

) -tion leading to the report, supported by Parks and Recreation Dept. staff and informed by many representatives from nonprofit entities who shared their experiences and expertise with the Committee. We also deeply appreciate the funding support from the Legler-Benbough Foundation, the Parker Foundation and the San Diego Foundation which made this effort possible at a time of serious financial limitations within the City of San Diego.

However, the Report is only the first stage of a process that is expected to lead to creation of a Public Benefit Non-profit organization to complement and enhance the City's ability to maintain Balboa Park for an ever-growing population of residents and visitors to the Park. We look forward to the next phase, a "Balboa Park task force" as is recommended in the Draft Report Section "Next Steps....".

s The most important policy statements, reiterated several times in the Draft Report, are that the City should (must) retain ultimate authority over the Park, including Park Policies and land use decisions, and that a new entity "must respect the existing values that the public places on established land use, historic and environmental Park resources".

Among the many observations or recommendations in the Draft Report that will inform the "Next Steps..." process, C-3 is particularly supportive of the following elements:

- The necessity to compile more complete data regarding true costs, funding sources & conditions of Park facilities as outlined in Section 3 under Recommended Actions;

- The importance of establishing clear policies for selection of public art, for approval of naming rights, and to ensure a means for the public to see how funds donated to the Park have been expended.
- Recognition that the need for "open space" will become increasingly valuable in our "paved and urbanized environment" and must be managed as carefully as are physical facilities in the Park;
- A strong statement of the need to formalize a commitment to the historic elements which are the foundation of the National Landmark status of Balboa Park;
- Articulation of the necessity for clear policies and processes "...to protect our green spaces and urban forest resource..." for protection and enhancement of public "free and open parkland", to "make sure that the Park always remains a park";
- A call for development of an "urban reforestation program" in the Park to reverse the "state of decline" of Balboa Park's historical horticultural resources;

Finally, we concur in the necessity for any non-profit entity which may be formed to assist in support & management of Balboa Park to be subject to the Brown Act in order for the general public to feel confident that decisions made about "Funding, Management and Funding" of Balboa Park are made in a fully public context.

by Judy Swink

BALBOA PARK CITY REPORT

C3 Parks & Open Space Committee

Citizens Coordinate for Century 3 has taken an active role in Balboa Park planning since C-3's inception in 1961. The following comments are observations on the Draft Report "*The Future of Balboa Park: Funding, Management & Governance*", dated December 2008. The full text of the report can be found at:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/pdf/081212bpfuture.pdf>

For the past 9 months, members of the Balboa Park Committee committed a substantial amount of time and atten-