



UPTOWN PLANNERS

Uptown Community Planning Group

AGENDA

Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2011

Joyce Beers Community Center, Uptown Shopping District

Present: Wilson, (Chair): Jaworski, Seidel, Liddell, Winney, O'Dea, Tablang, Adler, Ferrier, Bonn, Bonner, Dahl, Lamb, and Grinchuk. Absent: Mellos, Pesquiera (Attending Restaurant Association Meeting).

Board Meeting: Parliamentary Items/Reports:

Approval of Agenda: O'Dea made a motion, seconded by Lamb, to add the Plaza de Panama Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") to the agenda as an urgency item. Chair Wilson supported the motion indicating the item had only come to his attention two days prior to the meeting.

Pursuant to the Brown Act and City Council Policy, an urgency item can only be added to an agenda by a 2/3 vote of the board. The board approved the motion by a 9-3-1-vote (O'Dea, Lamb, Tablang, Bonner, Ferrier, Bonn, Dahl, Jaworski and Adler voted in favor; Seidel, Winney and Grinchuk voting against; Chair Wilson and Don Liddell abstained).

Action Item 5; Request for Letter of Support by the Hillcrest Business Association for CityFest, and Request for Letter of Support for Hillcrest Hoe Down, were moved to the Consent Agenda.

O'Dea made a motion to approve the agenda, as amended, which passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Approval of Minutes: Motions were made to approve the April 5, 2011 and May 5, 2011 meeting minutes; both motions passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dahl reported a balance of \$ 423.62, after an expense of \$119.40 for website services and a total of \$24 collected at the May meeting.

Website Report: The cost of service renewal for one more year will be \$119.40

Chair/ CPC Report:

A. The August meeting of Uptown Planners was initially planned to be held in the Alice Birney Elementary School Auditorium. The meeting would begin at 6:30 pm. The items on the August agenda would include the Plaza de Panama project and the St. Paul's Cathedral project, for which an EIR had just been released for public comment.

B. An E-mail string which discussed realigning the community planning areas in University Heights and Golden Hill had been forwarded to the board. The North Park Planning Group chair objected to the procedure being utilized by the University Heights Community Association to propose the transfer of the eastern section of University Heights from the

North Park Planning area into the Uptown Planning area, and also that being utilized by a South Park business group to propose moving a portion of South Park into the Golden Hill Planning Group.

Chair Wilson had proposed a University Heights subcommittee be organized, and recognized by Uptown Planners and the North Park Planning Group; as both the west and east side of University Heights had roughly the same population – each could elect the same number of representative, and additional member could represent the Park Boulevard business community. Wilson will be speaking at the University Heights Community Association meeting on June 9, 2011, and will bring up the committee idea.

C. At the Community Planners Committee meeting, City Councilmember Sherri Lightner, who is chair of the City Council Land Use & Housing Committee, spoke about proposed legislation, entitled the “Draft Comprehensive Water Policy”) to establish a sustainable water supply for the City of San Diego. Lightner also informed the CPC of future agenda items coming before the City Council Land Use & Housing Committee.

The CPC elected officers for the 2011-2012 year; Leo Wilson, of Uptown Planners, was unanimously re-elected as chair; Joe La Cava, of La Jolla PG, and Janay Krugar, of the University PG, were elected Vice-Chair and Secretary in multi-candidate races.

D. At the request of the owner of the property at 1036 Madison Street, Uptown Planners had voted at its May meeting to place the historic preservation issue concerning that property on its June agenda; however, at the subsequently request of the property owner’s attorney, the item was not agenzied.

II. Non-Agenda Public Communication

Joyce Summer from CCDC reported that an ad hoc committee meeting regarding redevelopment had been cancelled, and that reform of the redevelopment system continues to undergo review as a result of recent action by the California State legislature.

Roy Dahl reported about a proposed maintenance assessment district (“MAD”) in North Park. The proposed MAD would have subjected certain business and residential property owners to annual assessments totally approximately \$450,000. Dahl objected strongly to the residential areas being assessed, as he felt it was random and unfairly assessed residential property owners to subsidize commercial properties.

Ernie Bonn announced the upcoming Trolley Barn Park Concert series starting in July. The community-funded concerts are held from 6-8pm on Fridays, and were free to the public.

III. Representatives of Elected Officials:

Courtney Thomson from Councilmember Gloria’s office announced that the newly passed city budget contains monies for keeping the libraries and parks open, as well as restoring full hours of operation for fire stations. Thomson also announced that the City Council had passed the proposed community garden ordinance.

Ian Clamphett from Councilmember Kevin Faulconer’s office announced that Faulconer voted in favor of the budget measure restoring funding to libraries and parks. He also announced that repairs to the Quince Street Pedestrian Bridge, which had been damaged by a eucalyptus tree falling on it during a storm, would begin on July 11. The work was expected to be completed mid-August.

IV. Consent Agenda: Action Items 5 and 6, as quoted below, were moved to the Consent Agenda at the beginning of the meeting when the agenda was approved:

Motion by Ferrier, seconded by Bonn, to approve the Consent Agenda; motion passed unanimously: 13-0-1 Non-voting chair Wilson abstaining.

5. REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT BY THE HILLCREST BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FOR CITYFEST. The event will take place on August 14, 2011 from 12:00 noon until 8:00 p.m. along Fifth Avenue and adjacent streets.

6. REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT BY THE HILLCREST BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FOR THE HILLCREST HOES DOWN. The event will take place on October 9, 2011 at Normal Street and University Avenue.

V. Potential Action Item:

1. UNIVERSITY CALIFORNIA: SAN DIEGO (UCSD) MEDICAL CENTER – Hospital District -- Tom Jackiewicz, UCSD Medical Center CEO – Presentation regarding possible traffic circulation improvements around the UCSD Medical Center: including proposals to reverse traffic flow on First Avenue and Front Street to increase access; and added signage and directional improvements. The UCSD Medical Center is seeking feedback from the community regarding these potential traffic circulation/safety improvements.

UCSD Medical Center CEO Tom Jackiewicz made the presentation. Jackiewicz was seeking initial input regarding proposed traffic circulation changes that would improve the flow of traffic and traffic safety in the hospital zone. Jackiewicz and the Third City Council District would be taking the proposed modifications door-to-door in the neighborhoods adjacent to the UCSD Medical Center to make sure that neighbors are supportive and agreeable to the proposals. An open house was scheduled for June 30th.

Several residents of the Hospital District community of Uptown made comments. George Wedemeyer, who had submitted comments to the board prior to the meeting, requested UCSD to provide more information. He cited his desire for the traffic changes to include appropriate signage; striping on the cross walks; stipulation of the sources of funding for the changes; disclosure regarding which other streets in the zone will be affected; and disclosure of a plan on how to enforce the changes. He also voiced his opposition to having Front Street, on which he resides, become a two-way street.

Jonathan Tibbetts spoke of the need to address issues involving Bachman Place in their long-range planning, including its access to Interstate 8. Don Hinderliter and another Hospital District resident also expressed concerns, included over the potential reverse traffic flow on Montecito Drive.

VI. Action Items

1. PROPOSAL FOR AND EXTENSION OF THE DURATION OF THE INTERIM HEIGHT LIMITATION ORDINANCE-- Uptown – Proposal to extend the duration of the Interim Height Limitation, City Ordinance 19773 adopted on July 29, 2008, an additional 180 days as permitted by the ordinance; and a request that the ordinance be amended so that it will remain in effect until the conclusion of the Uptown Community Plan update. In December 2009, Uptown Planners passed a motion requesting the ordinance remain in effect until the completion of the plan update, which was supported by the City Council Land Use & Housing Committee in 2010. Presently, the Interim Height Limitation automatically expires after July 29, 2011; unless the City Council approves an additional 180-day extension.

City Planner Marlon Pangilinan announced that the City Council will be considering an additional 180-day extension of the IHO in July 2011. Pangilinan indicated the City Council's Land Use & Housing Committee had supported keeping the IHO in effect until the completion of the Uptown Community Plan update. However, a new ordinance would need to be adopted by the City Council to accomplish this goal.

During public comment, Barry Hager, the Chair of the IHO Independent Task Force, said that the IHO needed to be extended so that the ordinance was co-terminal with completion of the Uptown Plan update process. Hager recommended the following motion be passed by Uptown Planners: (1.) Recommend the City Council approves the second 180-day extension; and (2.) that the City Council approve an extension that would make the ordinance co-

terminal with the finalization of the Uptown Community Plan update process. This will assure the IHO stays in effect should a decrease or lack of funding delay the completion of the Uptown Community Plan update.

Ian Epley spoke against the extension of the IHO, and indicated he was more supportive of a discretionary height limitation. Epley endorsed a process that would consider the appropriate building height on a case-by-case basis. Don Hinderliter, from the Hospital District, and Sharon Gehl, of Mission Hills, also spoke against the extension of the IHO.

Motion by Ferrier, seconded by Bonn: To request the City Council to approve the second 180-day extension of the IHO, and further request the IHO be extended until, and made co-terminal with, the completion of the Uptown community plan update process. Motion passes 12-1-1 (Ferrier, Bonn, Jaworski, Adler, Grinchuk, Seidel, Liddell, O'Dea, Tablang, Bonner, Dahl, Lamb voting in favor; Winney voting against Non-voting chair Wilson abstaining.)

**EMERGENCY ITEM; PLAZA DE PANAMA PROJECT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTAND
BETWEEN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO AND THE PLAZA DE PANAMA COMMITTEE – City
Council Rules Committee; June 8, 2011.**

A short time prior to the Uptown Planners June 7, 2011 board meeting (and subsequent to the distribution of the Uptown Planners agenda) it was publically announced that the City Council Rules Committee had scheduled as an action item on its June 8, 2011 agenda the proposed Memorandum of Understanding as described above. Neither Uptown Planners nor the Balboa Park Committee has had an opportunity to review the document.

Bruce Coons, from SOHO, spoke against the proposed MOU, and indicated it should not be approved by the City Council until the draft EIR had been prepared for the entire project. Several public speakers supported Coons position, or otherwise voiced opposition to approval by the City Council of the proposed MOU. During board discussion, several board members felt it was premature to approve of the proposed MOU without more review, including by Uptown Planners.

Motion by O'Dea, seconded by Bonn, that Uptown Planners requests the City Council take no action regarding the draft memorandum of understanding regarding the Plaza de Panama project until after Uptown Planners and the Balboa Park Committee review the Plaza de Panama project, and the proposed memorandum of understanding. (Both Uptown Planners and the Balboa Park Committee are scheduled to review and make a recommendation on the Plaza de Panama project in early August 2011). Motion passes 10-2-2; O'Dea, Bonn, Jaworski, Winney, Ferrier, Adler, Tablang, Bonner, Dahl, Lamb in favor; Seidel, Grinchuk opposed. Chair Wilson and Liddell abstained.

Misc. Discussion: Marlon Pangilinan briefly updated Uptown Planners regarding the combination of the City's Planning Department with the Development Services Department. The consolidation was done as a budget saving measure, and the combined department would be housed in one building. Kelly Broughton would head the newly combined department.

3. SEWER & WATER GROUP 799 - -- Mission Hills – Project Manager Rania Amen – Presentation regarding project to replace sewer mains installed in the 1940s in Uptown. The replacement is being done pursuant to an EPA mandate to replace aging and deteriorating concrete and cast-iron water mains. In Uptown, the project will replace approximately 7,280 linear feet of 6-inch and 8-inch sewer mains which involves the installation/rehabilitation of manholes and cleanouts on several streets and adjacent areas in Mission Hills.

Elizabeth Dunn and Jerico Gallardo, Project Managers, made a presentation regarding the Sewer & Water Group 799 project. A correction was made: 4,394 lineal feet not 7,280 lineal feet of infrastructure will be replaced. The cost of the project is expected to be about \$5.5 million. Work will commence in June 2012, and is expected to last 284 days. There was no public comment; the board asked several informational questions.

**4. REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A CITY-WIDE TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH
REGULATIONS RE: PLACEMENT, MAINTENANCE & UNDERGROUNDING OF
UTILITY BOXES** -- Uptown – At its April meeting, the CPC unanimously approved a proposal to establish a city-wide task force to address the issue of utility box placement,

maintenance and possible undergrounding. The proposal was brought forth by the Kensington/ Talmadge CPG; a Greater North Park Planning Group prepared a position paper on the issue in August 2010 is attached.

The board reviewed the North Park Planning Group proposal to establish a city-wide task force regarding the placement, etc., of public utilities boxes. Kitty Callen, a former member of the North Park Planning Committee discussed the preparation and approval of the position paper. Cheryl Dye of that planning group had played a major role in the preparation of the detailed document. The Kensington-Talmadge Planning Group also was working on the issue, and had brought it to the Committee Planners Committee earlier in 2011.

Motion by Dahl seconded by Ferrier, that Uptown Planners endorse the North Park Planning Group position paper, and support the request for the creation of a city-wide task force as recommended; Vote was 13-0-1 in favor; Chair Wilson, as non-voting chair, abstained.

2. UPTOWN COMMUNITY PARKING DISTRICT REORANIZATION – Uptown -- Mike McLaughlin, Consultant -- McLaughlin has been retained by the City of San Diego to make recommendations for the reorganization of the Uptown Parking District, which includes the communities of Hillcrest, Bankers Hill/Park West, Five Points/Middletown, Mission Hills and the Hospital District; the reorganization plan is expected to be finalized in Fall 2011.

Consultant McLaughlin had indicated he would be at the Uptown Planners meeting at no later than 8:00 p.m. As business had been concluded earlier, the board waited for his arrival. At 8:05 p.m., an attendee attempted to contact McLaughlin at his mobile telephone number, but there was no answer. The board voted to adjourn the meeting and reschedule the presentation on a subsequent agenda. (Ironically, within a short-time after the adjournment, McLaughlin arrived – he had been delayed.) The presentation was rescheduled for the next meeting.

The foregoing minutes from the June 7, 2011 meeting of Uptown Planers are respectfully submitted by Secretary,

Beth Jaworski.