

Committee of 100

"Zoom" Remote Board Meeting – July 20, 2020

Present: Kevin Bentz, Jim Bonner, Richard Bregante, Barbara Brown, Ron Buckley, Danny Codd, Wayne Donaldson, Pamela Hartwell, Sonja Helton, Tom Jackson, Welton Jones, Dick Lareau, David Malmuth, Vince Marchetti, Pam Miller, Fern Murphy, Ross Porter, Roger Showley, Lynn Silva, Mike Stepner, Robert Thiele, Robert Wohl.

Minutes: May, 2020 minutes were approved by voice vote.

Guests: John Bolthouse, Kevin Carpenter, Benjamin Thiele-Long

Website Manager: Benjamin Thiele-Long – Kevin Capenter – In progress

Auto Museum Progress Report: Robert Thiele/Ron Buckley. Interviews for a project manager have provided three finalists: (Please fill in the names – I could not capture them on the phone). References will be checked and interviews conducted Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 28, 29 & 30. Board members are asked to submit any questions to Ron Buckley prior to the interview dates. A decision will be made within the next two weeks with a final Board approval vote at the August Meeting. The AIA draft contract will be the model for this project version. Construction is expected to begin in September or later.

The method for applying the decorative tile has evolved such that all existing stucco under the four panels will be removed, new diamond metal lath installed and a "scratch coat of new plaster applied. The tiles will adhere to that surface, a new finish coat applied overall so that the tile will then appear flush with the surface. This will provide a much cleaner and more durable finished look.

The Bears, flagpoles and surrounding ornamentation form a separate installation requiring at least three months for the permitting process and a separate Board vote. The building itself is said to be in good structural condition.

Palisades landscaping by the city is expected to be completed by end of August. Park Organizations, including C100, Friends of Balboa Park and the Conservancy may be asked by the City to contribute to funding for seating, umbrellas and other decorative materials.

Fund Raising: Robert produced several "Bears" to be given to donors of \$5000, as a fund-raising concept for the project. Many future projects in the unfolding Palisades revitalization will require their own fund-raising efforts.

Inspiration Award: We are submitting Robert Thiele's name to Friends of Balboa Park for this annual award. For the past five years, he has donated endless hours and effort toward the Palisades area revitalization. He has provided design work, advocated with the City and other Park stakeholders and has been our strongest voice in seeing our long-sought plans come to fruition.

Fountain status: The fountain is a separate issue which will require an investment of several million dollars to complete, if approved. No revised plans have been submitted by the design contractor, WET.

Municipal Gym: Depending on remaining funding, the next project will be to complete work on restoration of the Gym façade and entry. The City will assess the structure and future use of the building. Some major architectural changes may be planned. Along with the Auto Museum, this project should serve as a lead-in to Phase 2 of the Palisades project. Parking will be the first issue facing the City and Park planners.

Update on Current Park Status: John Bolthouse gave a brief overview of the current status in Balboa Park. The Governor has, once again, closed all indoor museums and public spaces for an indefinite period. Outdoor exhibits may be open. However, the Carousel and Miniature Railroad remain closed. Some capital upgrades to these exhibits are underway during the closure. Parks and Recreation has been doing an excellent job maintaining the Park during the Co-Vid crisis. "December Nights" is not yet approved for 2020 and is thought unlikely to occur. Many institutions have declined to participate in any event. The Moreton Bay Fig project is nearing completion, on time and under budget and should be completed by the end of August. The Alcazar Garden upgrade is a great success.

With the City struggling with its budget, it is imperative that we find more ways to achieve public financial input for the Park.

Accounting: Kevin Bentz reports that a transition is still in process in linking our bank accounts with "QuickBooks." An expense of \$7,400 was incurred for Auto Museum tile.

Membership: Lynn Silva has agreed to assume leadership from Welton Jones. An ongoing effort has been upgrading record-keeping and using "Donor Perfect" to its full potential use. An emissary program, helping C100 stay in better touch with other Park organizations, is in the planning stage. A speakers' bureau is another community outreach program strongly supported. Volunteers will be needed.

Newsletter: Bob Wohl and Sonja Helton report a Mid-August date for publication, awaiting only late data on the Auto Museum project and other late-breaking news. There will be an article on the 1935-36 Expo, possibly a two-part item with historical

photos. A tribute to our late colleague, Rear Admiral Paul Rucci, will detail his long-time service and many contributions to the Committee of 100. All copy must be submitted by August 10th. This issue will be mailed out by the end of August. A fall edition, hopefully containing news of the completion of the Auto Museum project, is next. Bob Wohl suggests we consider more student volunteer involvement, including possible internships, reaching out to local junior high, high school, college and university students.

Task Force Update: A recent effort to form a task force, made up of leaders from C100, Friends of Balboa Park and The Balboa Park Conservancy, has had its initial meeting. They plan to meet every two weeks to discuss issues of mutual interest and, potentially, to put forth a more unified voice advocating for Balboa Park.

A lively and wide-ranging discussion followed introductory remarks by Roger Showley. Many questions need to be addressed such as, what form should this group take? Should C100 merge with other groups or remain independent? How do we achieve a bigger voice if we remain independent?

Wayne Donaldson offered independence as a great value. We are "The conscience of Balboa Park." Mike Stepner suggests joining forces to give us that "bigger voice." He strongly suggests that the Park needs to connect with surrounding neighborhoods and the community at large.

Members should review our bylaws, especially Article One, respecting our mission as we consider the future role of C100. This will be an ongoing discussion/debate going into 2021.

Submitted,

Tom Jackson

Recording Secretary