

FINAL

APPROVED December 5, 2023

MINUTES from Uptown Planners Board Meeting on November 7th, 2023.

Board Member Attendees:

Mary McKenzie, Matt Brown, Mat Wahlstrom, Stu McGraw, Susan White, Patty Ducey-Brooks, Don Liddell, Jim Walsh, Juli Hyde, Mary Brown, Troy Weber, Lu Rehling

Public Comment:

- Tom asked for a consent agenda to be taken off as it needs more time.
- Lu requested to put Plan Hillcrest agenda item after Autism Race presenter and CPG recognition application.
- Chair moved the above to #3 on the Agenda Action Items
- No other agenda amendments

Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 5th, 2023

- Meeting mins, 9/5 - no Change
- Both mins approved
- Lu abstained because she was not present for that meeting.

Approval of Minutes from Special Meeting on Requirements for (Re-) Applying for Recognition as the Official Community Planning Group

- Changes required for Minutes from 10/19:
 - Add date to final minutes.
 - Add page numbers to final minutes.
 - Page 2, near the bottom:
 - Document states: *"I asked for clarification as to whether appointed members being forbidden."*
 - "I" needs to be changed to *"Mat Wahlstrom."*
 - Page 3, very last line needs *"committee"* added and should read as follows:
 - *"Amend language to 5.2.6 to remove plurality to allow election **COMMITTEE** to determine..."*
 - Sec III: Adjournment time to be updated to: **9:00pm**
- Abstain - Mary, Jim, Matt Brown, and Troy for not being present.

Treasurer's Report:

- Balance as of 11/7/23 is: \$33.95.

Balboa Park Committee Report:

- Mary McKenzie was notified from the City that she was appointed
- Mary is waiting to find the individual in charge that would swear her in
- Mary M. gave an update on a potential plan for the municipal gym.
- Jim Walsh requested Mary share presentation.
- Mary to get information from Balboa Park committee and report back in December Uptown Planners meeting.

Airport Noise Advisory Committee Report:

- Chris Cole not in attendance – no update.

Chairs Report: Bylaws amendment being route to City Attorney for Review

- CPC sub meeting - topic was how to file complaints.
- Lu, who attended the meeting, shared the below:
 - DIF fees - city may have not done properly, grand jury said might get clawed back to orig. community.
 - City now will use DIF fees in different neighborhoods than where developers built in
 - CPG should be influential on capital improvement decisions.
 - City plans on doing more public surveys to get community opinion on where DIF money should be spent.
 - Juli asked if any issue with developers not paying, Lu said they all paid to her knowledge.
 - DIF can be used parks, fire, transport, library.
- Stu encouraged folks to attend.

Appointment of new ad hoc election committee and chair:

- Thanks to Mary M. for her work on multiple previous election committees.
- Stu asked for a sitting board member to volunteer.
- Jim Walsh volunteered, Stu.
- Lu made motion; Juli seconded.
- Unanimous vote, minus Jim who abstained.
- Juli and Susan volunteered to be on committee.

Committee changes:

- Mary M asked if Plan Hillcrest had enough people on it, will hop on
- Lu stated that Plan Hillcrest was not just Hillcrest, but all Uptown.
- Mary M asked what committees needed folks.
- Role changes: Mary M to step down as Secretary, Stu appoints Troy Weber

Before Public Comment:

- Mat W. Asked if CPC representation needed discussion.
- Lu talked through process.
- Lu thinks Alternate/s needed.
- Stu appointed Mat W. To be Representative, and Lu to be Alternate for voting.
- Lu to find forms needed to add Alternate and Representative, Stu to process.

Public comment

- Larry Carr - volunteer for power SD
 - Certified Engineer in CA, University Heights resident
 - Leading Volunteer Group, Power San Diego, that is looking to replace SDG&E.
 - Stated 25% of San Diegans are behind \$600+ on utility bills.
 - Stated CSAT for SDG&E is some of lowest in US.
 - Putting ballot measure in 2024 to let citizens to vote to fire SDGE and replace with public.
 - Need 80,000 votes to be put on ballot in 2024.
 - website and contact info left with Chair.
- Tom -
 - Draft plan has is issued on Plan Hillcrest.

- Urging Board to join meetings.
- Second Item was an FYI for the Community: Three people passed away: Leo Wilson passed away; memorial being arranged for last half of January. Carolyn Owen-Towle passed away; Howard Wayne passed away memorial for him.
- Mat W. Added on Howard's tenure and meaningfulness to community.

Board comment:

- Juli asked: Who is looking at cumulative impact of all development going on. Complete communities allow developers do what they want without CPG groups. Need impact on entire community.
- Mat W. commented he has historical context on this topic if anyone was interested offline.
- Patty gave opinion on same topic as Juli. Housing crisis is inflated and should be paused.
- Patty stated she though it was time for the City to analyze greater impact of developments

Logan Braydis from Councilman Stephen Whitburn's office:

- Logan gave updates on District 3:
 - "O" Lot safe sleeping site opened two weeks ago with 400 tents, 74 ppl there now, scaling slowly for sustainability.
 - Vermont St. bridge - fire caused by unsheltered ind. City crew repaired lighting and back up and running.
 - Plan Hillcrest Amendment - it is first draft, keep providing comments.
- Public questions for Logan:
 - Sol Schumer stated the City repaired some lights on Vermont bridge, need to fix others
- Board comment: Jim asked if Councilman Whitburn was planning to join Plan Hillcrest meeting?
- Logan answered he was not sure, but Planning Department can relay it.
- Jim stated he would like Councilman Whitburn in attendance so he can hear it direct from the community and not filtered through a third-party department.
- Patty echoed that Whitburn should come to Uptown meeting, frustrated the Uptown Board can't meet council member.
- Juli asked about safe sleeping and what parameters are being used to measure success?
- Logan responded that the decrease in homelessness downtown by 30% roughly from SD Downtown partnership, no other specific numbers used, but has heard anecdotal stories of people getting help, and more people wanting to go in than Safe Sleeping Lots can hold today which is a good sign.
- Susan asked where does food come from for the safe sleeping lots?
- Logan believes it comes from providers.
- Mat W. stated that the web form was down for submitting comments on using 3rd party legal counsel for election audit and that needed to be addresses.
- Logan stated there was a vote on 3rd party legal counsel being allowed, vote won 5-3 to be on ballot, Whitburn didn't vote. Logan urged folks to watch the recording.

Information items:

- **Outreach on Digital Customer Experience Strategy:**
 - Alex Hempton presented.
 - How city provides services with more technology

- PDF included in Uptown Agenda for 11/7/23 meeting.
 - Requested feedback on 1st draft from Board and public.
 - Public comment from Sol: Sol stated he has unsuccessfully tried to provide feedback, can't search if items have been reported, can't flag report that has been there for a while and suggested to have time box on it when something gets old it gets prioritized.
 - Alex stated SLAs have been added, targeting "after photos."
 - Board comments: Patty stated there seemed to be a Quality Control disconnect.
 - Mat W. asked why this/why now in terms of outreach to the public?
 - Alex responded that the City strategy is trying to outline investment and tech behind the scenes so public knows and how to connect. Alex also stated that Online support is more cost effective vs. phone call and trying to educate the public. Also stated this was in part related to audit report.
 - Mat W. asked when the Deloitte contract ends?
 - Alex responded that the current contract goes through July 2025.
 - Lu - can you share email?
 - Alex to share email with Chair.
- **4100 Normal Street Master Site Planning:**
 - San Diego Unified School District meeting tomorrow at auditorium at 4100 - stop by if able.
 - **County Tobacco Waste:**
 - Zoom meeting 11/14/23 - register in advance.
 - **County Draft on Integrated Vector Management:**
 - Public comment period ends 11/20
 - Mat asked for clarification on what this topic was related to.
 - Lu said mainly pest management/pesticides and urged board/public to attend if able.
 - Patty commented San Diego has a large agricultural culture and this is important; also urged Board/public to attend meetings if able.
 - **Ibis Street Asphalt Overlay Construction Project:**
 - Contact Jose Lopez with questions.
 - City requested Stu share during meeting.

Action Items:

- **Race for Autism:**
 - Sharon Leon - Executive Director of National Foundation for Autism Research (NFAR) presented and is seeking letter of support from Board.
 - 20th anniversary race, race is 4/6/24.
- Fam friendly
- Attach included in Uptown Planners Agenda for 11/7/23 meeting/
- Mat congratulated NFAR on 20yrs, happy to write letter of recommendation, made motion to approve, seconded by Mary M.
- Board vote = Approved unanimously

CPG Recognition Application

- Lu informed the board that she requested a more accurate map for exhibit. Marlon said yes, but still on its way.
- Meeting minutes section on pg. 14, sec 6.10 provides a detailed list of what needs to be included in meeting minutes.
- Lu stated that that Page 5 the document includes language around maximum time of service. Terms and Conditions appears to be back to 1 year off between terms. Lu communicated that she asked Marlon if Uptown Board could ask him to review one more time before final submission of application.
- Lu - 600-24 says elected and appointed but doesn't say if min. # of elected officials is required or what portion needs to be elected vs. appointed.
- Lu asked if Uptown Board could move to accept if amended with one more approval from the city.
- No public comment on Application process
- Mary M. comment: 3.3 collection of membership data - days UP shall gather, then says voluntary.
- Lu responded that "must" is correct language on page 5 and done anonymously, and that member data is mandatory when applying, voluntarily after application.
- Mary M. Asked if 2yr terms were approved.
- Mary M. stated in Section 4.2.2; attendance requirements - should this have language speaking to health concerns related to attendance requirements.
- Lu stated current bylaws state if missing 4 regular Board meetings between April/March or 3 in a row you are disqualified.
- Mary suggested chair could have discretion based on medical reason and that should be added.
- Lu stated Board should include this, but it would still need to be approved by City.
- Mat echoed supporting the health amendment as Uptown goal is to increase support from the community.
- Jim stated he does not think Special Board meetings should be included in Attendance requirements.
- Lu suggested Special Board meetings should be included in attendance requirements to encourage quorum for Special Meetings
- Mary moves her language to motion: "*Absences due to health reasons may be excused at the discretion of the Chair*" to be added to last sentence of 4.2.2
- Jim W. seconds
- Board vote: Unanimously voted in favor of adding language to section 4.2.2
- Jim motion to amend sec. 4.2.2 to delete "including special board meetings" from language.
- Don Liddell 2nd
- Vote:
 - Yes: Mary M., Matt Brown, Mat Wahlstrom, Susan White, Patty Ducey-Brooks, Don Liddle, Jim Walsh, Juli Hyde, Mary Brown, Troy Weber,
 - No: Lu
- Lu stated for Sec 4.1 regarding terms of service; she thinks a lot of evidence has shown 20 members would be better since Uptown Planners rarely has all board members in attendance and more board members make it easier to get quorum.
- Lu stated that a 2yr term is more advantageous for recruiting new members.
- Mat W. Makes motion: "*Uptown planners shall have a maximum of 15 voting members*", Patty seconds.

- Lu stated she believes a maximum of 20 is better because more people in pool would lead to have a better opportunity to have a quorum.
- Patty commented from her experience, it's hard to manage anything over 15.
- Jim suggested 18 members maximum as a friendly amendment.
- Mat W. agrees it is unmanageable.
- Mary M thinks 20 is too many.
- Friendly amendment from Mary M. to keep maximum board membership at 17.
- Mat W. wants to move to 15 due to difficulties finding people willing to run.
- Motion from Mat W. "Amend first part of first sentence to be a maximum of 15 voting members" 2nd by Patty.
- Patty, Don, Mary B, Troy, Juli, Susan, Mat W, Matt B, Mary M
- No = Lu and Jim Walsh
- Mat W. Makes motion to keep term at 4 years in 4.1, rest remain unchanged.
- 2nd by Susan White
- Lu commented you are not electing whole board at once so changing to 2-year term would not be an issue and most important priority should be recruiting and diversity.
- Mary M. offers friendly amendment to adjust term to 3-year term.
- Mat declines Mary M's friendly amendment.
- Mary withdraws friendly amendment due to maximum service time being 8 years.
- Vote: yes = Patty, Mary B., Juli, Susan, Mat W., Matt B, Mary M.
- No = Don, Troy, Lu, Jim
 - Vote passes to keep term at 4 years.
- Jim: "Motion to amend these operating procedures for Uptown Planners as they have been amended here this evening pending city approval"
- 2nd = Don L.
- Vote = unanimously in favor.

- Lu: Additional Documents provided as attachments to Agenda.
- Patty motions to approve documents as-is.
- Juli = 2nd
- Vote = unanimously approves

Plan Hillcrest Committee Recommendation:

- Stu stated that now that a draft has been received, more time is needed to understand how these impact Uptown Planners, if we do not receive time, we have no choice but to draft, per the draft email from Stu.
- Mat makes motion to approve as written.
- 2nd by Susan
- Public comment from Tom: asked Lu for due date.
- Lu said 11/17 is due date and asked Chair to speak to Whitburn about it.
- Board comment - Mat W. said supplemental development regulations are needed so what is proposed is being followed, while asking CPG to approve with no guidelines.
- Ask of Logan is to get additional information from Whitburn on this.
- Lu requests to vote on motion of more time needed for Plan Hillcrest Committee
- Vote = unanimously in favor.

- Proposed resolution for Uptown Planners:
 - Mat makes motion to approve as written.

- 2nd by Patty
- Public Comment from Tom: paragraph “simplest method” on handout provided needs to be added as this implies a further election could be held and nothing changed.
- Mat W. Disagrees with public comment.
- Lu - does not think this helps or is needed.
- Mary M. Suggests friendly amendment to end of 3rd paragraph *“Elections are the heart and soul of a functioning democracy. They give voice to the people. CPGs are meant to be that lice and their members need to be elected.”*
- Lu does not think this belongs in the Bylaws language.
- Troy states this language should not be included in the Bylaws language.
- Mat W. Accepts the friendly amendment.
- Don states it is not helpful and diminishes credibility and a legal document should not include this language.
- Vote with friendly:
 - Yes = Jim and Mary M.
 - No: Mat Brown, Mat Wahlstrom, Susan White, Patty Ducey-Brooks, Don Liddle, Juli Hyde, Mary Brown, Troy Weber, Lu Rehling
- Mat W makes motion to approve letter with no amendments.
- Vote = unanimously approved.

Historical Resources:

- Lu - HRB is going to decide on how to respond to recommendations time to form opinion.
- Lu urges to send this to historical research committee to review.
- Motion to extend 5min from Lu.
- 2nd = Patty.
- Vote = unanimously in favor.

- Motion = HRC meet to make recommendation to Uptown Board.
- 2nd Don
- Vote = unanimously in favor.

- Stu reviewed action items.
 - Design review meeting tentative for 11/18
 - Plan Hillcrest ad hoc 11/9
 - Next UP meeting 12/5

Adjournment = 9:03pm