

## MINUTES

### City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE October 2, 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  
Micah Parzen  
Johanna S. Schiavoni  
Rob Steppke  
David Strickland

##### Members Absent

David Kinney – Chair  
Don Liddell  
Michael Singleton

##### Staff Present

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

#### CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Davenport called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2014

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

A motion was made by Ms. Luanne Kanzawa and seconded by Jeri Dilno, to approve the September 4, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was approved (6-0-1), with Mr. David Strickland abstaining.

#### REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

#### NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Kevin Swanson – Discussed the idea of installing Beacon Technology in Balboa Park. The device would enhance the patron's experience by:

- tracking their location
- accessing specific public information about any location around Balboa Park
- utilizing a smart device

Mr. Swanson recalled a past discussion about installing light displays on the buildings in Balboa Park for safety reasons at night. He asked the Committee to consider looking into this type of technology.

Ms. Betty Peabody – Friends of Balboa Park will be honoring former Mayor Jerry Sanders and Arnold Sampson at their annual luncheon on October 21, 2014 in the Balboa Park Club. Awards for Volunteers in Balboa Park will be presented by Tony Atkins and Kristine Kehoe.

#### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – None

## **STAFF REPORT**

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

- Council President Gloria’s collaboration with Mayor Faulconer is underway for implementing a uniformed homeless management information system. It will allow homeless service providers to share data in real time, and enable more federal funds for homeless services to be allocated to the San Diego Region.
- Grand opening of Panama 66 Restaurant in the Plaza de Panama brings a great urban sensibility and a fine selection of craft beers to the heart of the Balboa Park.
- The Public Utilities Department’s Water Shutdown Project will occur at 7:00 p.m. on October 5 to 3:00 a.m. on October 6, 2014. Affected areas include 3366 Park Boulevard, 1700 Village Place, 1800 Zoo Place, and 2600-3200 Zoo Drive.

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

- Construction Project Updates:
  - The ADA Barrier removal projects at the Timken and Balboa Tennis Club nearing completion.
  - Construction continues on the restrooms at Casa de balboa.
  - Work is mobilizing at the San Diego Museum of Man.
  - The exterior portion of the barrier removal project at the Hall of Nations has resumed and the design for the foundation repair is at the Planning Department for review.
- Casa del Prado is next on the list for elevator modernization; it will be followed by the Old Globe.
- Events for October include:
  - The Haunted Trail
  - Walk to End Alzheimer’s
  - Diwali Festival of Lights
  - Making Strides Against Breast Cancer
  - Crime Stopper Light the Night
  - Halloween Family Day in the Park

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

- The sewer and water line replacement is underway between Village Place and the Zoo. The project will connect the Zoo to the rest of the Park; it is slated to end April 2015.
- The City entered into a partnership with DecoBike to implement a Bike Share Program throughout the City. Installation is expected to begin and end October 2014.

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

- Adopt-A-Plot Program is seeking 15 individuals or groups to adopt plots in Balboa Park. Go to [www.friendsofbalboapark.org](http://www.friendsofbalboapark.org) for further information.
- Balboa Park’s way finding and information “blue” signs are in the process of being restored.
- The City’s Spring Celebration begins on Arbor Day, April 24, 2015; it ends with a Garden Party on May 9, 2015.
- The web page for [www.Balboapark.org](http://www.Balboapark.org) will launch mid-October 2014.
- On September 24, 2014, Mayor Falconer and Frederick Schenk, 22<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural Association President, announced the theme for the 2015 San Diego County Fair, “A Fair to Remember, A Celebration of World’s Fairs and Balboa Park.” It will commemorate the Centennial anniversary of the 1915 Panama – California Exposition.

Public Comment: Mr. Swanson hasn’t noticed anything on Balboa Park’s mobile site regarding proposed or planned activities for the 2015 Centennial Celebration. It would be nice to have the Mayor’s office make an official announcement about the events.

## **CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES**

Mr. Parzen reported the following:

- BPCP would like to bring Maker Faire to Balboa Park in 2015. This is a creative festival of inventions and crafts.
- Opening January 2015, the San Diego Airport will host the largest temporary art exhibit ever mounted at the airport. A few items to be showcased include Balboa Park artifacts and work by regional artists.
- Family Explorer Passes were distributed to three organizations in San Diego that traditionally work with underserved community members.
- Mering Carson's platform for Balboa Park out-of-market branding will be presented at the end of November 2014.

## **Balboa Park Sustainability Program and Learning Institute**

Ms. Kanzawa reported the following:

- Celebrate Energy Action Month on October 21, 2014 at the Japanese Friendship Garden from 10:00 – 3:30 p.m.
- House of Charm building has been submitted for LEED review.
- USD Nonprofit Leadership and Management Information Session on October 23, 2014 (free).
- San Diego Incubator's free launch event on Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Prado Ballroom.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Consent**

101. None

### **Adoption**

201. None

### **Special Events**

#### **301. Philippine American Celebration**

Presenters: Ms. Anna Cabato, Executive Director of PASACAT, Mr. Patrick Ambrosio, Treasurer of DOD Fed. Globe, and Mr. Rom Sarno, President of House of the Philippines

Ms. Cabato gave a brief presentation and expressed the desire of the Samahan Filipino American Performing Arts and Education Center to change the date and venue for their 2015 Philippine American Celebration. They proposed using the Spreckels Organ Pavilion, International Lawn, House of Pacific Relations Lawn, and the Palisades and Pan American Lawns from Friday, June 5 – Sunday, June 7, 2014.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Ms. Kanzawa stated it will be a great event for 2015. She inquired if the driveway to the back of the Japanese Friendship Garden (JFG) would be accessible or blocked. Mr. Ambrosio responded the parking lot to the Organ Pavilion will only be closed to the parking spaces. City vehicles would still have access behind the Organ Pavilion area and there would also be access to the JFG area.
- Mr. Strickland pointed out that on June 7, 2014 the JFG has a scheduled wedding and will need parking for this event. He suggested the Philippine-American Celebration Committee work with Susan Lowery-Mendoza to allocate parking spaces for the event. Mr. Ambrosio responded they will be more than happy to help accommodate other events that are taking place.

- Vice Chairperson Davenport recognized Mayor Faulconer's letter of support for the 2015 Philippine American Celebration.
- Ms. Lowery-Mendoza inquired about further details regarding the use of the Organ Pavilion's parking lot. Mr. Ambrosia responded only a small portion of the parking spaces in the lot will be used. There are other spaces that will be negotiated with the House of Japan.

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED**

**MR. KAHNG/ MR. STICKLAND**

A motion was made to approve the change of date and venue for the 2015 Philippine American Celebration. Motion was unanimously approved.

### **302. Earth Fair**

Mr. Kanzawa stated Earth Fair proposed to add a beer garden to the existing annual event on Sunday, April 19, 2015. The beer garden will be located in the Federal parking lot.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Dilno inquired about the level of staffing and private security. Ms. Lowery-Mendoza stated the Police Department has strict requirements; it will be closely monitored.
- Mr. Kahng inquired about the benefits of having a beer garden. Ms. Lowery-Mendoza responded it drives revenue. Mr. Kahng further asked if Park and Recreation would benefit. Ms. Lowery-Mendoza responded no.
- Mr. Steppke inquired whether the beer garden was being used as a revenue enhancement or whether the public requested it. He added it seems like everything in the community involves alcohol. Mr. Frank Christian, event representative, responded that over the last couple of years there had been requests to add alcohol to the event. Last year a local brewery donated alcohol and they were looking to return and brew a special Earth Fair brew.
- Mr. Parzen commented from the institutions' perspective, Earth Fair is one of the major events in the Park that wreaks havoc. How does staff see this event? Ms. Lowery-Mendoza responded the San Diego Police Department prepares a report on how the event fared. Mr. Parzen further asked that Ms. Lowery-Mendoza get the institutions to weigh-in on the beer garden aspect as well.

**MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED**

**MS. SCHIOVONI/ MR. STICKLAND**

A motion was made to approve Earth Fair's request for a beer garden. Motion was approved (6-0-1) with Mr. Kahng abstaining.

### **WORKSHOP ITEMS**

**401. None**

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **501. Botanical Building Update – Balboa Park Conservancy, Mr. Ray Ellis and Ms. Carol Chang**

Presenters: Mr. Gordon Kovtun and Ms. Carol Chang

Mr. Kovtun gave a presentation update on the Botanical Building. The Conservancy's focus for the \$2.7 million project entails:

- Repairing most of the deferred maintenance
- Restoring historical features
- Upgrading the electrical system
- Performing sustainable lighting and irrigation improvements

Ms. Chang added construction for the Botanical Building will occur throughout 2015 and it will give the public a chance to see a construction "workshop" project up close. The Conservancy is working with Park and Recreation and the City to establish the proper ground rules for donor recognition.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Parzen thanked the Conservancy and the collaborative team for getting the project moving.
- Vice Chairperson Davenport was pleased with the goal of returning the Botanical Building to its historic significance.

## **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**601.** Land-Use and Policy – None

**602.** West Mesa Subcommittee – None

**COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS** – None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Next Schedule Meeting: Thursday, December 4, 2014  
6:00 P.M.  
Balboa Park Club  
2150 Pan American Road West  
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Mario Llanos  
Acting District Manager