

## **Committee of 100**

“Zoom” Remote Board Meeting – August 17, 2020

**Present:** Kevin Bentz, Jim Bonner, Richard Bregante, Barbara Brown, Ron Buckley, Danny Codd, Wayne Donaldson, Pamela Hartwell, Sonja Helton, Tom Jackson, Welton Jones, Pam Miller, Fern Murphy, Cub Parker, Andrew Poat, Ross Porter, Roger Showley, Lynn Silva, Mike Stepner, Robert Thiele, Benjamin Thiele-Long, Robert Wohl.

**Guests:** John Bolthouse, Friends of Balboa Park

### **Minutes:**

- July Minutes approved by hand and voice vote.
- Correction to July minutes: The three finalists for construction manager were Barnhart-Reese Construction, Gilliland and the Barrie Company and Gilliland Construction.
- Subsequent to July meeting: Board voted by email to approve contract with architect Robert Thiele and memorandum of agreement with the San Diego Automotive Museum.

**Finance Committee** -Kevin Bentz: The process of integration of bank accounts into Quick Books is nearing completion. We no longer have a credit card account, owing to excessive fees. Other credit options are being examined. Our current accounts are with California Bank and Trust, USBank and LPL Financial, the latter for investment purposes. A full financial report was sent to Board members only and is available for review. Membership dues for July equaled \$550, with the year-to-date amount at \$12,600. All appropriate insurance has been vetted and is up-to-date.

**Membership** - Lynn Silva: Ross Porter is involved in updating membership records and expanding use of Donor Perfect. Perfecting the newsletter mailing list is critical. First Friday tours from the Visitors Center have been on hold due to the CoVid crisis, but may resume in September if clearance is given. Welton Jones notes a need to recruit younger members, looking to the future of our organization. There is also a need to find specific interests and talent to fit defined needs, plus a commitment to the Park and to service. Diversity on our board is a goal as well. There is a current need for an attorney.

We would welcome community volunteers for events and projects, even if they do not wish to be board members.

**Projects** - Ron Buckley: The construction manager contract for work on the Auto Museum is in the final stages of review. The committee has begun negotiations with the proposed manager, Barnhart-Reese Construction, whose management appears highly motivated to do the project. Items under review include contractor fees and a few final details. The city has been very cooperative to date. Once the contract is finalized, there will be a legal review and board. Labor Day is projected as a start date.

**Archives** – Bob Wohl: The newsletter and greatly upgraded website have been the main focus of this group.

Newsletter - Sonja Helton: Items for submission in the upcoming newsletter were to be in by August 15<sup>th</sup>, with publication set for the end of August. Coverage of the Palisades history, present and future projects may be spread over two or three issues.

Website and Media – Benjamin Theile-Long: Benjamin gave a detailed description of ongoing work to update and enhance our website. The new format is far more user-friendly, is very eye-appealing and seems much more like a corporate website. Our mission statement appears on page one. There is one-click connectivity to other related sites. With regular updating of information, the site will act much like a blog. We encourage all members to view the new site and prepare for a look at our future.

**Balboa Park Update** – Roger Showley: The proposed merger of Friends of Balboa Park, The Balboa Park Conservancy and Committee of 100 has been deemed premature and C100 has bowing out of the merger talks, leaving the other two organizations to proceed. Once that outcome becomes clear, C100 can reengage to discuss potential alignment.

John Bolthouse, Friends of BP executive director: CoVid closures still affect most venues in the Park. The Zoo and Japanese Friendship Garden, along with some selected food venues, have reopened. With favorable numbers in recent reports, there is hope that some re-openings may be possible in September. The financial impact on the park has been significant. The Moreton Bay Fig Tree project, north of the Natural History Museum, nears completion and a new, permanent decorative fence will soon be installed. The Friends have submitted the Balboa Park Carousel for historic designation.

There will be a sponsored Mayoral candidate's forum on October 7<sup>th</sup>, at 5 PM. It is not yet certain whether this will be in a debate format or a panel question and answer style event. The future of Balboa Park will be a major focus. Whoever becomes mayor is poised to have a significant impact on future focus and planning.

Submitted,

Tom Jackson, Recording Secretary