

We have been talking about the possible parking charges for many months now. Chad has worked very hard and presented important information at the General Meeting on 9/2/2025.

The city of San Diego is making the decision to charge for parking in Balboa Park. They intend to put parking meters on all the streets in Balboa Park and charge \$2.50 per hour.

All parking lots (with the exception of the Zoo's parking lot) are classified in one of three tiers:

Tier One: These are the lots closest to the center of the park. They include the Organ Pavilion Lot, Pan American Plaza Lot, Casa de Balboa Lot, Natural History Museum Lot, the North Fleet Science Center Lot, and the Starlight Lot. The cost for these lots will be \$12 per day (if you live in the city of San Diego the cost will be \$6.00 per day).

Tier One includes all parking for the Balboa Park Club, Recital Hall & the Santa Fe Room.

Tier Two. All other parking lots will cost \$6.00 per day.

Tier Three: This is the lot at Inspiration Point. The first two hours at this lot will be free. After two hours the cost will be \$6.00 per day.

Charges are for all day and will be in effect from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday thru Sunday.

For now the Zoo parking lot will be free but the city of San Diego is negotiating with the Zoo's management to charge in that lot also. The city wants to start collecting revenue in October 2025.

We do not know how this will impact the clubs dancing in the War Memorial Building.

The city is still working out the loose ends, but if they are successful in executing their plan they will be able to raise these fees even higher in the future. None of the details are firm.

The San Diego Square Dance Association needs all square dancers to do one or both of these two things:

If you live in the city of San Diego, call your city council person and let them know (politely) that you oppose these fees and you would like them to exempt or offer a reduced fee for square dancers at Balboa Park. If you don't know who your city council person is you can go to sandiego.gov/citycouncil to identify your representative.

Here are some talking points:

1. Most of our square dancers are older, living on a fixed income, and cannot afford to pay for parking.
2. Dancing may be the only time these dances are able to get out of the house, exercise, and socialize.
3. Most of our dancers live in the city of San Diego and they vote.
4. Every year we hold a Square Dance Festival called the Fiesta. It attracts over 300 dancers to Balboa Park for a 3 day dance festival. Many of these dancers come from all over California and many from other states. We also had dancers from all over the world. The City would lose money from hotels and tourism.
5. Square Dancing, Round Dancing & Clogging was started IN BALBOA PARK, by Maria Fielding 80 years ago. Our organization was formed with her guidance and support.

We would like dancers to attend the City Council Meeting. However, the city of San Diego has not set their agenda for when they are going to vote on this ordinance.

The ordinance will be voted on at one of four meetings of the city council. There are two meetings on **9/15 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.** and there are two meetings on **9/16 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.** Based on state law, the city council must release their agenda 72 hours in advance of their meeting.

We will send out an e-mail as soon as we know which meeting the parking ordinance will be voted on.

If possible, we would like dancers to attend the meeting. You may think about wearing square dance attire but PLEASE WEAR YOUR SQUARE DANCE BADGE.

A reminder: This could be an emotional, heated discussion. Please be respectful, patient and polite when speaking to the council or anyone else involved in the discussion.

Please call your friends who square dance (or participate in any activity at Balboa Park) and ask them to take one or both of the actions above. In order for us to be successful we must have large numbers of people participate in explaining our concerns about parking fees in Balboa Park.

Here is a link to give you some information

<https://www.kpbs.org/news/politics/2025/07/23/why-it-matters-new-plan-to-charge-for-balboa-park-parking-could-pack-the-zoo-lots>

If you need additional information you can call Chad at 619-427-1460.

The Executive Committee thanks Chad for all his hard work, phone calls, attending meetings and organizing the presentation at the General Meeting.