

Committee of 100

"Zoom" Remote Board Meeting – October 19, 2020

Present: Kevin Bentz, Barbara Brown, Danny Codd, Wayne Donaldson, Sonja Helton, Tom Jackson, Welton Jones, David Malmuth, Pam Miller, Fern Murphy, Ross Porter, Roger Showley, Lynn Silva, Mike Stepner, Robert Thiele, Bob Wohl.

Guests: John Bolthouse, Kevin Carpenter, Christina Chadwick, Lesley Cohn, Sam Dychter, Vicki Estrada, Tommy Hernandez, Johathan Kim, Roger Lewis, Chuck McArthur, Marty Stout

Minutes: September minutes approved by voice and hand vote.

Special Presentations:

Christina Chadwick: Assistant deputy director for Balboa Park reports the city's Palisades project is nearing completion. Trees and sod are in and tan coloring and parking place striping are complete. Opening date is to be announced soon. Policy for use of the newly created space and permitting processes are to go before the Balboa Park Committee.

The Bea Evenson Fountain major overhaul is complete and again operational. Pipeline replacement is proceeding well. Any concerns about shut-offs should be directed to Parks and Rec.

A plan is being worked out for "A Taste of December Nights," an alternative for the cancelled "December Nights," which was deemed unsafe due to CoVid concerns.

Work on the Mingei Museum is nearing completion. The city has a style guide for signage within the park. A survey for "Framework for the Future" for the Park will be circulated next week. It will cover usage and interests from organizations within and without the Park to help shape its future direction.

John Bolthouse: Merger talks between Friends of Balboa Park and the Balboa Park Conservancy are continuing, with June 30, 2021 as the targeted completion date.

Lesley Cohn: The Cohn Restaurant Group, operator of The Prado restaurant has proposed the temporary installation of a large "Observation Wheel" in the Plaza de Panama fronting the Museum of Art. This would be in place for only two months, from December to February. The concept is put forward as a way to entice more visitors into the park at a time when CoVid has had a major negative impact on museums, restaurants and park usage in general. An article by Jennifer Van Grove, in the Oct . 2

Union-Tribune gives many more specifics. No vote was taken by the board. This was an informational presentation only.

Vicki Estrada: The board was introduced to "San Diego Commons," a new civic-minded organization formed in February 2019. It is a fully formed 501(c)(3) non-profit with 15 potential seats, 13 currently filled. A separate handout, available upon request, gives a complete overview of the organization and its goals, among which is reconnecting the park to downtown and surrounding neighborhoods. Vicki made the point that the park has been shrinking over time. Improved accessibility and outreach, along with growing the park, are seen as critical to its future.

Chuck McArthur and Marty Stout: Barnhart-Reese Construction update on the Auto Museum project. They are in the process of collecting bids from sub-contractors in order to complete the budget process. They are also working with the city on public access during actual construction. Ornamentation elements to be installed take about eight weeks to fabricate and properly cure. They, along with the tile and all other necessary materials, need to be ready for construction to begin. A start date is yet to be announced. Early signs are positive that our budget will allow the full project to be completed.

Finance: Kevin Bentz relates that finances are "on track" with no current issues.

Membership: Lynn Silva: The committee is in the process of reviewing C100's by-laws. They are seeking input from members. Please contact either Lynn Silva or Andrew Poat with suggestions. Four prospective board members have been named. It was decided that formal nomination and election will take place at the November meeting.

Archives and Newsletter: Sonja Helton announces the "new and improved" C100 newsletter is being printed and will be in distribution by the end of this week.

Projects: Mike Stepner: A letter has been drafted and approved by board vote, which strongly encourages the City Council to reinstate its design review committee of recognized design industry professionals to advise the city on Balboa Park projects and to develop this approach as a template for similar efforts in other parks and public improvement projects citywide.

Submitted:

Tom Jackson, Secretary