



UPTOWN PLANNERS

Uptown Community Planning Group

October 5, 2010

Meeting Minutes

Meeting held at the Alice Birney Elementary School Auditorium.

Present: Towne, Grinchuk, Lamb, Mellos, Dahl, Wilson (Chair), Bonn, Wendorf, Edwards, Adler, Bonner, Liddell, Seidel, Gatzke, Jaworski; Absent: Hyde, O'Dea

Board Meeting: Parliamentary Items/ Reports

Approval of Agenda:

The following action items were moved to the consent agenda:

Action Item VI 3: 1751 UNIVERSITY AVENUE ("T-MOBILE CASA GRANDE NUP)

Action Item VI 1. COLUMBIA STREET ("COLUMBIA HEIGHTS SPRING CLEARWIRE")

Action Item VI 3: 836 WEST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE CUP ("CLEARWIRE – PENNSYLVANIA")

Action Item VII 1: LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST – 23RD ANNUAL WALK TO CURE DIABETES

Bonn moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion passed by voice vote.

Approval of August 2010 Minutes

Mellos moved to approve August minutes. Motion passed by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Dahl reported a balance of \$489.36 in the Uptown Planners bank account.

Website Report: No report.

Chair/CPC Report:

Chair Wilson reported the issues that would be coming to the Community Chairs Committee (CPC) in the next several months included: (1.) City Council's Recommendations concerning

regulations for medical marijuana dispensaries; (2.) Proposed regulations regarding new sustainable development incentives, and incentives for new affordable housing; and (3.) revisions to the City's Land Development Code.

Wilson noted the CPC narrowly voted against a proposed ordinance to regulate large supercenters over 90,000 sq. ft. in size, which sold both taxable and non-taxable items at one location.

Uptown Planners would hear as an action item in November 2010 or December 2010 a proposal to place a bicycle lane along India Street through the Five Points/ Middletown community of Uptown. It would require the narrowing of traffic lanes and removal of parking spaces.

Wilson also indicated the North Park Planning Group had voted to oppose the both the El Cajon Boulevard and Park Boulevard sections of the Mid-City Rapid Bus Project.

Public Communications – Non-Agenda Public Comment

Joyce Summers provided an update of happenings at the CCDC.

John Hartley spoke on behalf of an initiative named "Neighborhoods for Clean Elections" which seeks to establish a system of public financing for candidates seeking political office.

Representatives of Public Officials

Congresswoman Susan Davis spoke about issues facing Congress, including health care and debt-related matters. After speaking, the Congresswoman stayed a considerable time observing the board's discussion of the matters on its agenda.

Courtney Thomson gave an update regarding the activities of City Councilmember Todd Gloria.

Consent Agenda

Seidel made a motion to approve the four projects on the consent agenda, which was seconded by Mellos. The motion passed by a 14-0-1 vote (non-voting chair abstaining). The four projects approved on consent agenda were

1751 UNIVERSITY AVENUE ("T-MOBILE CASA GRANDE NUP") – Completeness Review for WCF – Hillcrest – Re-permit for an existing telecom facility. SD06412A – Casa Grande, 1751 University Avenue.

COLUMBIA STREET ("COLUMBIA HEIGHTS SPRING CLEARWIRE") – Five Points – Process Four/ Completeness Review. Installation of one indoor radio shack mounted in existing Sprint/Nextel equipment shelter located at the parking level; three antenna sectors mounted on the roof of an existing building; installation of a new ops antenna.

836 WEST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE CUP ("CLEARWIRE – PENNSYLVANIA")
-- Hillcrest – Process Four – Conditional Use Permit Process 4 for a Wireless Communications Facility consisting of the installation of six (6) panel antennas and three (3)

directional antennas concealed inside one rooftop enclosed screen walls. A total of eight (8) antennas will be located in the north west portion of the building. The remaining four (4) antennas will be located inside the south portion of the building. The associated equipment shall be located inside an existing alcove within the courtyard. MCCPD-MR-1000/ Part 77 FAA

LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST – 23RD ANNUAL WALK TO CURE DIABETES
–Special Event – Bankers Hill/Park West -- Event will take place on November 13, 2010 on the east sidewalk of Sixth Avenue between Laurel Street and Upas Street; one northbound lane of Sixth Avenue will be closed until approximately 10:00 a.m.

Action Item: Planning

Action Item: Planning: (7:00 p.m.)

MID-CITY RAPID BUS PROJECT: PARK BOULEVARD BETWEEN EL CAJON BOULEVARD AND UNIVERSITY AVENUE—University Heights/ Hillcrest – Proposal to place dedicated bus lanes and new bus rapid transit stations in the middle of Park Boulevard; will result in loss of 35 parking spaces at three locations where diagonal parking will be converted to parallel parking along Park Boulevard. An additional 23 spaces will be provided along side streets with placement of new diagonal parking, and removal of one bus stop.

Miriam Kirshner made the presentation on behalf of SANDAG, and answered questions from the audience and board.

Rob Steppke, the chair of the Greater North Park Planning Group, provided the reasons that planning group recommended against the project.

Greg Sorini, the President of the University Heights Community Association, stated his organization’s board had voted to oppose the Mid-City Rapid Bus Project, because of the loss of parking and removal of bus stops serving University Heights, which would negatively impact senior citizens and those with disabilities.

Bob Grinchuk, a board member of the Hillcrest Business Association, stated the board of his organization had voted to oppose the project because of the loss of parking for businesses along Park Blvd.

Public comment was also made by business owner Jim Cooley, Barbara Coughlin, Frank Fairbanks, Richard Rachel, business owner Todd Bradley, Barbara Palmer, Peter St. Claire, Rene Vidales, Gary Weber, Bette Cohen, Steve Russell, Doug Scott, Christian Chaffee, Patrick Jelsema and Ann Wilson, among other speakers. A petition with approximately 200 signatures was presented to the board opposing the Park Boulevard portion of the project.

After public comment, the board discussed the project at length, each board member making comments, after which the following two motions were passed:

Motion One:

Motion by Towne, second by Seidel, to oppose the section of the Mid-City Rapid Bus proposed along Park Boulevard between El Cajon Boulevard and University Avenue. This section of the proposed project incorporated an approximately three block area of dedicated bus lanes in the center medium of Park Boulevard.

Specific findings made by Uptown Planners in adopting the motion were:

Opposition to the removal of parking along Park Boulevard, which will have a negative impact on both businesses and residents along that street. Uptown Planners noted, and incorporated by reference, the votes in opposition to the Park Boulevard section of the project by the executive boards of both the Hillcrest Business Association and University Heights Community Association, each of which has members who reside or have businesses along Park Boulevard;

Opposition to the closure of Polk Street at the intersection with Park Boulevard as proposed in the project, because it will have an adverse impact upon traffic flow and vehicular circulation in Uptown, as well as adjacent areas of North Park;

Opposition to the placement of bus stations, and access points to buses, in the middle of Park Boulevard as a result of the dedicated bus lanes. This will result in a threat to pedestrian safety, particular in an area with a large population of senior citizens.

The board voted 12-2-1 in favor of the motion: Towne, Grinchuk, Lamb, Mellos, Bonn, Wendorf, Edwards, Adler, Bonner, Liddell, Seidel, Jaworski voted in favor. Gatzke and Dahl voted against; Non-voting chair abstained.

Motion Two:

Motion by Jaworski, second by Bonn, to oppose the entire Mid-City Rapid Bus proposal; and instead support an alternate form of mass transit should be used for the route in question – such as a streetcar, which would travel in an existing traffic lane.

The board voted 8-6-1 in favor of the motion: Grinchuk, Lamb, Mellos, Bonn, Wendorf, Adler, Liddell, Jaworski voted in favor; Towne, Dahl, Edwards, Seidel, Bonner and Gatzke voted against. Non-voting chair abstained. Several members who voted against the motion indicated they did not want to make a recommendation for an area outside of the boundaries of Uptown Planners.

Information Items: Planning – Balboa Park

BALBOA PARK PLAZA PROJECT PROPOSAL (“PLAZA DE PANAMA”) – Balboa Park – Informational presentation regarding the concept design for proposal by Irwin Jacob to return pedestrian uses to the Plaza de Panama, West El Prado Promenade and the Organ Pavilion Esplanade. Will include a 67,000 to 154,000 sq. ft. parking structure with rooftop park, which would result in a net gain of 250 parking spaces in the central portion of Balboa Park. El Prado Way/ Laurel Street will be rerouted of traffic south of the Plaza area, over a new bridge approximately 265 feet in length, and 30 feet wide; one alternative being discussed would limit these streets to only eastbound traffic.

Presentation by representatives of architect Mark Johnson on behalf of the project applicant of the proposed Plaza De Panama project. A power point presentation was made, explaining the details of the improvements that were part of the project. David Marshall was also present to discuss impacts of the project on the historic resources of Balboa Park.

Public comment was made by Marty Rosen, of CALTRANS, Jim Gates, Ron Buckley, Doug Scott, Ian Epley, Mark Bjei, David Strickland, and Patrick Jelsema. The board then made comments. In general, the comments about the general concept of the Plaza de Panama project were favorable. Many speakers felt pedestrian and alternate transportation improvements should receive more emphasis.

LAUREL/ EL PRADO STREET OVERCROSSING (“CABRILLO BRIDGE REHAB/RETROFIT PROJECT”) – Balboa Park – Informational presentation about the joint City of San Diego and Caltrans project to rehabilitate the Cabrillo Bridge along Laurel Street over State Route 163. Project will rehabilitate external concrete surface; install new steel doors in columns; retrofit internal column section by adding shortcreted shear walls for additional thickness. Accent lights will be added to exterior footings. Electrical services lines will be rerouted; existing pavement at some locations will be removed and replaced, and deck drainage improved.

Presentation made by Luis Melendez of CALTRANS. Project costs will be approximately \$32 million dollars, the money for which was coming from state funding sources. One controversial issue was the placing of accent lighting along the bridge – some historic preservationists opposed it. There was a consensus both of the board and members of the public present at the meeting that accent lighting should be included in the project.

Action Item: -- Misc.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL RE: MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES: On September 12, 2010 the City Council adopted, by a vote of 6-1, the recommendations of the Land Use & Housing Committee regarding medical marijuana dispensaries; requires a conditional use permit (Process 4); proof of non-profit status; and a 1,000 foot distance from other dispensaries, parks, places of worship, and schools. Existing dispensaries must comply with rules to remain open.

Chair Wilson indicated that the City Council had adopted recommendations regarding the regulation of medical marijuana dispensaries, and was seeking input from the City’s community planning groups about the draft ordinance. The CPC would be discussing the item at its October meeting.

Public Facilities Subcommittee chair Lamb stated he felt the proposed ordinance was too restrictive, particularly in its limitations on the location of dispensaries.

Motion by Gatzke, second by Liddell, to reaffirm the previous Uptown Planners recommendations regarding regulation of medical marijuana dispensaries. The motion passed 8-1-1; Lamb, Seidel, Dahl, Bonn, Jaworski, Edwards, Bonner, Liddell in favor; Mellos against. Non-voting chair

abstaining.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

These minutes respectfully submitted by board secretary Andrew Towne