

## MINUTES

### City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE September 4, 2014

#### Meeting Location:

Balboa Park Club  
2150 Pan American Road  
San Diego, CA 92101

#### Mailing Address:

Balboa Park Administration Building  
2125 Park Boulevard  
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

#### ATTENDANCE:

##### Members Present

Kenneth Davenport – Vice Chair  
Jeri Dilno  
Andrew Kahng  
Luanne Kanzawa  
David Kinney – Chair  
Don Liddell  
Micah Parzen  
Michael Singleton (arr. 6:05pm)  
Rob Steppke

##### Members Absent

David Strickland  
Johanna S. Schiavoni

##### Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park  
Mario Llanos, Balboa Park  
Michael Ruiz, Balboa Park 2015

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 7, 2014

##### **MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. STEPPKE/MS. KANZAWA**

A motion was made by Ms. Jeri Dilno seconded by Mr. Rob Steppke, to approve the June 5, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved (8,0,0).

#### REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

#### NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Efen Castillo shared concerns of a mass of mountain bike trails, and ramps discovered on a dirt path near SR 163 and below the slope by the healing tree garden. Mr. Castillo wanted to know if the bike trails were authorized and whether the City planned to cover them up.

-Mr. Mario Llanos responded that they are unauthorized trails. As soon as City staff was made aware of the dangerous jumps, they immediately disassembled the jumps and manmade ramps. Staff will continue to monitor the area.

Mr. Kevin Swanson represents San Diego 2015 and Syntropic, Inc. Mr. Swanson submitted an unsolicited proposal in 2011 to the City for the 2015 Celebration. He looks forward to seeing the City's auditors' report later this month. Also Mr. Swanson attended the San Diego Tourism Marketing District board meeting and was disappointed there wasn't anyone present to market Balboa Park as a destination.

#### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – None

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **City Council Third District – Steven Hill**

- Council President Gloria's focus is on public safety. This is in light of the recent attacks on women in the mid-City and North Park area in the past three months. He joined the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) and the North Park Community park members to announce safety upgrades to deter recent attacks in the area. During a recent community walk, 23 street lights were discovered not functioning. To date 20 of these lights have been fixed. Also, the tennis court lights will be left on overnight and the City has been converting the lights on Lincoln Avenue from Texas Street to I-805 with brighter LED bulbs. Furthermore, Council President Gloria continues to work with the SDPD to identify and stop the attacker.
- The San Diego City Employee Retirement System was recently named one of the best public pension plans nationwide.
- Mr. Hill is available to assist with any City or Balboa Park issues. He can be reached at [shill@san Diego.gov](mailto:shill@san Diego.gov) or at (619) 236-6137.

### Committee Comments/Questions:

- Chairperson Kinney offered his appreciation to Council President Gloria for his work on improving the public's safety.

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

- The Hall of Nations/United Nations ADA barrier removal project is waiting for the new foundation repair work design. The contractor has exterior concrete work that needs to be completed.
- Casa De Balboa ADA barrier removal project started on-site work in September. The scope of work will cover an array of improvements, such as restroom reconfiguration, doors and hardware and a new drinking fountain.
- The project for providing rehabilitation of existing water lines in Spanish Village began on-site work this week and is scheduled for completion December 2014.
- One major event for September 13, 2014 will be the San Diego Heart Walk. The festival will be held on the War Memorial Building Lawn.

### **Mario Llanos, Acting District Manager for Balboa Park Operations**

- Old Globe Way improvements are still underway. As part of this renovation, the parking lot at the end of Village Place will be re-striped next week.
- As part of the Adopt-A-Plot Program, the San Diego Horticulture Society and staff will begin replanting the beds surrounding the Lily pond around the Timken and Casa Del Prado with a water wise plant palette.

### **Mr. Michael Ruiz, District Manager for 2015 Centennial Celebration**

- The Adopt-A-Plot Program encourages the public and organizations to be a part of history by enhancing one of the many landscaped areas in the central core of Balboa Park. Those interested would submit a landscape plan, to be approved by City staff and the Friends of Balboa Park. The program begins this month throughout next year.
- Recognition for the 2015 adoptee volunteers' project will be able to place a sign at each plot in recognition of the groups' efforts. In addition, a special Exposition Centennial 100 Years 100 Hours lapel pin will be given to groups that reach a total of 100 volunteer hours. Individuals and single-day projects will receive a different style of lapel pin.
- Collaboration is underway to enhance Balboapark.org and the web page's presence for promoting the Centennial. The improvements would make it more user friendly for the public to navigate to all of the events and activities taking place for 2015.

## **CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES**

Dr. Micah Parzen reported BPCP looks forward to the second annual Trustee Celebration on Wednesday, September 17, 2014. The event will recognize and thank dedicated supporters from all of the Park's institutions. In addition, MeringCarson plans to present the strategic out-of-market branding platform for Balboa Park at the next BPC meeting.

### **Balboa Park Sustainability Program**

A public showcase and expo will take place at the Japanese Friendship Garden on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### **Balboa Park Learning Institute**

Ms. Kanzawa reported there's still time to register for September's BPLI's accessibility workshops with the Museum of Photographic Arts. One of the workshops planned for October, is the San Diego Exhibit Evaluators Group will explore the Reuben H. Fleet's upcoming energy exhibition (free for SDEEG members). For more information on the workshops and registration, please go to BPLI's website at <http://bpcp.org/program/bpli>.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Consent**

101. None

### **Adoption**

201. None

### **Special Events**

301. None

302. None

## **WORKSHOP ITEMS**

### **401. Zoo Entrance Improvements**

Presenters: Jim Neri, Neri Landscape Architecture and Consultant to San Diego Zoo Global, and John Keating, Linscott, Law, & Greenspan Engineers, Consultant to the Zoo

Mr. Neri presented a recap of the Zoo Entrance Improvement Project, which entails improving congestion, ADA pathways, and pedestrian circulation at the Zoo's entrance.

### Committee Comments/Questions:

- Ms. Kanzawa asked if the walkway from the train station to the village would change. Mr. Neri responded the walkway access would not go away; it would be improved with concrete paving.
- Dr. Parzen inquired if there would be a loss of parking spaces at the carousel lot and whether the project is completely independent of the sidewalk project. Mr. Neri responded there will not be a loss of parking spaces and the projects are related, but completely separate.
- Mr. Daniels added that 60% of the carousel sits on Zoo leasehold.

- Mr. Singleton liked the early California look of the landscaping and inquired about the traffic circulation. Mr. Neri stated they are not set on any specific style. Mr. Keating added there will be two choices for entering and exiting the parking area.
- Chairperson Kinney was concerned about the appearance of the element that could be seen from the end of the parking lot and possibly outside of the Zoo's leasehold. Mr. Neri stated they have the same concerns.

Public Comment: Two Speakers: Mr. Kevin Swanson and Mr. Dieter Fenkart

Mr. Swanson noted the following:

- There should be two Centennial Celebrations, one for the 1915 Exposition and the other for the Zoo 2016. There's no plan for an internal shuttle system from the Zoo parking lot to the central cultural location of Balboa Park.
- Presented the idea of exploring the past, present and creating a future as the theme for 2015.
- Would like for parking to disappear to allow for more parkland, rather than parking lots.

Mr. Fenkart asked the following questions:

- What is the length of the project?
- What happens with all the congestion during construction and will it impact the other institutions in the Park? Mr. Neri responded the impact will be minimized and the Zoo is the best at maneuvering people around construction zones.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **501. Public Accessibility to the California Tower**

Presenters: Dr. Micah Parzen, San Diego Museum of Man and Kitty Vieth, Senior Architect, Architectural Resources Group

Dr. Parzen and Ms. Vieth presented a PowerPoint presentation for the California Tower Project. The construction timeline will be from September 2014 through January 2015. The objectives include the following:

- Enhance visitor experience in Balboa Park
- Preserve historical resource
- Make visitor experience safe and accessible

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Chairperson Kinney asked if a volunteer would climb the stairs for the number of tours being given. Dr. Parzen replied yes, there would be at least one staff member on each tour. Chairperson Kinney added if a visitor had a serious health issue during the tour, what plans are in place for getting them out of the tower? Dr. Parzen stated each of the tour guides would be equipped with a radio to contact a trained staff member for assistance. Also contingency plan is being worked on with the fire department.
- Vice Chair Davenport inquired if there would be an up-charge for the tower and museum combo ticket tour and if it would pay for itself. Dr. Parzen replied yes, there would be a bundle package and could quite possibly pay for itself.
- Mr. Singleton asked if visitors can purchase a single ticket to view the tower and not the museum. Dr. Parzen replied that currently the concept is to educate and give visitors a full experience so they are not planning a tower tour only ticket.

- Mr. Daniels inquired if there would be an up-charge at the museums on free Tuesdays. Dr. Parzen stated they may come up with a different business plan for that.
- Ms. Kanzawa inquired about restrictions on age and health conditions when climbing the stairs. Dr. Parzen responded yes, discretion will be used on a case-by-case basis. Ms. Vieth added they looked at how the Statue of Liberty dealt with these cases, and the key issue is in educating the visitors about what they will face as they climb the stairs.

**502. Balboa Park December Nights Update - Balboa Park Conservancy Board**

Presenter: Steven Lew, Board of Directors, Balboa Park Conservancy

Mr. Lew reported the following for December Nights:

- Scheduled for December 5-6, 2014
- Expanded hours 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- Additional traffic signage to be added
- Incorporate a look back to the 1915 Exposition

**503.** None

**504.** None

**SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS**

**601.** Land-Use and Policy – Chairperson Kinney thanked those members that volunteered for the committee.

**602.** West Mesa Subcommittee – None

**COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS** – None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Next Schedule Meeting: Thursday, October 2, 2014  
6:00 P.M.  
Balboa Park Club  
2150 Pan American Road West  
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza  
District Manager