



NORTH PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE

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## **PUBLIC FACILITIES, TRANSPORTATION, PARKS, AND PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE**

### **CORRECTED MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 13, 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, Omar Passons

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

**Board member not seated:** None

**Also present:** Lynn Elliott, Vincent Manno, Scott Kasperowicz, Sean Chen, Nancy Keys, Hans Wangbichler (BikeSD), Bruce Shank (BikeSD)

#### **Parliamentary Items:**

**Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm

**Approve February 13, 2013 Agenda. Motion: Approve Agenda. Hill/Granowitz. 7-0-0**

**Chair’s Comments.** None

**Approval of Previous Minutes, January 9, 2013.**

**Motion: Approve January 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes: Granowitz/Hill. 6-0-1 (Bonn abstained)**

#### **Announcements & Non-Agenda Public Comment:**

Chair Carlson announced the following

- A. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Texas St. pedestrian improvements project. The entry monument was donated by Civitas. The event will take place on Tuesday, March 12 at 9:45 a.m.
- B. Academy of Our Lady of Peace (AOLP): the City Council voted to authorize the city attorney to settle AOLP’s lawsuit against the city. Councilmembers Todd Gloria & Sheri Lightner voted against the settlement. Neighbors are shocked and devastated. Neighbors were not noticed of Council closed session until after public comment had closed.
- C. Green Cross business at University & Villa Terrace is once again open.
- D. “Polite Provisions” & “Soda & Swine” have opened on the SW corner of Adams & 30<sup>th</sup>. The adjacent liquor store is planning to move across the street to the SE corners of Adams & 30<sup>th</sup> in the 99c store location and neighbors are concerned as the new location is larger, has no parking, etc.

#### **Information Items:**

- A. **Regional Bike Corridor Project, Mid-City & Uptown:** Update  
Two SANDAG regional bike corridor projects are currently on a fast track for implementation, and holding public meetings.

**New Business:**

**A. NCPA request for Letter of Support for Summer Concerts in Bird park:** Lynn Elliot

Letters of support are needed from different community groups as part of the permitting process for the concerts. NPPC has always supported this effort in the past. Board members agreed the concerts provide a community service.

**MOTION: For the North Park Planning Committee to support the 2013 North Park Community Association Bird Park Concert series. Passons/Bonn (7-0-0)**

**B. Traffic Calming V-Calm sign proposal for 2144 Madison Ave (Westbound):** Traffic calming on Madison between Texas & Park.

City staff unable to attend meeting to present due to budget, but briefed Chair Carlson before the meeting & provided materials published with the agenda.

Chair Carlson reported that the V-Calm sign will go in front of 2145 Madison Avenue, in front of the property owned by Ms. Keys at the northwest corner of Madison Ave. & Mississippi St.

The City put together the study. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed for this area is 34 mph eastbound and 35 mph westbound. The posted speed limit is 25 mph.

Ms. Bonn has been working with the residents. Originally the City wanted to install a temporary V-Calm sign, but it was decided to get input from the community first, and therefore the above mentioned location was chosen, but the second V-Calm sign was not approved by the property owner in that location.

**Comments from the public:**

- Sean Chen: Speeding issues and pedestrian safety crossing Madison Avenue. Wanted a stop sign, will settle for a VCalm.
- Nancy Keys: (VCalm location homeowner) Originally wanted a stop sign, but there were not enough accidents in the area to qualify for a stop sign. Supports VCalm as alternative.
- Scott Kasperowicz: Do we have ability to collect and distribute data from the VCalm? Would like to see the data. Would like more red zones to prevent vehicles from blocking pedestrian ramps. Would prefer a stop sign, but supports VCalm.
- Vincent Manno: Eastbound traffic speeding through green light at Texas St. Supports VCalm, would prefer a stop sign.
- Bruce Shank: A lot of curb ramps in the North Park area have no red curbing. Supports VCalm, would prefer a stop sign.

The location in question is two blocks from Texas St. and two blocks from Florida St., so the location for a future stop sign makes sense. Two years ago there was a turnover accident. There was a recent accident two weeks ago due to confusion whether this intersection was a 4-way stop. Residents expressed belief not all accidents at this location are reported, so may not have been counted.

**MOTION: To approve a V-calm sign for 2144 Madison Avenue (westbound) between Texas & Park Blvd. and to request the City study vehicular speeds with the possibility of installing a stop sign as a preferred solution at Madison Avenue & Mississippi Street. Granowitz/Callen (8-0-0)**

**C. Proposal to replace diagonal parking with head-in parking on the west side of Alabama Street between University Avenue and Lincoln Avenue.** Net gain of 10 parking spaces

City staff unable to attend meeting to present due to budget, but briefed Chair Carlson before the meeting & provided materials published with the agenda.

The request came out of the agreement with adjacent business owners as mitigation for loss of parking due to the University Ave. & Alabama St. improvement project. There will be a total net gain of 10 parking spaces. This request does not need to go to City Council because it was previously instituted as diagonal parking.

Comments from the public:

- Hans Wangbichler: With head-in parking cars typically take wider turns to get in and may add danger to bicycles. Would like follow up from City on impacts to bicycles with these types of projects
- No comments against, general nods/voicing of agreement from public for the head-in parking.

**MOTION: To support proposal to replace diagonal parking with head-in parking on the west side of Alabama Street from University Avenue to Lincoln Avenue Hill/Bonn (8-0-0)**

**D. Plaza de Panama (PDP) Project, Balboa Park: Discussion & next steps**

Save our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) just won a CEQA lawsuit against the City, in which they asserted the city could not make the findings required for the site development permit due to requirements of the City's Municipal Code. The City was ordered to void the Balboa Park Plaza de Panama project site development permit and stop the project. NPPC voted to recommend denial of the Plaza de Panama project in 2012 due to the inability to make the necessary findings for the site development permit, the same reason on which the judge ruled in SOHO's favor.

The City Council President and the City Attorney have been quoted in the media stating that they intend to pursue amendments to the City's Municipal Code to allow the Plaza de Panama project to go forward anyway.

Also, the City made premature project-specific plan amendments to the Balboa Park Master Plan (BPMP) & Balboa Park Central Mesa Precise Plan (BPCMPP) for the Plaza de Panama project, which, since the project will not go forward, are now problematic in that they could inhibit the ability to pursue alternative projects.

Comments from seated members:

- Passons: Finds it confusing that Council President Gloria was in favor of historic preservation for the AOLP project but supported the Plaza de Panama project, which goes against historic preservation and therefore has not been consistent. The PDP Project was wrong before and is wrong now. The Municipal Code should not be amended to allow it.
- Bonn: This is an attempt to get historically designated property to City Council in order to get it undesignated due to economic hardship. The Municipal Code should not be amended. It would set a terrible precedent.
- Hill: Suggests writing a letter reiterating NPPC's consistent position on this project. Does not support Muni Code amendment
- Granowitz: Would like to ask City Council, the Mayor and City Attorney to rescind the plan amendments that were approved in July and reinstate the 1989 versions. Recounted how, at the very 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the project, compromises were suggested and rejected.
- Vidales: Explained that if the BPMP & BPCMPP are left in their currently amended status, this would open the door for other projects to slip through.

Comments from the public:

- Vincent Manno: Supports the SoHo Lewis Plan and would support the sub-committee's position on rescinding the plan amendments & opposing the Muni Code change.
- No comments against, general nods/voicing of agreement from public for the board's position.

**MOTION: To NPPC to send a resolution recommending that City council, the Mayor and the City attorney rescind the July 2012 amendments to the BPMP & BPCMPP, reinstate the 1989 BPMP & BPCMPP, in order to be consistent with NPPC's previous actions, in that the findings from the San Diego Municipal Code cannot be made to support the Plaza de Panama project. Vidales/Passons (8-0-0)**

- E. NP Community Plan Update - Mobility Element:** Presentation of work to date, discussion prior to release of first draft to City

Vice-Chair Vidales presented a draft of the Mobility Element.

The Mobility Element has seven different topics:

- Connectivity
- Transit Oriented Development
- Walkability
- Bicycling
- Transportation Demand Management
- Parking Management
- Streets and Alleys

Each of the topics contains policies and actions that are consistent with feedback from previous Community Plan Update meetings. The policies are also related to the Sustainability Element of the Community Plan and with the Sustainable North Park Main Street Implementation Plan. The Policies are tabulated in a spreadsheet that correlates with other North Park Community Plan Elements. To this date only the Mobility Element and Sustainability Element drafts have been completed and therefore only those policies are reflected in the spreadsheet.

(Granowitz left at 7:32 p.m)

Comments from the public:

- Chen: Increase width of street, what are the effects on walkability?
- Hans: Enforcement of front setbacks, would like to see a setback from the sidewalk. Would like more open space and landscaping in public spaces, especially accessing public facilities

The SANDAG North Park-Mid-City bike corridor project will be consistent with the community plan.

Comments from seated members:

- Bonn: Suggested to add safe routes to schools
- Steppke: Since the Texas St. project has been completed there has been at least a 50% increase in both pedestrian and bike activity

(Passons left at 7:40 p.m.)

General agreement the Mobility Element will be presented by Rene Vidales at the next NPPC full board meeting on February 19, 2013, and handed off to the City from there.

**Old Business**

**A. Texas Street Improvements:** Ribbon cutting ceremony information listed above. Ernie Bonn stated that the project is complete according to a recent drive-by she made.

**B. Utility Box Task Force:** No update

**Future Agenda items:**

- Bonn: University Heights Community Development Corporation (UHCDC) voted last Wednesday to send Chris Milnes (their executive director) as a possible replacement to Ernie Bonn's seat on the Parking Advisory Group.
- Hill: Would like to request placing 'Angle Parking Policy' and 'Streetcar Feasibility Study' back in the agenda in the future.

**Next Meeting date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2013

**Adjournment. Motion: To adjourn meeting Callen/Bonn. 6-0-0.** Meeting adjourned 7:54 p.m.