



NORTH PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE (NPPC)

Draft Minutes: June 21, 2022 6:30 p.m.

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I. Parliamentary Items

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Attendance Report (6:34 p.m.)

	Arash Kahvazadeh	Steve Billings	Claudia Flores	Steve Oechel	Lynn Elliott	Kate Callen	Mark Spitzer	Tyler Renner	Kenny Bedoya	Victor Torres	Marty Graham				
Attendance	X		x	X	x	X	x	X		X	x				
Late									X						
Absences		X													

Public attendees: Kumari Holmes. Jim Greene. Pat Sexton. Carmen Cooley-Graham. Brian Saull. Theresa George. Stu McGraw. John Hartley. Matthew Thompson. Vernita Gutierrez. Barbara Mitana. René Smith. Abbey Reuter. Marc Johnson. Crystal Niebla. Diego Lynch.

1. **Modifications to the NPPC Agenda:** None
2. **Minutes:** Approval of the May 17, 2022 NPPC meeting Draft Minutes.
MOTION: To approve the May Minutes. Elliot/Spitzer (9-0-0)
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Victor Torres reported he still does not have access to our bank account; he believes the balance is around \$250.

II. Non-Agenda Public Comment

-- René Smith proposed that the Jacaranda Rd. spur through Morley Park, now closed for the Pershing Bikeway construction, should remain closed. (see addendum on last page).

-- Anne Elliott urged passage of the PROTECT (Prevent Over Policing Through Equitable Community Treatment) ordinance supported by Coalition for Police Accountability and Transparency, cpatsd.org.

Announcements & Event Notices:

- 4th Annual Ice Cream Scoop Festival, Sun., June 26, North Park Mini-Park, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., benefits the Alpha Project
- Taste of Adams Avenue, Sun., June 26, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., www.tasteofadams.com
- Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting for SANDAG/Caltrans District 11's Draft South Bay to Sorrento Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan, Thurs., June 30, 10:00 a.m. cmcp@sandag.org

III. Elected Official & Planner Reports

Abbey Reuter, Hon. Nathan Fletcher, SD Board of Supervisors Dist. 3, (619) 531- 4936, Abbey.Reuter@sdcounty.ca.gov. Abbey introduced herself as the Assemblymember's new North Park rep. Her report included news of the County's \$7.15 billion budget and a new County Arts and Culture Commission (see addendum on last page).

Topher Vallejo. Toni Atkins, State Senate Dist. 39, 619-645-3133 **No Report**

Ryan Darsey, Hon. Stephen Whitburn, City Council Dist. 3, (619) 236-6633 RDarsey@sandiego.gov. Ryan reported that the new city budget has included funding for new homeless services, street resurfacing, and new shade structures for the North Park Mini-Park.

Kohta Zaiser, Hon. Todd Gloria, Mayor of San Diego, ZaiserK@sandiego.gov.

Kohta declined to participate in the informational agenda item on the Park Boulevard reconfiguration. However, he took questions during his presentation, and there was a surprise appearance by Randy Wilde, also from Mayor Gloria's staff. Kohta conceded that the City failed to communicate to residents and businesses what to expect regarding the sudden striping of bike lanes on Park Blvd and to seek input and public participation. He said plans for the bike lanes were long in the making and asserted they are written into North Park and Uptown Community Plans. Comments included:

- Marc Johnson, University Heights Community Association: A review of community plans finds no such designation for Park Blvd exists. Older plans should be re-evaluated before implementation.
- Mat Wahlstrom, Uptown Planners: Uptown Community Plan has no Class IV bike lanes for Park Blvd.
- Marty Graham: City has said many times since 2016 that it needs to do a better job communicating plans to residents and small businesses. The community wants to know when those efforts will begin.
- Kate Callen: A report has been circulating that Mayor Gloria has said community engagement around bike lane projects "wouldn't make a difference" – can we clear that up?
- Kohta: Constituent and community engagement is Mayor Gloria's top priority; our office will stay actively engaged with NPPC.

Jeffrey Ryan, Planning Department, (619)235-5221 JTRyan@sandiego.gov **No Report**

Chris Gris, Hon. Chris Ward, State Assemblymember, Christopher.gris@asm.ca.gov **No Report**

V. Action Items

1. Special Election Subcommittee Plan of Action

Election Subcommittee Chair Tyler Renner led a discussion of the plan for the July election. He made a motion that the plan be approved with four changes:

- Add an online voting option to comply with our bylaws
- Extend the candidate eligibility deadline to July 12
- Eliminate the scheduled Friday July 15 in-person voting
- Extend the Sunday July 17 in-person voting hours to 10 am–2 pm at the North Park Mini Park.

Motion passed, Renner/Elliott 9-0

VI. Information Items:

1. Park Boulevard Reconfiguration

The conversation that began during Kohta Zaiser’s Mayoral staff report continued; comments included:

- Mat and Kate: NPPC and Uptown Planners will co-host a North Park-Uptown Town Hall Forum on this project to give both communities an opportunity to voice concerns about the project’s impacts.
- Marc: The “charrette” concept (gathering of stakeholders to develop solutions) that was successful in planning future of SDUSD University Heights campus would have been useful for this project.
- John Hartley: “Back-in” parking for the reconfigured Park Boulevard is highly dangerous.
- Matt Thompson: City staff need to be more civil when they communicate with constituents.
- Pat Sexton: SDPD doesn’t take reports of accidents that don’t result in ambulance transportation.
- Carmen Cooley: Plans that were approved years ago do not reflect the new reality of densification.
- Arash Kahvazadeh: North Park’s community plan was adopted in 2016 and revised in 2021; funding for projects takes time; the City should do a survey of active projects that would address safety issues.
- Kohta: The City has a handful of interactive public maps that show projects past, present, and future.

VII. NPPC Reports

1. **Chair’s Report:** Kate reported that two items of significance will be posted on future agendas: NPPC’s organizational structure; timetable for filling empty Subcommittee and liaison posts
Ongoing discussion around community planning group (CPG) reform and proposals to: eliminate CPG waiver of appeals fees; rule termed-out board members ineligible to serve for 2 years; have a quota of designated seats for renters; have some or all seats appointed by Mayor and Council.
2. **Subcommittee Reports**
 1. Urban Design/Project Review (No Chair): **No Report**
 2. Public Facilities & Transportation (No Chair): **No Report**
3. **Liaison Reports**
 1. Balboa Park Committee. Howard Blackson absent **No Report**
 2. Maintenance Assessment District. **No Report**
 3. North Park Main Street. Steve Billings absent. **No Report**
 4. Adams Avenue Business Association. **No Report**
 5. El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Assoc. **No Report**
 6. North Park Community Association. **No Report**
 7. University Heights Community Association. **No Report**
 8. CPC: included in Chair’s Report

VIII. Future NPPC Meeting Dates & Agenda Items: Next meeting is Tuesday, July 19, 2022 –
6:30PM

IX. Adjournment

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Addenda to NPPC Draft Minutes: June 21, 2022

Written statement from René Smith:

This Committee has a remarkable opportunity to make a significant contribution to revitalize a much needed but tattered part of our park. This is some “low hanging fruit” that can be taken by keeping the Jacaranda spur to Pershing Drive closed while the Planned Mobility studies of the Framework for the Future are undertaken.

Think about the east side of the Morley Field area and the Jacaranda street spur that bisects the only major picnic area in the park, cutting off easy access to the restroom, the lawn bowling area and Bird Park. Think about having a Quinceanera there and having your 80-year-old grandparent crossing that street to take a four-year-old to the restroom. Why do we need that road hazard in our Picnic area? Truly, do we need an occasionally used race track to provide drivers 15 seconds of reduced travel time? Remember, it’s a Park road, not a City street. That unneeded spur is now closed during Pershing Drive restructuring. Let us not rush to reopen it. If Central Park in New York can close roads reflecting a growing international concern to provide more respite for city dwellers as we become increasingly densified, then why can’t we?

The 3rd initiative in the Framework deals with Mobility, ADA, parking, circulation. The Framework called for very specific analyses. This road should be part of those analyses and remain closed until the promised Initiative 3 studies are completed. Let’s not rush to reopen something that’s problematic.

Written report from Abbey Reuter:

Chair Nathan Fletcher has been fighting to ensure San Diego County’s annual budget reflects the progressive values that put people before profits, and while there has been incremental progress every year since, the new \$7.15 billion fiscal year 2022-2023 budget is “the best recommended budget” presented since he joined the Board of Supervisors. <https://www.supervisornathanfletcher.com/content/d4/en/budget.html>

- Revised Chief Administrative Officer Recommended Budget Released to Public: June 24
- Budget Deliberations and Adoption: June 28

The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Chair Fletcher and Supervisor Vargas’ board letter that will establish a 13 person arts and culture commission. For historical context, the County of San Diego had a Public Arts Advisory Council (PAAC) in the 1980s, but in 1993 amid budget cuts the Board of Supervisors eliminated the PAAC, which left the County ineligible for some state and federal arts and culture grants. This resource gap led to a decrease in funding for organizations and public art in our communities. Until today’s action, San Diego County was the largest county in California, and one of only four counties, without a dedicated regional arts agency.

In another policy that passed on June 14th, Chair Nathan Fletcher, Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer and The San Diego Foundation (TSDF) want to work with the 18 incorporated cities and other government agencies to create a Government Land Action Strategy, to identify government-owned land to build 10,000 affordable homes over the next three to-five years. TSDF is also pledging \$10 million to help projects built on government land get started and will pursue raising another \$90 million to support the initiative.