

MINUTES

**City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
January 11, 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
Dang Nguyen
Brer Marsh
Kathy Vandenheuvel
Makeda Cheatom
Chris Eddy

Members Absent

Molly Chase
Howard Blackson
Micah Parzen
William Aaron Jr

Staff Present

Christina Chadwick
Tyler Canales
Johnny Chou
Victor Johnson
Charlie Daniels
Brice Ciabatti

CALL TO ORDER

Allison Soares called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES November 2, 2023

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

A motion was made by Ms. Vandenheuvel and seconded by Mr. Eddy to approve the November 2, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).

NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Web Form:

Angela Campanella - I have witnessed and helped clean several floodings of the kitchen in the House of Pacific Relations in just the past year. Two of them recently occurred during dinners for more than 60 people. Foul-smelling sewage several inches high flooded the kitchen floor. We swept out the water and mopped as best we could, but there was no way to clean it sufficiently. This is a serious health issue! The last episode just two weeks ago was disgusting. And to top it off, the public bathroom about 200 feet away also was flooded. Visitors to the House of Italy complain about the lack of public restrooms and/or deplorable conditions.

Balboa Park is the jewel of San Diego, with visitors coming from all over the world. It's upkeep and maintenance should be a priority for the City. I'm embarrassed to have witnessed its deterioration over the years. Please expend the necessary funds to bring it up to the standards it deserves.

Margaret Roderick – See attachment from ICF.

In-Person:

Anne-Lise Mogstad – Noted plumbing issues that are happening at the Hall of Nations that have happened during events being held there.

Maury D. Lee – Has been working with City staff on plumbing issues at Hall of Nations. Noted other issues such as windows, roofing that he would like to see repaired. Evaluation are to be done on the building.

Mieko Sunbury – Interested in having soccer relocate to Balboa Park from the passive park near her.

Daniele Laman – Thanked City staff for emergency repairs at Hall of Nations. HPR will be doing surveys. Referred to an episode of KPBS about the building foundation of the Hall of Nations. There is \$500,000 from the park improvements for the electrical.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Requesting to have a quorum at every meeting.

STAFF REPORT

Emily Bonner, Council District 3 – Put out a memo to Independent Budget Analyst for what their priorities are. The Councilmember put on out an Op-Ed in the Union Tribune regarding safe sleeping sites. Councilmember Whitburn is the chair of the Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the vice chair of the Audit Committee, and sits on the Public Safety and Land Use committees. Kathy Vandenneuvel asked is the improvements on Golf Course Drive made the priority list. Charlie Daniels informed the committee that Golf Course Drive is initiating the final steps to 100% construction drawings and trying to locate additional funding.

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

BALBOA PARK NON-PROFIT PARTNER UPDATES

Forever Balboa Park – Elizabeth Babcock – Completed a new strategic plan. Things are moving along well at the Botanical Building. The phase 2 designers (Spurlock) have been hired. Look forward to bringing the concepts to BPC soon. The Trees for Health trail restoration project has been completed.

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership – Peter Comiskey – The Experience Plan is exciting. Thanks to Councilmember Campillo, Lee, and Campbell to move to fund Arts & Culture throughout the City. BCPC will continue to monitor this. Requested the Committee to advocate for Arts & Culture and Parks & Recreation funding.

Committee of 100 – Ross Porter – Thanked the Park Improvement Committee and San Diego Foundation for matching some modest funding towards the Bay to Park Paseo project. Looking forward to getting permit for Muni Gym improvements.

Save Starlight – Steve Stopper – No Report.

Spanish Village Arts Foundation – Natasha – Obtained their Special Use Permit. Will have an informational meeting on January 25th. Have camps and art outreach planned for the future.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

Brer Marsh – Would like to have all the materials for the meeting for review ahead of time.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

Item 1. Workshop for Balboa Park Comfort Stations & Updated on Organ Pavilion, Spanish Village, and Palisades Comfort Stations: Charlie Daniels, Project Officer II and Brian Ciabatti, Landscape Architect

Public Comment:

In Person:

Daniel Laman – Inquired about how the Village Grill site will be decorated.

Brice Ciabatti (Responded) – Village Grill will be added. The men’s room at Spanish Village will be updated fixtures.

Daniel Laman – Inquired about size of new restroom at Palisades.

Charlie Daniels (Responded) – Will be dependent on feedback received from public.

Mary Munk – Thanked Charlie for his work on moving the designs forward. Hope there will be funding for a monitor for Organ Pavilion comfort station. Inquired about electric rooms at Village Place and Morley Field.

Charlie Daniels (Responded) – Yes and will try to keep them as part of the plumbing chase.

Mary Munk – Inquired about types of materials that would be used. Suggested fiberglass doors for project. Inquired if the building will be a prefabricated one.

Charlie Daniels (Responded) – Will probably be steel doors. It is to be determined if it will be prefab or not.

Rene Smith – Want to ensure that public input/workshops is brought to BPC. Thanked staff for this project. Previous funds had to be reallocated from this project to the Botanical Building in the past, but all the funding came back to the project reflecting the increased cost. Asked that presentations be sent out with meeting materials in advanced. Thanked Charlie for the many years and projects that he has worked.

Charlie Daniels (Responded) – EC&P will be in charge of bringing workshops to BPC for public input

Committee Comment:

Kathy Vandenheuevel – Liked the incorporation of the colors of the tiles at Spanish Village for the Village Grill site. Also liked the design for the Morley Field site.

Brer Marsh – Requested that materials for the presentations get sent out before the meeting. Happy to hear money came back to the project after it was taken. Mentioned comfort stations that might want to be looked at for reference for this project. Like how the Organ Pavilion restrooms are emulated. Not a big fan of the precise plan in regard to Morley Field.

Dang Nguyen – Any plans to revisit the previous design for the Organ Pavilion restrooms.

Charlie Daniels (Responded) – The direction was to renovate as redesign would cost too much.

Allison Soares – Asked for clarification on design for Morley Field doors. Excited for the design for that building.

Brice Ciabatti (Responded) – Doors are under the canopy.

Chris Eddy – Liked the design. In favor of prefabbed buildings. Would like the information in advance of the meetings. Inquired that due to restroom being gender neutral, will urinals no longer be in designs.

Charlie Daniels (Responded) – People are able to transition between sites.

Makeda Cheatom – Inquired if the restrooms will be open 24 hours. Thanked Charlie for the good work.

Charlie Daniels (Responded) – That is an operational question.

Chris Eddy – Inquired if solar was a part of the project.

Charlie Daniels (Responded) – Not at this time.

Brer Marsh – Would like the issue of the urinals be revisited. Wanted clarification on how the projects will come back to the committee.

Charlie Daniels (Responded) – There will be additional workshops for the Organ Pavilion, Spanish Village, Village Grill, Morley Field and Palisades sites.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 2. Balboa Park Cultural Partnership/Experience Plan Development Update: Steve Snyder, President & CEO, Fleet Science Center

Public Comment:

None

Committee Comment:

Brer Marsh – Thanked for the presentation. Appreciated that they are leaning into the values aspect.

ADJOURNMENT -7:38 pm

Notice of Next Balboa Park Meeting:

February 1, 2023
6:00 P.M.
In-Person

Respectfully submitted,

Tyler Canales
District Manager