



NORTH PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE

PUBLIC FACILITIES, TRANSPORTATION, PARKS, AND PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE

www.northparkplanning.org

CORRECTED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 9, 2010, 6:30 p.m., North Park Main Street office
3076 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92104

Attendance:

Board Members: Dionné Carlson (Chair), René Vidales (Vice-Chair), Rob Steppke, Steve Chipp, Lucky Morrison, Kitty Callen, Lynn Elliott

Community

Voting Members: Ernie Bonn

Also present: None

Parliamentary Items

Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 6:36

Approve September 9, 2010 Agenda. Motion: Approve Agenda with the following change: change the date for the next meeting to Wednesday, October 6. RS/KC 8-0-0

Approve July 14, 2010 Minutes. Motion: Approve August 11, 2010 minutes with the following changes: Add the words “/Unfunded transit network” to “Unconstrained”. RS/RV 4-0-3

Chair’s Comments. Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 6 at North Park Main Street at 6:30 p.m. due to the Community Plan Update Charrettes. The chair expressed disappointment with the City scheduling Charettes for the Community Plan Update that conflict with other pre-scheduled community meetings.

Non Agenda Public Comment

1. Ernie Bonn announced that on Sunday September 12 from noon to 5 the Centennial Celebration for the Teacher’s Training Annex on Park Boulevard will take place with presentations from Todd Gloria and other public figures.
2. Ernie Bonn also announced the Taste of University Heights will take place on Sunday, September 12, from noon to 5.
3. Ernie Bonn also announced the “Evolution of the US Flag” event will take place at the Grace Lutheran Church, on Thursday, September 9 at 7 p.m.
4. Dionné Carlson announced a Water Sustainability Seminar at Soltan Banoo Restaurant in Kensington on September 11 at 10 a.m.
5. Dionné Carlson also announced that on September 11 a North Park Car show will take place behind the North Park Theater from 10 to 1.
6. Dionné Carlson also announced the Jean Isaacs Trolley Dances event that starts at the west plaza of the County Administration Building, on September 25, 26, and October 2, and 3

Announcements

1. SANDAG Back to School Pool: Connect with other parents to carpool to school: e-mail schoolpool@sandag.org . Info at http://www.sandag.org/enewsletter/feature_7.html
2. California Center for Sustainable Energy will host the Clean Energy Conference from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 16 at the San Diego Convention Center, 111 West Harbor Drive, San Diego. www.energycenter.org.
3. Sign up for Rideshare week: 511sd.com/iCommute. October 4 thru 8.

Information Items: None

Old Business.

- A. Texas Street Improvement Design:** Continuation of discussion of improvements to Texas Street from Madison Avenue to Camino Del Rio South, part of the mitigation improvements for the Quarry Falls Development in Mission Valley.

Street Lights:

Dionné Carlson gave an update on the Acorn Street Lights. Mark Radelow from Sudberry Properties decided to put the Cobra Lights back in the plans because the project has to go to City Council in early October to meet one of the milestones for the first phase of Quarry Falls. There is a possibility to attend the City Council meeting and make public comment on the topic.

Sudberry Properties wants to do the Acorn Lights if the City would allow it. According to Dionné Carlson, several City staff is supportive of the Acorn Lights, including Todd Gloria's office. Another possibility is to send a letter to the Mayor.

Due to the fact that Quarry Falls in Mission Valley, Ernie Bonn suggested to contact Donna Frye's office, and ask if there are any funds in District 6 that can be used for maintenance of the Street Lights, since it involves a developer in District 6.

Retaining Walls:

Rob Steppke talked about possible patterns for the retaining walls. Triple face is more graffiti resistant by design. An anti-graffiti coating can also be applied and it will look darker. Rob mentioned that we have flexibility to choose different colors in order to make a pattern that is pleasant.

Landscape Design:

Dionné Carlson suggested a plant named Dressina Dracaena that is currently planted in Balboa Park. This species grows a foot in a decade. Once established they are a maintenance-free plant.

Pebble stones can be used around the trees, and boulders can also be used as an accent feature. Different features can be accommodated in the 1 foot strip. A suggestion was made by René Vidales to use interlocking pavers. Grouted cobble stones were suggested by Dionné Carlson.

Steve Chipp left at 7:39 p.m.

A suggestion was made by Rob Steppke to continue this item in a future meeting.

- B. Mid City Rapid Bus Project:** Discussion & Review of Project highlights.

Ernie Bonn stated that on El Cajon Blvd. the project keeps being diminished in stations and in the removal of amenities like landscaping and artwork.

Rob Steppke mentioned that the synchronization of traffic lights is a good idea and the project helps El Cajon Boulevard in some aspects.

Ernie Bonn also stated the following:

- 33 parking spaces are eliminated and the net loss is 9 parking spaces after relocation. Lincoln Avenue, Polk Avenue, and Centre Street add a total of 24 parking spaces as a mitigation. The businesses in front of locations that will lose parking will suffer.
- The southeast corner of Polk Avenue and Park Boulevard may lose parking spaces along Polk when the property develops due to fire lane requirements in high density projects.
- There were very few commercial property owners that were notified.
- It would be useful to check the status of the EIR, to find out if this was a Negative Declaration.

Rob Steppke also mentioned that at last night's meeting of Uptown Planners, the concerns were the following:

- Closure of Polk at Park
- Emergency accessibility; fire engines
- Circulation; commercial element for deliveries.
- Forcing additional vehicular traffic into Lincoln which is already impacted.
- If there was to be a closure the public preferred Polk rather than Lincoln.

Lynn Elliott stated that she is concerned about elderly people and accessibility issues.

Dionné Carlson mentioned the following:

- The likelihood of drivers being confused by the center bus lanes when turning left from El Cajon Blvd. on to Park Blvd.
- The length of time for construction and impacts to businesses & neighbors needs to be known
- The heights of the center bus lane platforms could create a hazard
- The bus lanes form an additional barrier to lateral transition between North Park and Uptown districts contrary to objectives of the community plan update process
- Delivery trucks for Henry's Market use Polk Avenue as access

Kitty Callen would like to find out the extent of the improvements along Park Boulevard south of University Avenue.

René Vidales asked if there was a difference between private development project and public works projects as to notification requirements. SANDAG has had some community outreach for this project in the last year and a half; public notification has happened but it has not been very extensive.

René Vidales also stated the following:

- This will be the first Bus Rapid Transit project in the San Diego metro area, and San Diego is behind other metro areas in the country
- The number of Bus Rapid Transit projects is increasing worldwide because these types of projects do not require additional right-of-way
- Assembly Bill AB 1358 "Complete the Streets" requires the streets to provide for all modes of transportation, including pedestrians and bicycles. This is an opportunity to add accessibility to a lot of intersections
- Lincoln Avenue: Signalization is necessary because Park is a very wide street and a stop sign does not stop vehicles long enough
- Polk Avenue: Pedestrians will be able to cross the street perpendicular and not angled as currently configured.
- Howard Avenue: The addition of a traffic signal will make pedestrian crossing safer.
- The project replaces most of the displaced parking spaces.
- There is an opportunity to improve the streetscape. Park Boulevard is a very wide street and there is an opportunity to add street character

René Vidales would like to approve the project with conditions, such as studies for traffic calming in the neighboring streets, using AB 1350 “complete the streets”, asking for additional streetscape enhancements.

The rest of the Sub-Committee would like to deny the project based on the following comments:

- The Community Plan is currently being updated for North Park and Uptown, and it can act as a division between the two planning areas
- There are not sufficient traffic studies on impacts on the surrounding streets and businesses can be affected; children crossing Normal/Park/El Cajon need better need to be identified in studies
- Would like to see the crosswalk relocated from the northeast corner of Polk to the southwest corner of Polk Avenue.
- Apparent insufficient notification.
- The project contributes to the Park/Normal/El Cajon problematic intersection.
- The project is detrimental to all neighborhoods surrounding the project.

After further discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To deny the Park Boulevard portion of the Mid-City Rapid Bus project due to traffic, pedestrian, commercial economic impacts and community interface concerns. Steppke/Bonn 6-1-0 (Vidales against)

New Business. None

Unfinished, New Business & Future Agenda Items

A. Possible future Agenda item: Intersection of Pershing and Redwood design. Gary Pence from Engineering and Capital Projects Division to present.

Next meeting date: Rescheduled for Wednesday, October 6, 2010 due to the Community Plan Update Charette.

Adjournment. Motion: To adjourn meeting. Callen/Steppke. 7-0-0. Meeting adjourned 9:02 p.m.