



UPTOWN PLANNERS

Uptown Community Planning Committee
August 3, 2010, Tuesday – Meeting Minutes

Present: Grinchuk, Liddell, O'Dea, Lamb, Seidel, Gatzke, Wilson (Chair), Bonn, Bonner, Hyde, Dahl, Jaworski.

Absent: Towne, Edwards, Adler, Mellos, Wendorf.

Board Meeting: Parliamentary Items/Reports:

Adoption of Agenda and Rules of Order

On a 10-1-1 vote, added consideration of letters of support for two community events, Nightmare on Normal Street and the AIDS Walk & Run San Diego, to the consent agenda. (Seidel motion, O'Dea seconded motion, Chair Wilson abstaining.)

Approval of Minutes

Seidel moved to approve May minutes, with motion passing by voice vote. (Bonn, Chair Wilson abstaining.)

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dahl reported a balance of \$489.36. Dahl said the only cost now being incurred by Uptown Planners is for its website.

Website Report

Webmaster O'Dea reported that there have been 440 visitors to the Uptown Planners website.

Chair/CPC Report

Wilson reported that the Sharp Rees-Steely project proposed at Grape Street and Fourth Avenue will be coming to Uptown Planners as an information item sometime in 2010. He also said the Mid-City Rapid Bus proposal will return at the next meeting as an action item.

Non-Agenda Public Comment:

Joyce Summer reported on the latest activities of CCDC, the city's downtown redevelopment arm.

U.S. Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA), whose congressional district includes Uptown, informed the board about recent activities in Congress and took questions from the audience. Chair Wilson asked Davis for assistance in seeking out grants and other funding sources for an Uptown streetcar system.

Anne Rast, president of Uptown Partnership, said her organization would be attending more meetings to become familiar with the community and is hoping to improve outreach to the Bankers Hill/Park West neighborhood.

Representatives of Elected Officials:

Courtney Thompson, representing Councilmember Gloria, updated the board on Gloria's activities.

Consent Agenda:

Seidel made a motion, second by Bonn, to approve writing two letters of support for the Sept. 26 AIDS Walk & Run San Diego and the Oct. 20 Nightmare on Normal Street events. The motion was approved by a vote of 11-0-1, with Chair Wilson abstaining.

Information Items: Projects:

1. **SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC SMART METERS** – Uptown – Presentation regarding SDG&E's new smart meters that will soon be installed in every home and business in Uptown (as well as throughout the City of San Diego). The smart meters will replace existing electric and gas meters.

Amber Starbuck, local outreach manager for SDG&E, gave a presentation on the ongoing citywide replacement of existing electric and gas meters with digital "smart meters" that automatically monitor daily energy use and can be read remotely. Solar customers, who require a separate technology, won't receive new meters until after that technology is ready sometime in mid-2011. Starbuck said customers can go to sdge.com/smartmeter to find out when smart meters will be installed in their neighborhood.

Public comments included questions about higher utility rates, variable pricing, and whether customers will actually benefit from the new meters.

Action Item: Projects:

1. **3650 FIFTH AVENUE NUP ("OSTERIA ORIGANO SIDEWALK CAFÉ")** — Process Two – Hillcrest -- Neighborhood Use Permit for a 495 sq. ft. sidewalk café for a restaurant at 3650 Fifth Avenue in the CV-1A Zone.

Chair Wilson noted that city Development Services Department staff indicated they could not support only a four-foot clear path of travel along sidewalk cafe, rather than the required eight foot path required by code. Planning staff requested the size of the outdoor patio be reduced to better conform to the regulations. In response to this request, the applicant removed the patio areas in front of obstructions, such as utility boxes and trees, which increased the width of the clear path of travel to no less than six feet.

Grinchuk made the motion to approve the project. Seidel seconded. Motion approved 11-0-1, with Chair Wilson abstaining.

1. **1751 UNIVERSITY AVENUE ("CLEARWIRE MARQUIS HILLCREST")** – Process Two – Hillcrest – Neighborhood Use Permit for a Wireless Communications Facility consisting of façade mounted antennas; FAA Part 77.

Alex Tsaturov, representing Clearwire, told the board that the company had designed the antenna housing to be as unobtrusive as possible, including matching the paint color of the 1915 building on which the wireless equipment would be installed. He said the public will not see the equipment.

Grinchuk, who once owned the building on which the facility is located many years ago, said the equipment already installed on the building is very quiet, and he said he never had a problem with the companies that operate the equipment.

O'Dea asked if it was necessary to install equipment on the north side of the building. Grinchuk said there was already equipment on the north side.

Seidel made a motion to approve the project. Hyde seconded. The board approved the motion by a 11-0-1 vote, with Chair Wilson abstaining.

1. **3088 FIFTH AVENUE NUP("CAFÉ BASSAM SIDEWALK CAFÉ")** — Process Two – Bankers Hill/Park West - Neighborhood Use Permit for a 270 sq. ft. sidewalk café for an existing coffee/tea/wine bar at 3088 Fifth Avenue in the CV-1 & NP-1 Zone.

David Kirk made the presentation on behalf of the project. Bassam Shamma, owner of Café Bassam, was also present. Kirk informed the board that the initial plan for 4 feet of clearance between the outdoor iron railing of the seating area and sidewalk obstructions had been expanded to 5 feet.

Several members of the public, including Richard Diamatteo and Allen Gruber, spoke in favor of the project, and were complimentary of the business.

Ben Baltic questioned why, if the city standard for pedestrian clearance is 8 feet, would 5 feet in clearance be acceptable.

Chair Wilson explained that if that standard were applied in Uptown, there would be no sidewalk cafes. The question, Wilson said, is if Uptown wants sidewalk cafes or not, and that it's appropriate to review this type of request on a case-by-case basis.

Hyde made a motion to approve the project. Dahl seconded. The motion was approved by a 11-0-1 vote, with Chair Wilson abstaining.

Action Items Planning:

1. **Letter Requesting Enforcement of Existing CUP and NUP Regulations Re: Nightclubs and Bars:** Letter requesting that CPCI and the City Attorney immediately apply and enforce Municipal Code Sections §141.0614 (CUP requirement for a nightclub or bar over 5,000 sq. ft.) and §141.0607(NUP requirement for eating and drinking establishments abutting residentially zoned properties) in Uptown. See attachment #1 below, a letter for City Councilmember Todd Gloria, and attachment # 2 below, a memo from Leo Wilson. (Note: The Greater North Park Planning Group passed a similar motion focused on its community by a vote of 13-0 on July 21, 2010.)

Chair Wilson opened the discussion by saying there are two city ordinances that are not being enforced, and it's important for Uptown Planners to align with North Park to get this matter on the front burner.

Dahl said he was troubled by the proposal, saying if North Park is upset about nightclubs, then maybe the nightclubs should consider moving to Uptown. Dahl said if the board starts to nitpick, residents will no longer be able to get Mexican food at 3 in the morning. Dahl said he doesn't want to chase businesses out of Uptown.

Chair Wilson said clarification was necessary and that nightclubs and bars needed to comply with existing regulations so they would be accountable to the community.

Gatzke said he was confused about what the letter would be asking for on these ordinances – clarification or enforcement? Chair Wilson said new businesses are now unsure what the requirements are, and the City Attorney is working on an interpretation.

Hyde made a motion to request that the City Attorney interpret the application of two ordinances in an expedited fashion. Jaworski seconded. The motion passed on a 11-0-1 vote. Chair Wilson abstaining.

Subcommittee Reports/Community Reports/Community Plan Update Advisory Group Report:

- 1. Update On 4th/5th/6th Avenue Stop Signs – Information Item – See attachment # 3 below, a comparison of accidents for the months of May-July 2009; with May-July 2010.**

Chair Wilson reported that traffic accidents along 4th, 5th and 6th avenues have declined dramatically due to the installation of stop signs at critical intersections. Additional stop signs are in the works for the intersection of 5th Avenue and Spruce Street.

Seidel asked what would happen with the flashing yellow light at that intersection. Wilson said the community is stuck with it until the stop signs are installed.

- 2. Hillcrest City Fest** on August 8, 2010 from 12:00 noon to 8:30 p.m.

An update was provided on the event, including the relighting of the Hillcrest sign.

These minutes respectfully submitted by board member acting as secretary, John Lamb.