



# UPTOWN PLANNERS

Uptown Community Planning Group Meeting  
August 6, 2019  
DRAFT MINUTES

In attendance: Bob Daniel, Brer Marsh, Clint Daniels, Gail Friedt, Matt Medeiros, Michael Brennan, Roy Dahl, Stephen Cline, Zach Bunshaft, William Smith, Bill Ellig, Soheil Nakshab, Dennis Seisun, Stu McGraw (left at 7:35pm), Amie Hayes (left at 7:35pm), & Tim Gahagan (arrived at 6:16pm).

Absent: Tom Mullaney.

I. Call to Order - Meeting called to order by Soheil at 6:02pm.

1. Introductions

2. Adoption of Agenda and Rules of Order

Bill moved for the letters of support to be moved to the consent agenda, Roy 2nd, Clint requested the UCSD Long Range Development Plan Letter of Support be pulled for further discussion, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, JDRF One Walk, Race for Autism letter of support passed unanimously 15/x/1 with Soheil abstaining.

3. Approval of Minutes

Matt requested an amendment to the June 24th Special Meeting Minutes. Proposed amendment to the bylaws #12 was tabled entirely and not sent back to the Ad Hoc Subcommittee for revision. Soheil motioned to approve the minutes from December 2018, January, February, June and the June 2019 Special Meeting, Zach 2nd, minutes were approved 13/x/3, Soheil abstained, William abstained because he was not present for the January meeting, Gail abstained because she was not present for the December meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report

Roy reported that \$59.89 was spent on a microphone and sound-system and \$165.31 on card, signs, and the banner. Once the City reimburses, the total in the bank will go back to \$150.65.

5. Chair/CPC Report

Soheil reiterated the new process for public comment, using speakers slips, and a timer. He reported on the Maple Canyon Restoration Project and that the City is waiting to hear back about federal grant funding. Soheil will request that someone from the City give an update in the near future.

## II. Subcommittee Reports

### 1. Ad Hoc Operations/Outreach Committee

Met yesterday, 8/5/19, would like to further discuss during this meeting multiple options for a bylaw amendment regarding future elections so that each year a more equal amount of members are elected to the Board.

### 2. Public Facilities

Did not meet in July. Will likely hold a meeting at the end of August focused on Direct Impact Fees.

## III. Public Communication

1. Helen Rowe - Expressed her affinity for historic buildings and preservation. She encouraged the Board to support saving community history.
2. Carol Emerick - Expressed desire for documents from the Ad/Hoc Subcommittee meeting could be submitted to the public, possibly to be archived with the minutes. She requested a clarification between Capital Improvement Project funding and Direct Impact Fees. Clint answered that Capital Improvement Projects are a list of projects that are funded largely through Direct Impact Fees. Public Facilities was set to discuss the DIF study in April, but was sidetracked by the City's request for the Board's CIP priorities.
3. Clint Daniels - Walked from 4th to 5th Avenue in Bankers Hill and was excited to see it is vibrant, but he noticed that there is a lack of adequate lighting near crosswalks.
4. Bill Ellig - Requested Michael Prinz report on dwelling unit ratios.

## IV. Representatives of Elected Officials

1. Javier Gomez with the Office of Assemblymember Todd Gloria - Reported that the State Legislative Session lets out September 14th and bills must be signed by the Governor within 30 days or they are vetoed. Their office is currently accepting recommendations for future legislation.

V. Consent Agenda - Roy moved to approve as previously amended, Zach 2nd, passed unanimously 15/x/1 with Soheil abstaining.

## VI. Action Items

1. Everett Hauser, Chris Ward's Office — Presidio Drive/Jackson St. exploratory one-way concept. The goal of this potential project is to provide mobility safety enhancements for pedestrians, drivers and cyclists on Presidio Drive and Jackson Street. The project indicated requires a third party traffic study, which will cost \$49,500. The Old Town Planning Group made a motion to partially or fully help fund the Traffic Study and indicated that they would like to see if Uptown would help them pay for the study as Mission Hills residents benefit from using the roads as well.

### Public Comment:

- a. Fred Grand - Fred spoke as President of the Old Town Chamber and a member of the Old Town Community Planning Group. He requested Uptown support this project. He stated that during the 250th Mission Anniversary celebrations this road had to be converted to a one way road simply to accommodate visitors safely. He said that the Old Town Trolley cannot go up this road as it currently stands. He noted that the Old Town Planning Group does not have nearly the

same funds in their DIF account as Uptown, due to less development in the area due to its historic nature.

- b. David Swarens - Spoke as the Former Chair of the Golden Hill Community Planning Group and as a current Old Town Planning Group Member. He urged the Board to contribute to funding the study saying that this study is rather low in cost compared to a similar study in Golden Hill that was 4 times the cost.
- c. Ann Dahlkamp - Spoke as the Old Town Planning Group Chair. She clarified that her group did not make a concrete motion because they wanted to first come before Uptown Planners to make a formal request.
- d. Lu Rehling - Voiced confusion over whether this was accurately listed as an action item when it appears to be more of an information item. She believes the board should support the study, but there should be a formal process to decide how.
- e. Patrick Santana - As a bicyclist, Patrick called for urgent action on this item. He said that he was almost hit in this area just this past weekend and that the longer the board waits, the more people remain in danger.
- f. Oscar Tavera - As a bicyclist, he called for the Board to invest a small amount that could possibly save lives.

Board Comment:

- a. Amie - Fully supports, but disclosed that she is also a member of the Old Town Planning Group.
- b. Dennis - Wants to clarify how DIF funds are allocated and Uptown's role in this determination.
- c. Stu - Fully supports.
- d. William - Wants to know if DIF money must be disbursed directly to areas that were impacted by development. He also wants to know how much money we have in our DIF account.
- e. Tim - Wants to know if there have been studies of the safety hazards? He doesn't believe we should invest in tangentially connected projects.
- f. Matt - In favor of the project, but interested in what the split of funds would look like.
- g. Gail - In favor. Wanted a clarification of the Old Town Planning Group's timeline.
- h. Stephen - Fully supports. As a Mission Hills resident, he believes we must support neighborhood connectivity.
- i. Brer - Supports, saying he was almost hit himself in this area. Asked if the City could implement any sort of solution in the short term.
- j. Zach - Fully supports. Attended Old Town Planning Group meeting and not a single community member opposed the idea.
- k. Soheil - In favor.
- l. Bill - Would like to have a better understanding of our funds and priorities before investing elsewhere.
- m. Roy - Believes DIF fees should be spent and prioritized proportionally to where they are collected.

- n. Bob - Generally supportive. Stated there was a past property where a study may have already been done, but a community member Robert Giles spoke up and said that no such study was ever taken.
- o. Clint - Stated that this was listed as a Priority 3 on our CIP list approved last meeting. He said that DIF funds were roughly 2.5 million when he last checked. He full supports and believes this is relevant to the Washington Street Bikeway Project being discussed at this meeting.

Clint moved to draft a letter of support to be discussed at the Public Facilities Subcommittee to bring back a recommended amount to be voted on at the full Committee, Brer 2nd, motion passed 14/1/1 with Tim Gahagan opposed and Soheil abstaining.

2. Subcommittee Assignments — Zach proposed that Subcommittee membership be more concrete. As it currently stands, Subcommittees are made up of whoever shows up to the meeting with a majority of the subcommittee being Board members. There is no list of specific members for both Board members or the public.

Clint recommended we have specific subcommittee assignments and that those interested should email Soheil to be added.

Public Comment:

- a. Lu Rehling - Requested a clarification of whether non-appointed members could vote in subcommittees. Yes, as long as a quorum is not reached.

3. Bylaws Amendments — Matt spoke about proposed changes to Article V, Section 1, Paragraph 2 and Article III, Section 2, Paragraph 2 of the bylaws. The current structure is 7-7-0-3 and the proposed changes would create a 5-5-4-4 voting structure for the next elections. One option is to only elect 4 in 2020, though we have 7 open seats, then elect 4 in 2021 which had 0 planned to be elected, dropping to 14 and then going up 18 seats on the Board.

Public Comment:

- a. Lu Rehling - Recommended changing years of certain terms to reach the same desired outcome.

Board Comment

- a. Roy - Suggested a compromise from 7 elected in 2020 to 5, instead of 7 to 4, so as not to drop to only 14 members.
- b. Bill - Suggested a mixture of staggered terms and members.
- c. William - Disagrees with staggering term dates.
- d. Stu - Would have appreciated supportive documents.
- e. Amie - Does not believe the Board should drop as low as 14 members.

Matt is requesting feedback on the two options presented and Roy's compromise that he can present to Michael Prinz and re-present to the Board.

Amie & Stu left at 7:35pm.

VII. Information Items 7:45 p.m.

1. Washington Street Bikeway Project – The Washington Street and Bachman Place Bikeways project is one of five segments planned as part of the Uptown Bikeways, which will enhance neighborhood connectivity between Uptown, Old Town, Mission Valley,

Downtown San Diego, North Park, and Balboa Park. SANDAG provided a presentation detailing their plans.

Public Comment:

- a. Anthony Nyikos - Would have preferred to close down the University Avenue entrance, due to speeding cars coming up from Ibis Street and though the Uptown Planners were not originally receptive when this came before them, he still supports the project.
- b. Sol Schumer - Asked if the same sidewalk up Washington would be used for cyclist and pedestrians. Yes, but cyclists will be slow because of uphill speeds.
- c. Patrick Santana - Spoke in favor of the multi-use lane & the project as a whole.

Board Comment:

- a. Clint - Voiced opposition to parking pedestals on Andrews Street. Questioned how erosion on the slope of Washington will be addressed?
- b. Michael - Very supportive. Echoed Anthony's comment about preferring the original plan of closing the University entrance and Clint's comment about creating landscaping to address erosion issues.
- c. Bob - Supportive. Asked about the safety of the area where the bus stop meets the bike-lanes.
- d. Roy - Appreciates parking being saved.
- e. Bill echoed a preference for the plan that closed the University Ave. entrance.
- f. Brer - Agreed that he would've preferred the plan previously presented to the Uptown Planners, but believes this plan does an excellent job under the circumstances.
- g. Stephen - Asked if there will be lighting along the pedestrian path. Answer: Yes.
- h. Matt - Believes that the bottleneck coming down from Washington is poor, but all else is great.
- i. Tim - Appreciates that University Ave. entrance was not closed.
- j. Dennis - Asked if Scooters can use the multi-use lanes. Answer: Yes.

VIII. Action Items Continued...

1. UCSD Long Range Development Plan Environmental Impact Report Letter of Support - Must be approved by 8/9/19

Board Comment:

- a. Clint - Wishes that the EIR would further address greenhouse gas emission reductions. Requests that UCSD go further than net-neutral emissions.
- b. Tim - Would prefer a letter with less detail stating general support.
- c. William - Would prefer the letter of support not simply copy UCSD's template.
- d. Brer - Recommended keeping the part regarding community outreach efforts.

William moved to draft a letter of general support, stating appreciation for outreach efforts, and desire for more detail needed in the EIR regarding greenhouse gas emissions, Clint 2nd, passed unanimously (13/x/1) with Soheil abstaining.

IIX. Information Items Continued.

1. The City of San Diego Streetlight Sensors — The City of San Diego invites you to learn about data being generated by our new streetlight sensors. The City is holding

several community forums to discuss what the streetlights can and can't do and how your privacy will be protected. There are several forums available to attend in coming weeks.

## 2. Notice of Public Meeting

Uptown Planners:

Tuesday, September 3, 2019, 6 to 9 p.m.

Joyce Beers Community Center

3. Notice of Hazardous Tree Removal — The San Diego Unified School District has identified a hazardous tree located along Campus Avenue and south of Van Buren Avenue on the Eugene Brucker Education Center in University Heights. The tree will be removed between August 5 and August 8.

4. Sustainable Growth Community Planners — The purpose of the committee is to engage and empower CPG members who believe in addressing climate change, supporting good land use decisions, and implementing equitable transportation policies.

Public Comment:

Lu Rehling - Voiced concern over the phrasing of this information item believing it to be inappropriate and biased. She said that she believes it is unfair to those with differing views.

Bill Ellig - Expressed concern of this group when it comes to Brown Act Violations.

Soheil moved to adjourn the meeting, Zach 2nd, meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.