



NORTH PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE

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PUBLIC FACILITIES, TRANSPORTATION, PARKS, AND PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 9, 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, Peter Hill, Sarah MacAlear (arrived 6:18)

Community Voting Members: Ernie Bonn, Rob Steppke, Kitty Callen (arrived 6:12)

Board member not seated: None

Also present: Daniel Gebreselassie, Axel Gonzalez, Ross Lopez, Adam Cook, Everett Hauser, Mark Ballam

Parliamentary Items:

Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm

Approve October 9, 2013 Agenda. Motion: Approve Agenda Granowitz/Steppke. 6-0-0

Chair's Comments: None

Approval of Previous Minutes, September 11, 2013.

Motion: Approve September 11 Meeting Minutes with the following revisions: Item A Page 3, Bonn bullet point: add "Kitty Callen" in additon to Bonn to be in opposition of the Montclair Park Comfort Station; delete Rob Steppke first bullet point; Steppke last bullet point: revise as "Support the concept to include item for further study". Granowitz/Bonn. 7-0-0

Announcements & Non-Agenda Public Comment:

Links to events are listed in the agenda

- North Park and Uptown Community Plan Update discussion drafts will be released in November

Non-Agenda Public Comment:

- None

Information Items:

A. None

New Business:

- A. UHCDC request for support:** University Heights Community Development Corporation (UHCDC) requests support for their resolution for the establishment of official boundaries for the University Heights neighborhood.

Ross Lopez requested a motion from the NPPC board to support the UHCDC's resolution as presented. The UHCDC believes an error was made during the last Community Plan update in 1986. The resolution details:

1. The history of how the error might have occurred
2. The inconsistencies with the traditional and official County of San Diego Assessors maps
3. What the correct boundaries are

Historic neighborhoods and historic districts (historic subdivisions) are usually well defined and uncontroversial. The time to correct the error would be now at the Community Plan Update. After further discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To support the University Heights Community Development Corporation's (UHCDC) resolution of October 2, 2013 regarding the establishment of Official Boundaries for the University Heights Neighborhood. Steppke/Callen 8-0-0

- B. Safe Routes to School funding increase.** Chair Carlson initiated a discussion of whether and how best North Park could take advantage of a recent 35% increase in State "Safe Routes to School" funding to implement any of our linear park/streetscape/bike route priorities, and how to apply for the grants.

The design for the long-proposed Oregon Street Linear Park, which could connect several local schools and the North Park community park in an active walkable/bikable greenway, is a possible candidate for this grant funding, if a partner could be found.

Excellent opportunity to co-venture with the North Park Community Association, similar to when the website for NPPC was co-ventured with the NPCA website through a grant from the County of San Diego.

Jefferson Elementary School should also be considered as a possible partner for a grant application. Birney Elementary would be another possibility, due to their dangerous intersection at El Cajon Blvd./Normal St./Park Blvd. However, Bernie lies outside of the NP community planning boundaries.

Ideas on how best to use the funds can be sent to Vicki Granowitz, NPPC chair

- C. Median Chokers at Madison and Utah.** Begin discussion of process for their removal as requested by surrounding residents, and of alternative traffic calming for this location

A suggestion was made to get funding from the Mid-City Parking District, however, their next budget starts in July 2014. A number of parking spaces were lost in the Mid-City Parking District due to the painting of red curbs at intersections like these, which the district would like to recapture.

Carlson emphasized the importance of having an alternative traffic calming plan in place prior to the removal of the median chokers, and suggested noticing the neighborhood for a public discussion of desired alternatives at next month's meeting.

Board is unclear as to the process required to remove the median chokers and as to the number of required signatures from neighbors and the level of hearing body needed (City Council). Carlson will check with the City.

It will be important to achieve neighborhood consensus for the replacement traffic calming measure in this location, hopefully at the same level as the support for removing the unpopular median chokers.

It was suggested that stop signs might not necessarily be the best solution for alternate traffic calming in this location, but they are faster and less expensive to install. Bulb-outs/Corner pop-outs would likely be the preferred aesthetic and pedestrian oriented solution for this location and many others throughout North Park; however they are relatively costly and are funded via the CIP waiting list.

The median chokers have proved to be quite unpopular with residents, drivers and businesses in this location. They are not aesthetically pleasing, they do not function as a pedestrian refuge because they are not ADA accessible, they remove a great deal of local parking with the required red-curbing, and vehicles are still speeding along Madison Ave. between the median chokers and the next stop sign, so they are not particularly effective.

D. Traffic Calming/Stop Sign at Madison and Mississippi. Update on progress and Discussion of traffic calming options for this location, including stop sign

Neighbors from the area came to this group requesting a stop sign with a signed petition, and the stop sign was approved by this subcommittee. However, at the full board, the item was pulled from the consent agenda by the property owner of two of the corner properties, who had not attended the subcommittee meeting and who is opposed to the stop sign. The full board tabled the item for further community discussion and follow-up, and the stop sign was not installed. There have been two accidents recently at that location since then.

This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

Ongoing Business

A. Angle Parking Policy: This item will possibly will be discussed at the Parking Advisory Meeting in October. Mid-City Rapid Bus project is likely to change/impact/remove some of the recently installed angle parking in the area around Park Blvd.

B. Utility Box Task Force. This item will go to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services (PSNS) committee next.

C. Community Plan Update. Project identified in the community plan update: Switzer Canyon traffic calming project along the bridge on 30th St. The project has been worked on for about 15 years. Removal of parking has never been an issue during those years and the loss of parking has never been brought up as an issue. Original bridge was constructed in 1908 but due to fires was removed in 1956 and replaced with a road bed over fill material crossing the canyon.

The project connects two neighborhoods. South Park Walkabout does not generate parking needs along the bridge because the adjacent local streets have plenty of parking available.

After further discussion, the following motion was made:

***MOTION: NPPC supports moving forward with a traffic calming project that promotes the use for all modes of transportation along 30th St. at Switzer Canyon with the understanding that the loss of parking along the bridge is not an issue.
Granowitz/Vidales. 8-0-0***

Unfinished, New Business & Future Agenda Items. Interim Mayor Todd Gloria announced earlier today that the Infrastructure Bond is coming in January. Adrian is the new rep for Council District 3 and he would like to find out North Park's main priorities.

Next Meeting date: Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn meeting Granowitz/MacAlear. 8-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.