

THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED

Board of Directors Minutes – October 21, 2019

Present: Kevin Bentz, Jim Bonner, Rich Bregante, Barbara Brown, Pamela Hartwell, Welton Jones, Mike Kelly, Jerry Kolaja, Vince Marchetti, Fern Murphy, Ross Porter, Roger Showley, Robert Thiele.

Minutes of September board meeting approved without changes

Automotive Museum: Herb Johnson, CEO will be leaving in a month. Architect Carl Strona is president of Auto Museum board and supports Palisades project. Robert Thiele will meet Wednesday with HRB staff on Auto Museum, fountain; ready to submit for building permit for Auto Museum.

WET Design meeting Oct 17: we filled up tables and extra rows of folks attending. They did a good job of getting everyone's input. Almost all input was positive. Cultural Partnership wasn't there but 2 of their board members came (Herb Johnson, Tomas). Balanced turnout from other organizations--a few did not come. Will invite all again in six weeks to see WET proposal. WET reps seemed prepared and flexible. It was significant that someone came from Air and Space Museum; Deanna Spehn from Toni Atkins' office discussed homeless issues, climate change. Foot traffic for museums eventually increased after removing parking from Plaza de Panama.

Parking: people are fed up with lip service given to parking issues. Ten years since last major study. Air and Space rep voiced concerns about parking. A group led by Friends of BP is looking at overall parking situation in the park: available parking inventory; moving people faster, not just taking cars out of Palisades, we are looking at alternatives to make it a better place to move around. Total 280 spaces in Palisades.

Intra-park mobility: Improving shuttle and how people get from cars to their destination.

Wayfinding and signage: Pamela Hartwell reported on signage initiative spearheaded by Conservancy. Their consultant presented ideas to make signage cohesive, tweak color and font, arrows; signs will be brownish gold, subordinate to the architecture and plantings; lettering white/cream color pop out. Font similar to precise plan specs; arrows left/right, top; regionalization with color bars for areas. SD Foundation offering money for implementation. Directional wayfinding is majority of project. Friends historic signs will be kept, they like the maps. Implementation - first phase will be comprehensive, not piecemeal. Mike asked about sandwich-board signs—all different, some ugly, placards for individual institutions—not considered by group. Pamela: Plaza de Panama pipeline replacements start January through summer, daytime work. It's a major dig-up.

Friends of Balboa Park

Parks and Rec Employee Picnic: M/S approved unanimously to contribute \$300 for food. Roger will speak.

Plaza de California: 23 original 1915 sconces (with new replicas of original globes) will be restored by the Friends of BP. Total cost is \$1800 apiece. M/S approved unanimously to contribute 5400\$ for 3 units. Gibson & Gibson will do the lamp restoration, plus electronics. These are the only outdoor lamps remaining, other than the Cabrillo Bridge lamps.

Benches: Friends of BP has been charged with managing about 50 new benches, most to be placed in Palisades. City atty recently approved. Friends will solicit donors at several thousand dollars per bench. Cost per bench not determined. Graffiti proof? Concrete?

SDPD rover vehicle: The board agreed that the SDPD rover request was not within C100 area of interest.

Comic-con Museum: CEO Adam Smith has resigned. No one yet named as new director.

Starlight: tree damage to front entrance being repaired. Burglary over weekend: several guitars, equipment worth about \$50k. Thieves took what they wanted and vandalized the rest; they were there a long time. Steve Stopper said considerable amt of props and costumes in storage; vandals wiped place out. Palisades will be subject to vandalism during and after our rehabilitation work- all the more reason to protect these things.

Security in the park is insufficient; homeless trashing of rest rooms; graffiti; has deteriorated in last 15-20 yrs. Former SDPD presence, especially mounted horseback corps was major PR thing. Police don't seem interested in property loss/damage. If nobody is bleeding, they don't show up. [Note on previous crimes this year: car breakins in parking lots; homeless man murdered; fire in homeless encampment inside Cabrillo Bridge; rapes by male dancer; Carousel, Fleet, History Museum have had recent problems]. Mike will contact other organizations. Private security people currently at SDMA and Globe. Security cameras should be installed in general areas. Senior volunteer people can call SDPD. Ask SDPD to come thru BP.

Treasurer's report – Jim Bonner noted that \$400k from the Redfern bequest was turned over to LPL for CDs to be laddered with maturities every few months. Jim still is hoping that we can find a new treasurer to replace him.

Submitted by Roger Showley
Edited by Mike Kelly