





NORTH PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE

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PUBLIC FACILITIES, TRANSPORTATION, PARKS, AND PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 8, 2013, 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, Daniel Gebreselassie, Sarah MacAlear

Community Voting Members: Ernie Bonn, Rob Steppke, Kitty Callen (arrived 6:19)

Board member not seated: None

Also present: None

Parliamentary Items:

Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 6:11 pm

Approve January 8, 2014 Agenda. Motion: Approve Agenda Steppke/Bonn. 7-0-0

Chair’s Comments: Chair Carlson forwarded notice of a subcommittee meeting of the Historic Resources Board to discuss a future study on the color of “truncated domes” on ADA ramps in historic districts. These are expensive items that require maintenance and deteriorate quickly if not installed properly. The City is spending funding sources on this study. Chair Carlson suggested subcommittee members and the general public might wish to send comments to the City on this matter.

Approval of Previous Minutes, November 13, 2013.

Motion: Approve November 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes with the following revisions: 1) Item C under Bonn revise to read “Drainage issue was resolved by adding openings in median” and 2) Item B public comment: add Ross Lopez’ comments. Bonn/Granowitz. 5-0-2 (Steppke and Gebreselassie abstained)

Announcements & Non-Agenda Public Comment:

Links to events are listed in the agenda

- Vidales: MTS Public hearing on proposed major 2014 Service Changes, Thursday, January 16 at 9 a.m. at the 12th & Imperial Transit Center in Downtown San Diego. This hearing will cover three new rapid bus routes within the City.

Non-Agenda Public Comment:

- Granowitz: Upcoming meeting with Honorable Interim Mayor Todd Gloria to discuss neighborhood boundaries. Meeting date to be determined.
- Chair Carlson: Read email comment submitted by Ross Lopez which suggested committee members see Twiggs Bakery and Coffeehouse’s website in the Adams Avenue tab, which states “Technically

we're in University Heights, but our new neighbors are trying to get this area known as 'BeHi' or Between the Heights"

Information Items:

A. None

New Business:

A. North Park Community Plan Update – Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)

January 9th Scoping Meeting: The City has announced that a scoping meeting for the preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) will be held from 6-8 pm on January 9, 2014 at the Santa Fe Room in Balboa Park (2150 Pan American Road). The City notice stated that the proposed Community Plan Update may result in potentially significant impacts to: Land Use, Visual Quality and Neighborhood Character, Transportation/Circulation/Parking, Air Quality, Global Climate Change, Noise, Historical Resources, Biological Resources, Geologic Conditions, Paleontological Resources, Hydrology/Water Quality, Public Services, Public Utilities, and Health and Safety. These categories and any other areas of concern will be discussed.

- Granowitz gave an update on her meeting with DSD Deputy Director Nancy Bragado about the lack of proper notice for the EIR Scoping Meeting for the North Park-Uptown-Golden Hill Community Plan Update. Rob Steppke also attended the meeting. The issue of in-equity and a lack of balance between the 3 communities was raised, in that the Uptown discussion draft was more complete (had more consultant time) than the other two communities. North Park has asked for an extension of public comment period. Frustration was expressed at the fact that, after all of the work North Park did on the individual Elements, our input was not responded to with specific comments, but instead the discussion draft ended up with just “boiler plate” language from the General Plan. Ms. Bragado responded that a lot of the North Park Elements had a lot of language from the General Plan. Various Plan Elements were discussed and it was decided by Chair Granowitz and staff that there will be some very small meetings with staff and NPCPU Community Advisory Group members who did the primary work on the elements: 1) Mobility, Sustainability, and Noise (Vidales, Carlson, Hill, Steve Russell); 2) Urban Design (Blackson); 3) Historic Preservation (George Franck, Carlson, Steppke, Mike Steppner, Kristin Harms, Granowitz); 4) Recreation: Can have no consensus until equivalencies issue is resolved, so this meeting postponed while Chair Granowitz irons out the definitions with staff; 5) Public Facilities Element: Will be written by staff and the draft will be discussed by the full NPPC board; 6) Arts & Culture: a meeting will be set up with (Lynn Susholtz, Gail Goldman, Granowitz) and draft written by Suzholtz/Goldman will be presented at full board meeting; 7) Economic Development will be presented to the full board (Toni Dylan); 8) Land Use will come back to the full board after BID Collaborative feedback, so that CPOZ and other issues can be discussed.
- Chair Carlson clarified that one of the reasons the Planning Commission seemed to be under the mistaken impression that density had been reduced in North Park, is that staff had not yet completed the plan draft they were given, and that the draft did not include the proposed CPOZ zones the committee has been discussing for months. Also, it seems there may still need to be corrections to some areas where some slight density changes occurred when staff translated the old NP Plan categories to comply with the current General Plan categories and may have rounded down instead of up, or visa versa. According to NPPC input to date, density should remain the same in most areas, (especially single-family& historic areas), but with some proposed density increases along transit nodes and corridors via CPOZ zones.
- From the time they were first released, the Internet links to Discussion Drafts of the three community plans on the City's website kept changing or being moved, to the point that no-one could find them; giving rise to an issue with transparency in the release of public information.

- Questions arose as to how Uptown ended up with the most complete discussion draft presented to the Planning Commission, even though North Park board members and volunteers spent countless hours working on the Plan Elements in the reasonable expectation that such material would be included in the discussion draft.
- Don Liddell of Uptown wrote in an email that the scoping meeting should not proceed because there is no map, we don't have all the information to make intelligent decisions.

(Granowitz left at 6:50 p.m.)

- The Notice of Preparation will be the point in the process where the Community Planning Group's (CPG) concerns will be applicable. As long as the CPGs are on record with their concerns at the scoping meeting, the Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Draft EIR will have to account for the concerns and may be delayed because of them.
- We need an explanation as to how some discussion drafts were incomplete in regard to certain Elements. It is not possible to determine the impacts to the environment if the project was never completed because there may be many aspects that never had any technical studies completed.
- Subsequent to the release of the discussion drafts, Uptown Planners at least had an opportunity for a board meeting to discuss possible comments to be made at the upcoming Scoping Meeting; North Park did not have that opportunity due to the lack of notice and the timing of the scoping meeting as being prior to our board meeting date.
- On December 12, 2013, North Park held a Community Plan Update "special meeting" attended by staff, during which no mention was made by staff of the date of the upcoming Scoping meeting.
- The Program Draft EIR needs to address Cumulative Impacts due to addition of utility boxes and backflow prevention devices in the right-of-way created by increased density.

(MacAlear left at 7:25 p.m.)

B. North Park Community Plan Update – Remaining Elements & Discussion Draft: Mobility, Recreation, Public Facilities, Historic Preservation, Noise, Arts & Culture Elements. Update & Discussion.

Combined with and covered under Granowitz report & board discussion above.

C. Possible 4-way Stop Sign at the intersection of Texas St. and Landis St. Petition item.

Chair Carlson has provided residents with petition and instructions for the Alternative process, as this intersection does not qualify for an automatic stop sign under City criteria. This item will be tabled to a future meeting when the petition signatures have been gathered.

D. Head-In Parking on Nile Street between Thorn St. and Landis St. as traffic calming. Follow up to November 2013 meeting as a possible measure to avoid raising the speed limit.

The City has determined that Nile is a sufficiently wide street that it can be narrowed by implementing head-in parking or perhaps angle parking as a traffic calmer. Chair Carlson asked Adrian Granda to communicate this to residents who had communicated with the council office and will wait to hear whether they are interested in signing a petition to implement the parking change.

Ongoing Business

- A. Angle Parking Policy:** Update from Mid-City Community Parking District meeting. Engineer Joe Jimenez at the City is working with Parking District board members to create a policy to make it possible to change parking from parallel to angle without having to go to City Council.
- B. Utility Box Task Force.** New utility boxes are popping up on Park Blvd. near the University Heights Library as a result of the SANDAG rapid bus project. Was this undesirable impact disclosed/studied in the environmental document? Board members do not recall it being mentioned that the project would engender further appurtenances in the public right of way.

Unfinished, New Business & Future Agenda Items.

1) Enhanced street lighting along Juniper Street east of 30th Street: This CIP project to add street lights is not supported by residents in the area because they don't consider additional lighting necessary. One issue is that the MAD cannot support the maintenance on any more street lights.

2) North Park wood sign discussed in November meeting will be followed up with Patrick Edwards.

3) NPPC Website is currently under makeover and recent meeting minutes have not been posted in the current website.

Next Meeting date: Wednesday, February 12, 2014

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn meeting Steppke/Callen. 6-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.