changes (4.00), (\$303,054). Reduction of 1.0 Associate Management Analyst, 1.0 Administrative Aide, 1.0 Payroll Specialist, and 1.0 Public Information Clerk.
- Reduction in Park Forestry Staffing – FTE changes (3.00), (\$214,763). Reduction of 1.0 Tree Maintenance Supervisor, 1.0 Tree Maintenance Crew leader, and Tree Trimmer.
- Conversion of Kumeyaay Campground to day use only – FTE changes (2.0), (\$204,234). Reduction of 1.0 Park ranger and 1.0 Recreation Center Director. (Revenue loss of \$24,940).
- Reduction in Park Design support – FTE changes (1.0), (\$117,742). Reduction of 1.0 Park Designer.
- Reduction in Public Information – FTE changes (1.0), (\$106,289). Reduction of 1.0 Supervising Public Information Officer.
- Reduction in supervising Recreation Specialist in Community Parks II Division – FTE changes (1.0), (\$87,792).
- Elimination of the Resource Center – FTE changes (1.50), (\$81,350). Elimination of .75 Recreation Leader II and .075 Recreation Leader I.
- Reduction in Administration in Open Space Division – FTE change (1.0), (\$78,203). Reduction of 1.0 Administrative Aide II.
- Elimination of the Pesticide Supervisor – FTE change (1.0), (\$76,065). Elimination of 1.0 Pesticide Supervisor for Citywide maintenance support.
- Elimination of Hourly Lifeguard – FTE change (.35), (\$16,811). Elimination of 0.35 Lifeguard I for Surf Camp Support (hourly).

Non- General Fund Department Budget Changes –Golf:

- Golf is an enterprise fund –salary adjustment of 90%.
- Salary and Benefit adjustments - \$90,432.
- Non-Discretionaries (water, sewer, gas, electric, vehicles) - \$779,014.
- Information Technology - \$90,432.
- Change in Vacancy Factor - \$4,035.
- ERP - \$7,020.
- One-Time Expense Removal – (\$155,450)

Non-General Fund Department Budget Changes –Environmental Growth Plan (EGF)

- Non-Discretionaries, (water, sewer, gas, electric, vehicles) - \$220,669.
- Information Technology - \$390.
- Reinstatement of CIP Funds - \$200,000.

Summary of Developed Regional Parks Position Reductions: FTE and \$ changes

- Administrative Aide II (1.0), (\$78,204).
- Area Manager II (1.00), (\$96,135).
- Associate Management Analyst (1.0), (\$96,108).
- District Manager (2.0), (\$219,190).
- Grounds Maintenance Supervisor (3.0), (\$215,874).
- Grounds Maintenance Worker II (5.00), (\$315,305).

- Lifeguard I hourly (.35), (\$16,811).
- Payroll Specialist (1.0), (\$66,581).
- Pesticide Supervisor (1.0), (\$76,136).
- Public Information Clerk (1.0), (\$62,180).
- Tree Maintenance Crew Leader (1.0), (\$70,961).
- Tree Maintenance Supervisor (1.0), (\$75,121).
- Tree Trimmer (1.0), (\$68,569)

Other informational items:

- Transfer of revenue to General Fund from T.O.T taxes.
- New Parks and deferred maintenance.
- Additional funding needed for canyons.
- Over \$100 million in deferred maintenance on building and elevators, etc.
- There is potentially one more City Budget hearing.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION- QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- Committee Member, David Kinney, suggested drafting a letter to Mayor for reconsideration of Park and Recreation budgets.
- Environmental Growth Funds - Franchise agreement recommendation by City charter funded through SD Gas and Electric shall be used exclusively for preservation and enhancement.
- Capital Improvement program for operations regional parks open space – used in Mission Bay and Balboa Park. Reimbursement went for maintenance area fertilizer.
- Different acquisitions –bonds, “debt service” and use of bonds.
- \$23 million budget increase Transit Occupancy Tax projection = \$1.6 million increase reimbursement to general fund for Mission Bay and Balboa Park. These are two additional funding sources; however they will not generate enough to be self-sustaining.
- Committee member, Mike McDowell, suggested that Transit Occupancy Tax be re-evaluated for potential revenue. There is an annual distribution policy for use of Transit Occupancy Tax in San Diego. Could Balboa Park benefit from Penny for the Arts?
- Committee member, Don Steele, suggested exploring Open Spaces Funds.
- Committee member, Mike Singleton inquired about the golf courses and the revenue that is generated from operations. Could Balboa Park generate revenue off of fees? Stacy LoMedico shares that Park and Recreation do not subsidize any part of the golf course, and that it is a separate enterprise. She also confirms that this is common nationally.
- Chairwoman Granowitz requested documentation of the Mission Bay bonds to see if there is a potential for new sources of revenue.
- Committee member, Jennifer Ayala, asked if the budget cuts are felt to be fair by comparison. Stacy Lo Medico replied, “I support the budget. It hasn’t been easy”. There have been many reductions over the last 5 years with positions being cut of staff members who have been with the City for 14 plus years. “We do the best we can”.

- Committee member David Kinney suggested contacting the Mayor to voice concern over the recent proposed reductions and the committee's concern over the trickledown effect. The committee could draft, approve and send a letter.
- Committee member, Don Steele, made the motion to move forward with the letter adding that the committee could encourage looking at other options and the allocation of resources to the general growth fund.
- Committee member, Mike Singleton, seconds the motion.
- Committee member, David Kinney, proposes that the committee look at special events in the park and inquired about raising private, for profit event fees.
- Chairwoman Granowitz states that asking for Transit Occupancy Tax would be difficult and perhaps not the most efficient approach to take as it is historically dispersed across the entire San Diego region.
- Committee member, Mick Hagar, suggests a closer analysis of event fees.

CONCLUSION OF BALBOA PARK STUDY WORKSHOP ITEMS

Notice of Next Balboa Park Committee Meeting:

Thursday, May 15, 2008

5:30 P.M.

Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe