



NORTH PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE

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PUBLIC FACILITIES, TRANSPORTATION, PARKS, AND PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 10, 2012, 6:00 p.m., North Park Recreation Center/Adult Center
2719 Howard Avenue, San Diego, CA 92104

Attendance:

Seated Board Members: Dionné Carlson (Chair), René Vidales (Vice-Chair), Vicki Granowitz, Robert Barry, Peter Hill

Community Voting Members: Ernie Bonn, Rob Steppke, Kitty Callen (arrived 6:14)

Board members not seated: None

Also present: Jennifer McDonald, Judy Elliot, Joseph Smith, Jennifer Spencer

Parliamentary Items:

Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm

Approve October 10, 2012 Agenda. Motion: Approve Agenda. Vidales/Granowitz. 7-0-0

Chair's Comments.

- OLP Update: Trial in OLP's RLUIPA suit against the City of San Diego starts Oct 15 2012. Becky Sullivan and Chair Carlson will be the only two witnesses from the community for the City.

Approval of Previous Minutes, September 12, 2012.

Motion: Approve September 12, 2012 Meeting Minutes as presented. Vidales/Steppke. 6-0-1 (Barry abstained)

Announcements:

1. **Combined Regional Plan for San Diego County.** Public Workshop hosted by SANDAG. Friday, October 19, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Caltrans District 11 Headquarters, 4050 Taylor Street, Garcia Room, San Diego, CA 92110

Non Agenda Public Comment:

- A. Jennifer McDonald commented on recent waste of water due to a construction project. A subcontractor was bleeding the lines and water was running near Jefferson Elementary for a long time. It was suggested to call Water Conservation hotline at 619-515-3500. Sub-Committee will research to see if there is a better solution for these types of practices.

Information Items:

- A. Chair Carlson gave an update on various Community Plan Update efforts

New Business

A. Traffic Calming at Upas Street and Granada Street (north side of intersection). Request for Stop Sign/Median Chokers along Upas Street.

Chair Carlson gave a brief presentation about the location and recent communication with City staff and community members.

This intersection is not located within the North Park Maintenance Assessment District (MAD). A meeting was held with City staff where the community was interested in median chokers. Chair Carlson talked with City staff and the Fire Department. The Fire Department explained safety reasons for not approving a roundabout, but might reluctantly approve median chokers under certain conditions if the community really wants them. It should be noted that the surrounding area is saturated with traffic calmers like speed lumps, presenting response time difficulties for the fire department. The Fire department has no objections to a stop sign as a traffic-calmer.

Jennifer McDonald lives nearby and has been working with the City for 6 years on this intersection. The active speeding sign (V-Calm sign) installed a few years back has not been very effective as a traffic calming measure. Community members have explored the possibility of a roundabout; but the Fire Department could not approve due to insufficient turning radius for emergency vehicles, reducing response times along a primary response route. This location appears to have safety issues for pedestrians and for residents backing out their driveways. Ms. McDonald presented a petition requesting a Stop Sign, with 23 signatures from residents in the area.

After conversations with City staff, installation of a stop sign would be the best suggestion at this time.

Ernie Bonn suggested driving around the median chokers that were constructed on Madison Avenue between Kansas St. and Utah St., where cars have not slowed down that much. Carlson expressed concern about median chokers in general as a traffic-calmer, due to the unpopularity and anecdotal ineffectiveness of the ones at Madison and Utah.

Vicki Granowitz requested signatures from the property owners on the four corners; in order to ensure input from the properties that would be most impacted. It would help the case to have those property owners in support.

Vice-Chair Vidales mentioned that once the stop sign is installed, it could be a lengthy process to try to remove it or to replace it with another traffic calming measure. Chair Carlson requested that the language “for traffic calming purposes” be included in any motion, to make it clear the intersection did not require the stop for safety, and so as to allow for additional/different traffic calming at a future date should the opportunity for bump-outs or some other more desirable traffic calmer arise.

Peter Hill acknowledged that waiting for 6 years is disappointing and suggested to have a visual presentation ready when this item is presented to the full board.

Rob Steppe mentioned it is not uncommon to see cars driving around 55 mph on Pershing Dr. and therefore he supports stop sign.

After further discussion, the following motion was made

MOTION: To support the installation of a stop sign on Upas Street at southbound Granada Street for traffic calming purposes based on information provided as long as the constituents of all corners have been contacted. Vidales/Granowitz 8-0-0

Motion carries.

B. Fiscal Year 2014 (& Future years) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget. Each fiscal year, a CIP conformance review is conducted to ensure that proposed CIP projects are consistent with their respective community plans and the General Plan. Council Policy 000-02 requires that City's CIP budget be submitted to the City Council for approval. This year, for the first time, the CIP conformance information is provided to make each community aware of CIP projects scheduled for their communities and to provide the CPGs a better opportunity to review the CIP which will be presented to the City Council.

Vice-Chair Vidales gave a brief presentation about the CIP Budget Development Process. Deadline is November 7 for recommendations from NPPC to CPC.

A tabulation of North Park projects was distributed along with one application for most of the projects being discussed. The list and applications included the following projects that were suggested the previous month by this sub-committee as priorities:

1. University Avenue Mobility Plan (UAMP)
2. North Park Mini Park
3. McKinley Elementary School Joint Use Agreement and Improvements
4. Several Traffic Calming and Safety Projects lumped in one category
5. North Park/University Heights Library

Vice-Chair Vidales mentioned that Walk San Diego supported the UAMP as the first priority and the NP Mini Park as the second priority.

A number of sub-committee members were in agreement with last month's selection of priorities. Vicki Granowitz reminded everyone that every year from now on there will be another opportunity to reassess. Robert Barry would like to see McKinley Elementary as a 1st priority, with the North Park Mini Park as 2nd, and the UAMP as 3rd. Ernie Bonn mentioned that the NP/UH Library will be beneficial for all communities in the area and would like to see this project elevated in the list of priorities.

Judy Elliot from the Adams Avenue BIA would like to add the following projects to the list: (1) 30th and Adams islands with pedestrian refuge (as it appears in the Hofman study) and improvements to Gateway at 30th & Madison, including directional signage and entry monument; (2) I-805 bridge widening of sidewalk and bike lanes; (3) Pop outs & pedestrian enhancements along Adams Ave; (4) improvements to intersection at 30th & Adams.

Jennifer Spencer presented a list with numerous signed petitions for community support for the McKinley Elementary Joint Use Agreement and Improvements project. She has children at Jefferson Elementary, and mentioned that the project has been on the CIP list for years. She stated that the community is very excited for the project and should be the number one priority. Robert Barry & Rob Steppke also expressed support for making this project the 1st priority on the list.

After further discussion the following motion was made:

MOTION: To recommend a tentative priority list for CIP projects in the following order:

- 1. McKinley Elementary School Joint Use Improvements (S12001)**
- 2. North Park Mini Park and Streetscape Improvements (S10050)**
- 3. University Avenue Mobility Plan (S00915)**
- 4. North Park/University Heights Library (S00809)**
- 5. Five (5) projects for traffic calming & safety to be voted separately**

If the boundary between Uptown Planners and North Park Planning changes, then NPPC vote should be null and void on the NP/UH Library project.

Barry/Bonn. 8-0-0

Motion carries.

(Rob Steppke left at 7:35 p.m.)

Board discussed ensuring that projects be prioritized for underserved areas of North Park like Adams Ave and Park Boulevard South, and that each BID have a least one project on the CIP priority list.

Peter Hill suggested Park Boulevard project # B00994 as important. The Boulevard requested the Acorn lights project via NPPC Chair Granowitz. Judy Elliot from AABA was present and requested projects from the AABA mobility plan be prioritized. Vidales suggested 32nd street signal modification for University Ave. After additional discussion, the following motion was made.

MOTION: To continue the priority list for CIP projects in the following order:

- 5. El Cajon Blvd. Acorn Lights [El Cajon Blvd. BIA]**
- 6. I-805 Bridge Pedestrian & Bike Improvements [Adams Ave. BIA]**
- 7. University Ave & 32nd St Traffic Signal Modification [Unfunded Needs List from 8/16/11 NPPC request]**
- 8. Park Blvd. and Cypress Ave Concrete Pop-outs & Lighted Crosswalk (B00994)**
- 9. 30th & Adams Traffic Signal Modification & Intersection improvements [Adams Ave. BIA] Granowitz/Barry. 7-0-0**

Motion carries.

C. Traffic Calming “best practices” for North Park CPUAC.

This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

Old Business

A. Texas Street Improvement Design. Update on improvements on Texas Street.

This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

B. North Park Entry/Gateway Monuments. Ongoing discussion of potential improvements to entryways to North Park, including landscaping, signage and entry monuments.

This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

C. Utility Box Task Force. Update and Next Steps.

This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

Future Agenda items: None

Next Meeting date: Wednesday, November 14, 2012.

Adjournment. Motion: To adjourn meeting Carlson/Granowitz. 7-0-0. Meeting adjourned 7:55 p.m.

(Handout at Meeting of 10/10/2012)

Notes from PF-Subcommittee Chair on Traffic Calming Options for the Intersection of Upas & Granada:

Roundabout: See Page 25 of <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/pdf/peddesign.pdf>

Residents initially requested a traffic study for a roundabout (traffic circle in the center of intersection). Fire Department rejected request for a Roundabout here because it is a T intersection on a Collector Street and a “Major Route of Response” – Fire trucks can’t make the turning radius on a roundabout when turning right or left from Granada onto Upas, and vice versa. Turning radius is too tight for safety. Does not allow for the maintenance of a minimum Pathway width for emergency vehicle safety. Causes delays in response time when emergency vehicles have to slow down, another safety impact.

Median Chokers/Median “slow point”: See Page 26 of <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/pdf/peddesign.pdf>

Residents requested option of Median Chokers be explored. Median chokers are 2 large oval shaped concrete medians in the center of the roadway, one on either side of the intersection (NOT in the center of the intersection)

Fire Department initially rejected these, for same reasons as Roundabout.

On appeal by residents, Fire department is trying to work with residents and would reluctantly approve median chokers only under the following conditions:

- Chokers need to be so designed as to leave enough space for emergency vehicles to make both a right and a left turn from Granada onto Upas, and Vice Versa.
- Enough parking needs to be removed in the vicinity of the median chokers so that the required amount of space for safe emergency vehicle clearance is available on all sides of the median chokers. Particularly enough space while making turns.

Notes on Both Median Chokers and Roundabout:

The presence of other traffic calmers in the area on Granada, Villa Terrace and Alabama restrict alternative fast routes for emergency vehicles. This accumulation of traffic calmers in the area adds to the Fire Department’s difficulty in approving Roundabouts or Medians on the Major Response Route of Upas Street.

Both Median Chokers or a roundabout would have to go in the unfunded CIP list and await their turn for funding, so are not likely be immediately implemented.)

Since Upas and Granada do not fall into a Maintenance Assessment District (MAD) neither median chokers nor a roundabout would be eligible for any aesthetic enhancements like landscaping unless the North Park MAD were rebaloted to include this area, or unless the residents self-funded an “maintenance endowment fund” specifically for this area. Dollar amounts required for such maintenance are unknown at this time. Amount required for CIP funding is also unknown at this time.

Stop Sign:

Intersection does not meet the City’s threshold for an *automatic* stop sign in this location. However, residents can apply via the “secondary process” (via local planning committee approval/request) for a stop sign. There is no fire department objection to a stop sign here. A stop can be implemented more quickly than the Roundabout or Median Chokers, and with less expense.