

MINUTES

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

September 1, 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
Michael Hager
Andrew Kahng
Luanne Kanzawa
David Kinney
Don Liddell
Mike McDowell
Michael Singleton
Rob Steppke
David Strickland

Members Absent

Jason Elrod
Minnie Rzeslawski

Staff Present

Vicky Hara, Balboa Park
Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

Chairperson Kinney announced the reordering of the agenda. Item # 501- Balboa Park Conservancy will be moved up to be discussed after the Cultural Partnership Program Updates.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Andrew Kahng made corrections to the following items in the August 4, 2011 minutes to read as follows:

Page 8 Information Item #501-Committee Comments-Andrew Kahng's comment to read:

“Andrew Kahng noted that some conclusions are a bit of a stretch since they are based on statistically insignificant subgroups of survey respondents.”

Page 9 Committee Members Report-Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council-Andrew Kahng's report to read:

“They are interested in the access and in protecting parking for recreational users, especially youth, seniors and other local residents who use the facilities frequently for short-term parking.”

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (SINGLETON/STRICKLAND) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 4, 2011 MEETING WITH CORRECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

David Kinney noted the following:

- The Plaza de Panama Committee presented at the Park and Recreation Board meeting in August. No voting took place.
- The Rotary Club's acknowledgement of Peter Ellsworth who has been a long time supporter of Balboa Park.

STAFF REPORT

Rachel Laing, Office of the Mayor

- Ms. Laing addressed the misinformation and rumors regarding the Plaza de Panama project and ensured all that the Mayor's Office welcomes public comments on any planning document through Development Services Department during any stage of this process.

Steve Hill, City Council District – District 3

- The Redistricting Commission has finalized the City Council District Boundaries. District 3 will consist of Balboa Park and all of the surrounding communities such as; Golden Hill, all of Downtown, Mission Hills, Hillcrest, Old Town, and Middle Town. Areas that have been removed from District 3 are City Heights, Talmadge and Kensington.
- Though the district boundaries are final, it is unknown when they will take effect.

Vicky Hara, Balboa Park Special Events Area Manager

- The Twilight Concerts in the Park concluded this week.
- The Free Summer Lunch Program at Morley Field Sports Complex fed 2,500 children ranging from 2-18 years of age.
- Upcoming special events in Balboa Park are; 47th Balboa Park 4 Mile on September 3; Heart Walk and SDSU Cross Country Race on September 17; and the Aids Walk on September 25.

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Operations District Manager

- The Balboa Park Horticulturist interviews have concluded. The candidate was selected and has accepted. Once the pre-employment process is complete, we foresee the candidate starting anywhere from 1-3 weeks.
- We will be conducting interviews for the Balboa Park Senior Park Ranger next week. We are hoping to have this position filled within a month. Mr. Martinez and Chairperson Kinney stated their appreciation to Casey Smith for his service to Balboa Park.
- The Friends of Balboa Park will be hosting the Balboa Park Information Kiosk Dedication on Thursday, September 22 at 5:15 P.M. located at the Palisades kiosk. Mayor Jerry Sanders and Councilman Todd Gloria are expected to attend.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

None

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. Jerry Schad Memorial Trail-Casey Smith

- Casey Smith presented the Jerry Schad Memorial Trail.

Committee Comments:

- The purpose of the trail program was to get people to see areas of the Park that were underutilized. The memorial is very fitting.
- Jerry Schad has earned the right of this memorial.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (MCDOWELL/HAGER) TO NAME TRAIL #43 THE JERRY SCHAD MEMORIAL TRAIL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SPECIAL EVENTS

301. Diwali – Festival of Lights – Madhu Madhavan, San Diego Indian American Society request approval to conduct a cultural festival on Sunday, October 23, 2011. This activity was sponsored for the past three years by the Mingei International Musuem. Areas requested are El Prado East and the Alcazar Parking Lot, from 3:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Additionally, the Spreckels Organ Pavilion has been secured for the event. Anticipated attendance is 2,000.

- Mr. Madhavan presented the history of the San Diego Indian American Society and the importance of the Festival of Lights. Mr. Madhavan described the events to occur in the three specific areas.

Committee Comments:

- This is a worthy event, we are focusing on the impacts on other users of the park.
- This is a wonderful event we hope to find a way to accommodate the event without the closing of the Alcazar Parking Lot. There are two performances at the Old Globe on the same day. It was suggested to use the HPR lawn area and closing off Pan American Road West behind the cottages.
- Concerns with the amount of people crossing from Spreckles Organ Pavilion to the Alcazar Parking Lot.
- Concerns of the traffic on El Prado East.
- Portion of the Spreckels Organ Pavilion Parking Lot be used instead of the Alcazar Parking Lot to alleviate foot traffic to one side.
- Recommend to approve the event if another location other than the Alcazar Parking lot is used.
- Request Park staff to work with the Event Organizer to find another location for the food vending to take place.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (KINNEY/DILNO) TO APPROVE THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS ON THE CONDITION THAT THERE IS NO CLOSING OF ROADS OR PARKING LOTS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Plaza de Panama, Circulation and Parking Structure Project

Mark Johnson, Civitas Inc. presented updates to the circulation options to the Alcazar Parking Lot. A slide show presentation and new data was presented to the Board. A fifteen minute workshop was conducted.

Rob Fitch presented the computer simulation and discussed the data collected in regards to alternate drop off sites, congestion of pedestrian traffic crossing and parking.

Committee Comments:

- Has there been any safety data or statistics done regarding accidents?
- How important is valet parking in the Alcazar Parking Lot?
- Do we need it as a tram drop off point?
- If the EIR could adjust the alternatives to state that alternative one is better than alternative two.
- Is there going to be signage regarding the time limit in the drop off area? How will it be enforced?
- We need more data on the tram.
- How will this affect the air quality and the increase of plants?
- Can valet be moved to parking structure?

Mark Johnson responded:

- Mixing of pedestrians and cars is always an issue.
- There will be a decline in valet with the exception of special events.

Public Comments:

- It was expressed that the City's website regarding the Plaza de Panama Myths vs. Facts, documents were considered inaccurate.
- Dr. Jacobs is a great man and a great engineer
- Is slow traffic the problem or the solution?
- When is the Plaza too big?

402. Balboa Park 2015 Centennial

No presentation.

Public Comments:

- Kevin Swanson requested that future Agenda items discontinue using Balboa Park 2015, as it is his business name. He expressed concerns about the wording of “Balboa Park 2015 Centennial” on the agenda as it is confusing to the public and does not reflect the Balboa Park Celebration Corporation.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Balboa Park Conservancy

Chuck Hellerich gave a brief update of the Balboa Conservancy in regards to the bylaws, website, and 501 C(3) status. They are now operating as a corporate entity. Brochures are available. They are taking the steps to organize their committee structure and are currently housed at the San Diego Foundation. They are also working collaboratively with The Balboa Park Centennial Committee and are hoping their MOU will be in place by the end of the year.

Carol Chang, announced their major focus is getting the MOU in place. Ms. Chang discussed the other important items they are focusing on are the project work in the park, to develop a funding source, and a fundraising strategy.

Committee Comments:

- Chairperson Kinney acknowledged the work that the Board has done and appreciates their commitment.

SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – None

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT

Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council - Andrew Kahng reported the Rec. Council received a new Special Use Permit (dated May 2011) that we've been asked to adopt. Their professional auditor and accountant recently reviewed the language of the new SUP. While he is an accountant and not an attorney, he feels that in a worst-case scenario, "...this language means that all Council members are individually liable for any taxes assessed on the property maintained by it. If this language is left intact I would recommend that all Council members resign immediately and the City be left to find others who wish to bear responsibility and liability without commensurate compensation." This is mentioned because Balboa Park has

Balboa Park Committee
September 1, 2011
Page 7

many tournaments, other special events, contractors who run Kidz Kampz or sport leagues, and so forth, that could become more difficult to flow through the Recreation Council in the future. We plan to discuss with other Recreation Councils the new Special Use Permit language and its potential implications on engagement of volunteers and outside contractors as well as on special events.

Committee Comment:

- Get input from City Attorney's office.
- Recommend presenting concerns to the Area Committees.
- The Balboa Park Committee is a land-use committee for the Park and should refrain from recommendations on this subject as the Area Committees are best suited for this issue.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Hara
Area Manager