



UPTOWN PLANNERS

Uptown Community Planning Group

Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2011

Joyce Beers Community Center, Uptown Shopping District

Present: Wilson, (Chair): Butler, Jaworski, Seidel, Liddell, Winney, O'Dea, Tablang, Pesqueira, Adler, Ferrier, Bonn, Bonner, Dahl, Lamb, Grinchuk, Mellos arrived at 7:00pm

Board Meeting: Parliamentary Items/ Reports:

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda was made by O'Dea and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes: Approved of the Minutes from the Board's April 2011 meeting were continued to June meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dahl reported a balance of \$ \$519.02 with a total of \$39 collected at the May meeting.

Website Report: No Report.

Chair/ CPC Report

Chair Wilson reported that two items of correspondence were sent to the attention of the Uptown Planners Board: Jim Frost wrote regarding redistricting and Alan Hazard wrote concerning an aggressive remodel of a potentially historically significant single family residence on Alameda Dr. in Mission Hills.

Chair Wilson further reported that Uptown Planners has three major projects are pending:

1. An EIR is being prepared for the St. Paul's Cathedral project, which came before Uptown Planners several years ago. The draft EIR will be ready in either June or July; the project will come before Uptown Planners in either August or September.
2. The Balboa Park Plaza de Panama Pedestrian & Circulation Plan will have a draft EIR issued in either July or August; the project will likely come before Uptown Planners in July or August 2011.
3. The Lindbergh Airport ("San Diego International Airport") North Terminal Expansion Plan is moving forward.

A. Uptown/ North Park Planning/Golden Hill Community Planning Area Boundaries. Chair Wilson further reported that a boundary adjustment issue has recently arisen at the boundary of the North Park Planning Group and Golden Hill Planning Group boundary. Several residents/business owners in Southern North Park near Juniper and 30th have expressed an interest in leaving the NPPG and joining the Golden Hill Planning Group. There also has also been a request by community members in University Heights to move the eastern area of University Heights in the Uptown Planning area. Mary Wright of City Planning will meet with the chairs of five planning groups (Uptown, North Park, Golden Hill, Normal Heights and City Heights) to discuss establishing a procedure for community planning group boundary adjustments.

Subcommittee and other reports, including bylaws and airport, were continued until the June meeting.

B. Utility Boxes; The Community Planners Committee passed a motion supporting the creation of a city-wide task force to address concerns about the unsightly look of above-ground utility boxes. The matter will come again before Uptown Planners in June.

C. The Rock and Roll Marathon will be held on June 5, 2011; it will begin on Sixth Avenue, and part of its course will be through Uptown.

D. The consultant for the Uptown Community Parking District reorganization effort will hold a forum on May 12, 2011 at the First Presbyterian Church in Bankers Hill.

E. Jeff Altman, a resident of Mission Hills, inquired about the stop sign being placed at the intersection of Pringle Street and Puterbaugh Street. He was referred to the neighborhood group who supported the placement for information.

F. Thomas Jefferson Law School is moving its campus from India Street, in Five Points, to a new Downtown location. The present site of the law school on India Street will become a charter school; which will assume the existing CUP through a ministerial process.

G. A letter was received from Gary Pence, Senior City Traffic Engineer, dated March 2, 2011 stating that the speed limit on India Street, between Washington Street and Old Town Avenue, would be reduced from 35 mph to 30 mph.

H. A letter was received from Gary Pence, Senior City Traffic Engineer, stating that the speed limit on Laurel Street between The CPC discussed increasing the speed on Laurel from 30mph to 35mph.

I. Bill Anderson, outgoing head of San Diego City Planning and Community Investment was a guest speaker at the May meeting of the Community Planners Committee; Anderson's department is being merged with the Development Services Department. The CPC current chair, Leo Wilson, indicated he did not want to run for chair again when officers were elected in May; the CPC election committee indicated he would be nominated for another term anyways.

J. The Metropolitan Transit System indicated in a letter dated February 22, 2011 that a grant had been obtained to do a streetcar feasibility study for a portion of Park Boulevard between Downtown and the San Diego Zoo. The work on the project has already commenced.

Public Communication

Joyce Summer from the San Diego CCDC reported that an update from Gov. Brown indicated that the debate about redevelopment agencies has shifted from elimination to reform. Councilmember Emerald has proposed combining all redevelopment agencies under one agency.

Carolyn Kutzke spoke about problems she was having removing an existing house from a lot in University Heights. She requested Uptown Planners hear the matter next month, and consider writing a letter of support for her position. Kutzke also passed out a hand-out explaining the background of her problems. The Chair expressed procedural reservations about placing the item on the June agenda of Uptown Planners; however, in consulting the board, Butler and other board members supporting hearing the item, so it was placed on the June agenda. .

Zach Schegel spoke about the UCSD Medical Center's proposal to make traffic-related improvements in the Hospital District adjacent to its campus. The CEO for the UCSD Medical Center would be making a presentation on the subject at Uptown Planners in June. In late June, UCSD will host a community workshop in the evening from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Representatives of Elected Officials:

Jessica Poole from Congresswoman Davis' office presented an update about the activities of Congresswoman Susan Davis.

Thyme Curtis, representing City Council District Two, reported on the status of the Quince Street Pedestrian Bridge over Maple Canyon. It had been damaged when a eucalyptus tree fell on it during a storm. The Park & Recreation Department will be funding its repair. The bridge is expected to be re-opened late summer 2011.

Consent Agenda:

No items on consent.

Information Items:

2010 REDISTRICTING OF CITY OF SAN DIEGO CITY COUNCIL SEATS – Midori Wong, Chief of Staff, Redistricting Commission, will give an overview of the 2010 Redistricting process that will redraw the boundaries of the existing eight City Council Districts, and add an 9th City Council Seat.

Midori Wong, the Chief of Staff of the Redistricting Commission, made a presentation regarding the city council seat redistricting process. Wong distributed a power point presentation entitled “2010 Redistricting and U.S. Census Date Overview.” An additional ninth city council district would be included in the process Wong indicated a final redistricting plan would be issued in August 2011.

During public comment, Ann Garwood indicated support for placing all of Uptown in one City Council District; correspondence was distributed to the board from Jim Frost also supporting including all of Uptown in one city council district.

Lamb suggested the board take a position on the issue immediately, rather than waiting until June. The Chair indicated this could be done by a motion changing the item from an information to an action item, which would need to be approved by a 2/3 vote. O’Dea, seconded by Dahl, made a motion to make the item an action item. The motion passed by the necessary 2/3 with a vote of 12-3-1: Jaworski, Seidel, Liddell, Winney, O’Dea, Tablang, Pesqueira, Adler, Bonn, Bonner, Dahl, Lamb voting in favor; Butler, Grinchuk and Ferrier voting against. Non-voting chair abstaining

Additional public comment was taken. Lamb displayed a copy of a map prepared by a GLBT task force, which would move both western Uptown and Downtown into the Third District.

O’Dea, seconded by Bonner, made a motion that all Uptown should be united into one city council district. The motion passed by a vote of 9-6-2; O’Dea, Dahl, Tablang, Liddell, Winney, Bonn, Bonner, Dahl, Lamb voted in favor; Jaworski, Adler, Ferrier, Pesquiera, Seidel, Butler voted against; Grinchuk and non-voting Chair abstaining.

SEWER AND WATER GROUP JOB 761 – Uptown – Project Manager Maryam Liaghat will make a presentation about Sewer and Water Group Job 761 which would allow the replacement of approximately 8,807 linear feet of existing 8 and 10-inch vitrified clay (VC) sewer pipe, with 7,303 LF of new 8-inch sewer pipe, and 1,504 LF of new 154-inch sewer pipe. Additionally, 2,166 LF of existing 6 and 10-inch cast iron (CI) water pipe, with 1,391 LF of new 8-inch water pipe and 775 LF of new 12-inch water pipe. The project’s total linear footage including the water main is approximately 10,973 feet in length. All of this work, including the staging areas, would be performed within the City’s public right-of-way and existing sewer and water easements. The following streets and adjoining alleyways would be affected by the project: Falcon Street, Montecito Way, Lewis Street, Eagle Street, Torrance Street, Reynard Way, Curlew Street, Otsego Drive, Spruce Street, Ibis Street, Hawk Street, Upas Street, Jackdaw Street, Lark Street and Walnut Street.

Maryam Liaghat made a presentation regarding Sewer and Water Group Project 929; the agenda had listed Group Job 761 through a miscommunication. The latter sewer project would be brought before Uptown Planners with the next year. The Sewer Group Project 929 project impacts Bankers Hill/Park West south of Juniper Street.

Action Items:

3852 FIFTH AVENUE SIDEWALK CAFÉ NUP (“CAFFE VERGANO”) – Hillcrest – Process Two – Neighborhood Use Permit for a 120 sq. ft. sidewalk café for an existing restaurant at 3850 Fifth Avenue I the CN-!A Zone.

Don Hodges presented the project on behalf of the applicant, who was also present at the meeting. The project will impact a street tree that is maintained by the Hillcrest Maintenance Assessment District. The Historic issues involving the doors and windows of the building housing the outside café had been resolved. Public comment was made by Ann Garwood, Nancy Moor and Ian Epley.

Grinchuk made a motion to continue the item, seconded by Bonn, and refer it to the Hillcrest Business Association and Hillcrest MAD to review the street tree issue. The applicant indicated any further delays would impose financial hardship upon him. The motion failed by a vote of 4-12-1; with Grinchuk, Bonn, Adler and Lamb voting in favor; Dahl, Jaworski, Seidel, Liddell, Winney, O'Dea, Tablang, Pesqueira, Bonner, Butler, Ferrier, Mellos voting against; Non-voting Chair abstaining.

Dahl made a motion to support the project, with the condition the applicant consult with the Hillcrest Business Association and Hillcrest MAD to address the issues involving the maintenance and care of the street tree in question. Motion passed by a vote of 14-1-3; Dahl, Lamb, Adler, Jaworski, Seidel, Liddell, Winney, O'Dea, Tablang, Pesqueira, Bonner, Butler, Ferrier, Mellos voting in favor; Bonn voting against; Grinchuk and non-voting Chair abstaining.

441 WASHINGTON STREET NUP (“BRAZEN SIDEWALK CAFÉ”) – Hillcrest – Process Two – Neighborhood Use Permit for a 528 sq. ft. sidewalk café for an existing restaurant at 441 Washington Street in the CN-1A Zone; FAA Part 77, Transit Area.

Applicant made a presentation; is seeking a raised platform sidewalk café, which will be at the height of the floor of the existing building. Chair pointed out that city planning staff was opposed to the raised platform within the public-right-of-way.

Grinchuk made a motion, seconded by Mellos, to continue the item based on the need to first resolve the issue regarding the raised platform. The applicant indicated added delay would result in economic hardship. The motion failed by a vote of 5-11-1; Grinchuk, Bonn, Adler, Mellos, O'Dea voting in favor; Jaworski, Butler, Dahl, Lamb, Adler, Seidel, Liddell, Winney, Tablang, Pesqueira, Bonner voting against. Non-voting Chair Wilson abstaining

Butler make a motion to support the project, subject to the condition that the applicant not have a raised platform sidewalk café in the public-right-way, as opposed by staff in the first assessment letter; motion passed by a vote of 14-2-1; Butler, Winney, Dahl, Jaworski, Seidel, O'Dea, Tablang, Pesqueira, Bonner, Ferrier, Grinchuk, Lamb, Adler, Liddell voted in favor; Mellos and Bonn voted against non-voting chair Wilson abstaining.

Mellos leaves the meeting room.

ROBINSON STREET/TENTH AVENUE/I-163 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS – Hillcrest – Presentation by Luke Terpstra, President of the Hillcrest Town Council, concerning the City of San Diego's plans to modify traffic lanes and implement traffic calming at the Robinson Street and Tenth Avenue Intersection, an adjacent I-163 off-ramp.

Luke Terpstra, President of the Hillcrest Town Council, made a presentation regarding the organization's proposal to restore the two eastbound lanes of Robinson Street at the 10th Avenue intersection. The two lanes were reduced to one lane about a decade ago, with K-rails placed in the south most eastbound lane. City Traffic Engineering is proposal improvements that would make the one eastbound lane permanent.

The discussion centered on the traffic congestion that results from the reduction to only one lane; congestion has increased as the amount of vehicle use at the intersection has increased over time. Several E-mails from Gary Pence, City Senior Traffic Engineer, were forwarded to the board, including the Pence's suggestion that a traffic signal would help mitigate the congestion.

Motion by Butler, and seconded by Liddell, to support the Hillcrest Town Council request to restore the two eastbound lanes to Robinson Avenue, at the intersection with 10th Street and removal of the K-rails, as an interim measure. As part of his second, Liddell added a condition that now permanent changes be made to the intersection that would prevent future improvements that may be recommended by future studies.

Motion passed by a 15-0-1: Butler, Winney, Dahl, Jaworski, Seidel, O'Dea, Tablang, Pesqueira, Bonner, Ferrier, Grinchuk, Lamb, Adler, Liddell, Bonn voting in favor; non-voting Chair Wilson abstaining.

Mellos returns and rejoins the board.

UPTOWN COMMUNITY PARKING DISTRICT REORANIZATION – Uptown -- A consultant, Mike McLaughlin, has been retained by the City of San Diego to make recommendations for the reorganization of the Uptown Parking District; the consultant held an introductory meeting on April 20th

The City has hired a consultant, Mike McLaughlin, to direct the reorganization of the Uptown Community Parking District. He held a public meeting on April 20th, and issued an initial reorganization plan dated April 30, 2011. McLaughlin had been invited to the April meeting of Uptown Planners, but was unable to attend. The board agreed to invite him to the June meeting.

Public comment was made by Nancy Moor, a former board member of Uptown Partnership, and Ann Garwood, who felt that Bankers Hill could be better represented at the public meetings, and did not believe the Hospital District should have a voting member on the new board, since it had no parking meters.

Bonner indicated he objected to Bankers Hill/Park West being underrepresented on the proposed new board, it was only allotted four seats, and should have five since it generates 3% of the parking meter revenue. Liddell restated the fact that Uptown Planners had voted against the Parking Meter Utilization Plan; and questioned the current process. The board supported making this matter and action item in June, and having McLaughlin address the meeting.

4037 ALAMEDA DRIVE REMODEL PERMIT – Mission Hills – Janet O'Dea will request the board make a recommendation regarding a permit to remodel an existing residence at 4037 Alameda Drive. The permit was issued in 2008 for the potentially historic property; the scope of work performed appears to have resulted in the demolition of a substantial amount of the existing structure.

O'Dea discussed concerns over the status of the 4037 Alameda Drive remodel permit. The structure on the property had been substantially demolished. The scope and extent of work went beyond any sort of remodeling effort; and resulting in the property not being subject to historic review. O'Dea distributed to the board the Demolition Policy Paper the board had approved in 2009. Despite attempts to the address the issue; the Alameda property was an example that the current system was broken, and that the City still did not have an effective policy regulating demolitions.

O'Dea make a motion, seconded by Bonn, to reaffirm the Demolition Policy Paper adopted in 2009 as a recommendation of Uptown Planners; and request the issue of demolition policy again be placed on the City Council Land Use & Housing Committee agenda for review. As evidenced by the 4037 Alameda case suggests the system is still broken and must be referred to Land Use and Housing. Motion passed by a vote of 16-0-1; Motion passes (16-0-1) Butler, Winney, Dahl, Jaworski, Seidel, O'Dea, Tablang, Pesqueira, Bonner, Ferrier, Grinchuk, Lamb, Adler, Liddell, Bonn, Mellos voting in favor; non-voting Chair Wilson abstaining.

The subcommittee reports, including bylaws and airport, were continued until June.

Seidel made a motion to adjourn which passed unanimously by a voice vote.

These minutes respectfully submitted
By Beth Jaworski, Secretary

