



**UPTOWN PLANNERS**  
Uptown Community Planning Group  
April 3, 2018  
FINAL MINUTES

Call to order by Leo Wilson at 6:02.

In attendance: William Smith, Jr., Jay Newington, Jennifer Pesqueira, Bill Ellig, Amie Hayes, Ken Tablang, Tim Gahagan, Mat Wahlstrom, Michael Brennan, Leo Wilson, Soheil Nakhshab, Stuart McGraw, Tom Mullaney, Bob Daniel, Roy Dahl.

Dennis Seisun appointed to the board and took his seat at 6:55.

Board member Dana Hook was present, but announced she was now disqualified as an active board member because of too many absences during the previous 12 months.

**I. Board Meeting: Parliamentary Items/Reports:**

A. Introductions by board members

B. Election of Officers:

Chair: Mullaney nominated Wilson for chair, seconded by Daniel; approved by a unanimous 15-0 vote;

Vice-Chair: Dahl nominated Mullaney, seconded by Dahl; approved by a unanimous 15-0 vote;

Secretary: Nakhshab nominated Brennan for Secretary; seconded by Wahlstrom; approved by a unanimous 15-0 vote;

Treasurer, Newington nominated Dahl; seconded by Daniel; approved by a unanimous 15-0 vote.

C. Adoption of Agenda and Rules of Order:

Motion by Wahlstrom, seconded by Daniel, to place the following two agenda items on the Consent Agenda:

(1.) VIII. 2 "64<sup>th</sup> Annual Balboa Park 8 Miler";

(2.) VII. 1. "Leon at Laurel Townhomes Tentative Map";

Motion to approve the agenda with the two items added passed by a 13-0-2 vote; with Nakhshab and non-voting chair Wilson abstaining.

D. Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Daniel, seconded by Nakhshab, to approve the February 6, 2018 meeting minutes; motion passed by 13-0-2, with Smith and non-voting chair Wilson abstaining.

Motion by Hayes, seconded by Wahlstrom, to approved the February 22, 2018 special meeting minutes as amended by Hayes, Wahlstrom & Ellig; motion passed 13-0-1, with non-voting chair Wilson abstaining.

Motion to approve March 6, 2018 meeting minutes by Wahlstrom, seconded Nakhshab, passed by 13-0-1; with non-voting chair Wilson abstaining.

E. Treasurer's Report – The current bank balance is \$98.93; reimbursement from the city for \$51.72 costs of the election is expected shortly.

F. Chair/CPC Report – None

G. Appointment to Vacant Board Seat – former board member Maya Rosas resigned, and the seat was declared vacant by the board in January 2018. Three individuals sought appointment to the vacant seat: Dana Hook, Kyle Schertzing and Dennis Seisun. Each spoke regarding why they were seeking the appointment to the vacant seat. The appointment required a majority vote of the board.

First round of voting results: Seisun received 7 votes; Schertzing received 5 votes; and Hook received 3 votes;

Voting for Seisun 7; Wahlstrom, Gahagan, Mullaney, Hayes, Wilson, Tablang, McGraw

Voting for Schertzing 5; Daniel, Brennan, Dahl, Nakhshab, Smith

Voting for Hook 3; Newington, Ellig, Pesqueira

Run-off results: Seisun received 9 votes, Schertzing received 6 votes;

Voting for Seisun: Wahlstrom, Gahagan, Mullaney, Hayes, Wilson, Tablang, McGraw, Dahl, Ellig

Voting for Schertzing: Daniel, Brennan, Nakhshab, Smith, Pesqueira, Newington  
Seisun was appointed and seated on the board

## II. Public Communication: Non-Agenda Public Comment:

Carol Emerick spoke regarding issues in Florence Canyon. She had been subject to a lawsuit from a builder who had graded in the canyon; she prevailed in an anti-SLAP motion dismissing the lawsuit. Other canyon property owners have also been threatened with legal action. After speaking, Emerick met with representatives of Council member Chris Ward to discuss Florence Canyon issues

Roy Dahl spoke about issues involving the importance of undergrounding utilities in the City, and that the city needed to develop an undergrounding plan using modern technology.

Don Liddell, who represents Uptown on the Balboa Park Committee, provided an update on issues in Balboa Park that impact Uptown. The issue of Discover Bike stations having advertising on them in Balboa Park was recently discussed by the Balboa Park Committee. City staff questioned if advertising on the stations fell under the City's ban on advertising in Balboa Park. There were also complaints that the Discover Bike stations placed on Sixth Avenue would impede special events along the west side of the park. The city responded that the stations were moveable in the event of a conflict

## III. Representatives of Elected Officials:

1. Honorable City Council Member Chris Ward -- Councilmember Ward provided an update regarding issues affecting Uptown and the City of San Diego. Ward spoke about the resurfacing that was about to take place on University Avenue, which would include the installation of bicycle lanes; and about the progress of the Georgia Street Bridge restoration project. Other Uptown issues Ward discussed were the progress in construction the Mission Hills library, and issues involving clearing canyon brush. He also addressed the homelessness issue, and said the city was making progress on it, as exemplified by the fact there had been no new cases of Hepatitis A in the city. He also mentioned place making in business areas, and the new city regulations allowing granny flats.

Toni Duran spoke on behalf of Pro Temp Senate President Toni Atkins, who was the first woman and member of the GLBT community to hold that position. Atkins was involved in sponsoring bills involving health insurance and domestic violence.

Zach Bunshaft, representing Congressmember Susan Davis reported on the recent national budget approval process, and the priorities adopted. Davis was working on funding to address sewage spills in the Tijuana River cross border area.

#### **IV. Consent Agenda:**

Wahlstrom moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Daniel; the Consent Agenda consisted of the following two agenda items:

1. **LAUREL STREET (“LEON AT LAUREL TOWNHOMES MW”) – Process Three – Bankers Hill/Park West** – Map Waiver for the creation of four residential condominium units consisting of four detached residential units currently under construction, located at 582, 586, 590, 594 Laurel Street. The 0.13 acres site is located in the RM-3-7 and OP-1-1 base zones.
2. **64TH ANNUAL BALBOA PARK 8 MILER** – Heather Pearl of San Diego Running: event will be held on Saturday, August 4, 2018 in Balboa Park; and will also travel along Sixth Avenue from Juniper Street to Upas Street in Bankers Hill/Park West, and along Upas Street west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest.

The motion to approve the Consent Agenda was approved by a 13-0-3; Nakhshab, Seisun and non-voting Chair Wilson abstaining.

#### **V. Planning: Information Item:**

1. **DOCKLESS BIKESHARING PROGRAMS** – Representatives of LimeBike and ofo dockless bicycle sharing programs will provide information regarding their programs, and about how dockless bicycle sharing programs operate.
2. Khoa Nguyen of Limebike, and Anna Wang Christie, the general manager of ofo bike, spoke about their respective bike programs in San Diego. Both emphasized their programs provide a mobility option for the “last mile” between a transit station and user destinations. The bike programs reduce the amount of motor vehicle use, and reduce CO2 emissions. They are making efforts to educate their users to where they can legally park the bikes after use; making it available on apps. Their employees are patrolling to make sure bikes are not left in inappropriate locations, and they often move the bikes around in an attempt to place them in areas of high ridership to increase their use. LimeBike reported in its first four weeks of operation it had 21,000 riders who took 55,000 trips.

##### Public Comment:

Bob Martynec and Rich Gorin questioned how often the bikes were moved, and suggested riders be better educated where they may park the bikes. Sol Schumer inquired if the scooters were electric; which was confirmed. Dana Hook inquired if ridership data was shared with transit agencies; both speakers indicated they would like to do so. Pat Burns inquired and was informed that the bikes could be activated with a smart phone. Clint Daniel spoke in support of dockless bikes as another mobility option, and thought there should be more bike infrastructure for their use. Ian Epley was supportive, and suggested innovative parking options like corrals. Tim O’Reilly did not support the dockless bike program. Larry Penman also commented. John Lamb inquired about the ofo bike ridership numbers, and Wan Christie responded they were similar to LimeBike’s.

##### Board Comment:

Seisun was supportive, having seen how dockless bikes work in Shanghai. Ellig was supportive, and believed proper education of the riders was important. Tablang indicated support, and said education should include helmet safety. Brennan and Chair Wilson spoke in support. Mullaney and Dahl pointed out that new bicycle infrastructure was coming to University Avenue, and had been supported by Uptown Planners. Newington and Daniels spoke in support, both spoke of the need for further education of where riders should ride and park.

#### **VI. Planning: Potential Action Item:**

1. **REQUEST THAT UPTOWN PLANNERS RECOMMEND THE INSTALLATION OF A STOP SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF INDIA STREET & CHALMERS STREET –Five Points/ Middletown** –Uptown Planners can recommend placement of a stop sign at the intersection of India Street & Chalmers Street, pursuant to the “alternate process” provided for by City Council Policy 200-08-C ; City Traffic Engineering has indicated it will support the placement of a stop sign at this intersection, which is north of the off-ramp that traffic on India Street utilizes to access the I-5 freeway.

Chair Wilson indicated the item was placed on the agenda at the request of the Five Points business community, local residents, and the Uptown Parking District. Prior to placing it on the agenda, Wilson talked to Tanner French, of city traffic engineering, who indicated that the city would approve the Chalmers Street stop sign, as it was north of the freeway onramp, and so involved primarily local traffic.

Daniel made a motion to approve the stop sign, seconded by Newington. Gahagan indicated he needed more information regarding who requested the stop sign, and its purpose, prior to voting for it. The motion passed by a vote of 14-1-1, Gahagan voting no, with non-voting chair abstaining.

#### **VII. Projects: Action Items:**

1. **3930 PORTOLA PLACE (“MCNEAL VARIANCE”) Process Three –Mission Hills** – variance to reduce the required front yard setback for the construction of a one-story 500 square foot detached garage at 3930 Portola Place. The 0.18 acres site is located within the RS-1-7 base zone.

Trip Benet, the project architect, presents the project. There was no public comment.

Nakhshab as chair of the Uptown Planners Design Review Subcommittee stated the variance made sense because of the lot configuration, and keeping the garage separate from the historic structure. Gahagan pointed out other nearby garages were very close to the sidewalk. Dahl and Wahlstrom recognized the difficulty created by the lot, and supported the variance. Ellig and Hayes suggested it be a one car garage, to lessen the variance’s impact. Smith felt a one car garage would result in another car being parking in the driveway or street.

Motion to approve by Daniel, seconded by Nakhshab; passed by a vote of 13-2-1; Ellig and Hayes voted against the motion because they felt there should only be a one car garage; non-voting chair Wilson abstained.

#### **VIII. Letters of Support: Special Events: Action Items:**

1. **ROCK “N” ROLL SAN DIEGO MARATHON AND HALF MARATHON** --Natalia Mendez of Competitor Group Community Relations, will provide information regarding the Rock “N” Roll Marathon and Half Marathon that will be held on June 2nd and 3rd, 2018.

Natalia Mendez, of Competitor Group made the presentation.

Newington inquired if there was a plan to comply with the proposed 50-foot noise buffer along Sixth Avenue. Mendez responded they would be taking steps to limit noise, such as placing speakers facing east; located away from the sidewalk, and there would be monitoring of sound levels. Mullaney inquired about iPod music, which would be placed along the route for runners at musical mile markers. Mendez responded that the iPods would be placed at locations to minimize noise impacts to residents

Wahlstrom made a motion to approve, seconded by Nakhshab; the motion was approved by a 15-0-1 vote, with non-voting chair Wilson abstaining.

#### **VIII. Planning Staff/Subcommittee/Community Reports:**

1. **Uptown Planners Bylaws: Administrative Revisions** -- Michael Prinz, Senior Planner, San Diego Planning Department – Planning staff has prepared several revisions to the Uptown Planners Bylaws to make them reflective of changes to the current City's Administrative Guidelines. These revisions are administrative in nature.

Michael Prinz, Senior Planner for the City of San Diego made the presentation. Prinz indicated the changes are to make the bylaws conform to the updated administrative guidelines for planning groups, and concern formatting and administrative changes, such as including the board election procedure in the text of the bylaws instead of as an attachment.

Mullaney suggested the item be continued for a month, and that an ad hoc committee of Uptown Planners be formed to review the changes. Mullaney and Seisun agreed to be part of the committee, and review the bylaws prior to the next meeting.

Wahlstrom made a motion to continue the item to the May meeting, at which time the ad hoc committee can provide input; Newington seconded the motion; motion passed by a vote of 15-0-1, with non-voting chair Wilson abstaining.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.