

MINUTES

**City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
February 15, 2024**

Meeting Location:

Balboa Park Club Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road West\
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing Address:

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

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Allison Soares
Howard Blackson
Dang Nguyen
Brer Marsh
Kathy Vandenheuvel
Makeda Cheatom

Members Absent

Molly Chase
Chris Eddy
Tim Shields
William Aaron Jr

Staff Present

Tyler Canales
Johnny Chou
Victor Johnson

CALL TO ORDER

Allison Soares called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES January 11, 2024

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Vandenheuvel / Mr. Blackson

A motion was made by Ms. Vandenheuvel and seconded by Mr. Blackson to approve the January 11, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion carried (5-0-1).

NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Web Form:

None

In-Person:

Daniele Laman – Lunar New Year Festival to happen this weekend.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Parks and Recreation website has been updated. Encouraged people to check it out.

STAFF REPORT

Emily Bonner, Council District 3 – None

Christina Chadwick, Interim Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation – Will provide report electronically.

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Forever Balboa Park – Elizabeth Babcock – Tree planting to take place at Morley Field tomorrow. The volunteer appreciation dinner will take place April 4th. The Spark Awards will happen on May 9th and encouraged people to nominate people.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership – Peter Comiskey – Thanked Park & Rec for the sandbags provided to the institutions during the recent rains. Important to recognize the underprivileged communities affected by the rain and the infrastructure should be repaired. Arts and Culture should be supported for the implicit and economic impacts it brings to the community.

Committee of 100 – Ross Porter – City has granted the permit for the improvements to Muni Gym and hope to start the work soon. Continue to look at plans for the fountain. Will be presenting a report for the lease renewal for San Diego High School soon. The Bay to Paseo is looking good.

Save Starlight – Steve Stopper – No Report.

Spanish Village Arts Foundation – No Report.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

Howard Blackson – Put together some policies for design, safety and cost effectiveness for future projects. It's a great time to be a part of Balboa Park due to all the collaboration.

CONSENT ITEMS

Item 1. Rock 'n' Roll 5K, Saturday, June 1, 2024 Summer Moratorium Waiver Request: Max Little, Ironman Race Director

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Marsh / Ms. Vandeneuvel

A motion was made by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Ms. Vandeneuvel to approve the consent item. The motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).

Public Comment:

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 2. Balboa Park Cultural Partnership/Experience Plan Development: Peter Comiskey, Executive Director, Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Public Comment:

Elizabeth Babcock – An exceptional report. An important part of the report is making the park welcome to all. Another important piece is setting a framework for collaboration.

Committee Comment:

Howard Blackson – Inquired as to how many of the ideas will be built by Parks & Rec.

Peter Comiskey (responded) – Everything is currently conceptual at this point. Will be looking at parking, the Cultural Plaza, and the tram first.

Howard Blackson – Inquired as how connectivity and accessibility are different.

Peter Comiskey (responded) – Will get the presentation to Mr. Blackson.

Item 3. Forever Balboa Park/Botanical Building and Gardens Phase 2 Development: Jackie Higgins, Vice President, Forever Balboa Park and Leigh Kyle, Spurlock Landscape Architecture Design & Planning

Public Comment:

Peter Comiskey – Celebrate the work Forever has done on the project. Does many things for the park such as linking many areas of the park. Encourages the Committee to support linking areas together.

John Noble – Has taken care of the plants in front of the Lily Pond for last 10 years. Loves working in there. Wants Committee to know how much he has put into the area.

Danielle Laman – Inquired about the butterfly plants that were located at the frontage of the Botanical Building.

Committee Comment:

Howard Blackson – Liked the new path at the Casa Del Prado. Inquired about making another connection at the Timken.

Leigh Kelly (Responded) – Based on community input the lawn area is too valuable to lose.

Kathy Vandenheuvell – Inquired if Storm Water is being used for the plants.

Leigh Kelly (Responded) – There are no plans for that as that is not a component of the project. Looking to utilize low to medium water use plants.

Kathy Vandenheuvell – Inquired if trees in pergola area will be removed.

Leigh Kelly (Responded) – City approved removal of those trees, but a tree will be planted for every one tree removed.

Brer Marsh – Really like the presentation. Interested in the original form of the building. The park needs to be reevaluated its relationship with personal automobiles. We need more spaces for people and less for the movement and storage of cars. Close the Cabrillo Bridge to cars and to opening it to people making a grand entrance into the park from the west side.

ADJOURNMENT - 8:05 pm

Notice of Next Balboa Park Meeting:

March 7, 2024

6:00 P.M.

In-Person

Respectfully submitted,

Tyler Canales
District Manager