

Community Planners Committee

Planning Department • City of San Diego
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CPC DRAFT MINUTES FOR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karina Velazquez, Chollas Valley (CHV)	Jim Baross, Normal Heights (NH)
Russ Connelly, City Heights (CH)	Matt Stucky, North Park (NP)
Barry Schultz, Carmel Valley (CV)	Andrea Schlageter, Ocean Beach (OB)
Naveen Waney, Clairemont (CLMT)	Mark Freed, Otay Mesa (OM)
Jose Reynoso, College Area (COL)	Jason Legros, Pacific Beach (PB)
Bill Orabone, Downtown (DWNTN)	Korla Eaquinta, Peninsula (PEN)
Linda Godoy, Eastern (EAS)	Vickie Touchstone, Rancho Bernardo (RB)
Kathy Vandenhueval, Golden Hill (GH)	Randy Steffler, Rancho Penasquitos (RP)
Deborah Sharpe, Ken/Tal (KT)	Marc Lindshield, San Pasqual/Lake Hodges (SP/LH)
Matt Mangano, La Jolla (LJ)	Wally Wulfeck, Scripps Ranch (SR)
Howard Wayne, Linda Vista, (LV)	Myron Taylor, Southeastern (SE)
Dike Anyiwo, Midway (MW)	Emily Whittemore, Tierrasanta, (TIRSN)
Jeff Stevens, Mira Mesa (MM)	Eduardo Savigliano, Torrey Pines (TP)
Michelle Shon, Miramar Rnch. N. (MRN)	Chris Nielsen, University (UN)
Debbie Watkins, Mission Beach, (MB)	
Michele Addington, Mission Valley (MV)	

VOTING INELIGIBILITY/RECUSALS: Barrio Logan, Carmel Valley, Chollas Valley, Clairemont, Del Mar Mesa, Kearny Mesa, Miramar Ranch North, Navajo, Otay Mesa, Otay Mesa Nestor, San Ysidro, Skyline/Paradise Hills, Torrey Hills

Guests: Sandra Wetzel-Smith, Randy Wilde, Kelley McCormick, David Moty, Rene Smith,

City Staff/Representatives: Tony Kempton, Vickie White, and Tait Galloway.

NOTE: *The sign-in sheets provided at the entrance to the meeting are used to list CPC Representatives, guest speakers, and staff present at the meeting.*

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:

Chair Wally Wulfeck called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Roll Call: CHV, CH, CV, COL, CLMT, DWNTN, EAS, GH, KT, LJ, LV, MM, MW, MB, MRN, MV, NH, NP, OB, OM, PEN, PB, RB, RP, SE, SP/LH, SR, TIRSN, TP, UN.

2. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:

3. MAYOR TODD GLORIA (information item)

Mayor Gloria discussed the priorities related to COVID, including school reopenings, vaccinations, all grades to reopen by April 12, 2021 in hybrid format. Gloria discussed the budget impacted by reduced revenues from business closures due to COVID, etc. The City will have an \$84 million budget deficit for 2021 plus \$150 million projected for next fiscal year. Gloria said a federal stimulus is \$350 billion has been targeted for local and state governments., of which San Diego expects \$230 million, with the governor's signature in March, 2021. Gloria pledged transparency in his administration. Gloria was elected vice chair of SANDAG and will seek to exert influence on transportation for the City, be it trolley or bike lanes. He is also focused on problems related to homelessness in San Diego. Gloria said too much of the homeless response is police related and wants more social work intervention. Gloria has made homelessness the number one issue for his administration and advocated for more housing to address the issue.

Board Comment:

Comment focused on state bills that took local land use control away from local municipalities. Gloria said other cities need to help by building more housing and San Diego can't bear the whole burden of providing more housing. It was noted how the CPC opposed most of the housing bills proposed in 2020. An issue was raised regarding how to resolve the structural deficit presented by COVID, to which Gloria responded that plummeting revenues have to be reversed and will require ballot measures and political will to deal with effectively. But he was optimistic that some things can get accomplished that would not reflect additional cost such as policy changes required for policing reform. The 30% cap on short-term vacation rentals in Mission Beach was mentioned as not equitable. Gloria said his administration will revisit the vacation rental cap of 30% in Mission Beach to see how well it has worked and pledged that enforcement will be a priority and that violators will not be allowed to renew permits. In response to an issue raised about a needed business plan for public power, Gloria said San Diego Power is the route to 100% renewable energy.

4. Non-agenda comment

- MTS is launching a small business shopping agenda to help get shoppers to retailers.
- Lax regulations for marijuana outlets were cited as having a negative impact on communities. Longer distances were advocated between marijuana facilities and churches, schools, etc.
- CPG's with fewer or equal candidates to vacancies can be appointed without an election.
- A proposal to give opponents access to Powerpoint at council meetings was

urged in order to enhance equity.

5. **Approval of minutes**, with modifications; 11-02-21, 11-24-21, 01-26-21
6. **Roll & Approval of minutes:** Ayes: CV, CHV, CH, CLMT, COL, DWNTN, GH, KT, LJ, LV, MW, MM, MRN, MB, MV, NP, OB, OM, PB, PEN, RB, RP, SP/LH, SR, SE, TIRSN, UN,
7. **MODIFICATIONS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**
Approved without modification.
8. **ELECTRICITY AND GAS SUPPLY FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS (Information Item)** - 45 min. (Sonja Robinson, Public Power San Diego) The City of San Diego is holding Electricity and Gas supply Franchise Agreements Public meetings this month. Ms. Robinson presented details on an option for San Diego as a community-owned-utility aka public power, particularly in an era of global transition. This included the drivers and impacts for energy equity, additional revenue for the City and meeting our City's and County climate action goals of reducing emissions and generating renewable clean energy. SDG&E customers pay the highest rates for electricity in the state. Ratepayers are actually paying the rent, or franchise fee for SDG&E to operate. Clean energy has climate and health advantages over non-renewable sources. Investor-owned energy has resulted in high costs for consumers and negative impacts to climate. Public-owned energy can provide customers with the lowest possible rates and have positive climate impacts. With more people at home more energy is being used. The next phase is to develop a business plan for public power. Sonja urged people to call their councilmembers to demand lower rates and attend a townhall/franchise forum to provide their input for a business plan. Mark Ellis (Public Power San Diego) continued the discussion. A 100-year old regulatory model still followed has really served to protect utilities from competition. Profits are determined by a panel of government appointees, which tend to approve excess profits for utilities. The franchise agreement represents an opportunity for change but SDG&E would likely oppose a change. A public-owned model could reduce costs mainly by financing the profits through the cost of debt, instead of Public Utility Commission regulations, which would result in a 30% reduction in rates. Bill Powers (Public Power San Diego) reiterated the once-in-a generation opportunity that the upcoming 50-year franchise agreement represents. One year ago a consultant study recommended public power. Powers worked on a ballot measure extending the 50-year franchise agreement for 4 and one-half months. The current SDG&E bid for the franchise agreement does not conform with the request for proposals. June 1, 2021 is the deadline and would need to be extended to get a proposal that conforms.

Board Comment:

Chair said the franchise agreement presentation did not address rates or clean energy. It was suggested that the City could buy up all the Sempra stock. Concerns were expressed that the functionality of the electric grid would remain whoever takes over the distribution. Presenters responded that public power providers experienced no disruption in service during the last blackouts. Presenters suggested that any agreement reached would include a clause that would allow the City to cancel at any time.

- 9. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (Information Item)** – 45 min. (Vickie White, City of San Diego Planning Department) introduced a new Planning Department project to update the environmental justice policies in the City's General Plan and create a new Environmental Justice Element within the General Plan. SB1000 required jurisdictions in the state to update their General Plans to include a new Environmental Justice element. The new element will address health risks in disadvantaged communities by decreasing pollution exposure, increasing infrastructure and health. Low-income communities would be candidates for inclusion. Environmental justice pertains to fair treatment of all peoples and seeks to assist them in living pollution-free lives, access to health food and homes, access to physical activity, promotion of civic engagement. A draft element is scheduled for the end of 2022. Identification of focus areas is one of the first steps, along with surveys in several languages for input on top community priorities. White is currently interviewing stakeholder organizations, presenting information to community groups and will be looking at policies to address in the General Plan to address the goals for the element. White encouraged the membership to spread the word about the effort in order to receive more input from social, church groups, etc. about the project. A webpage connects to a survey and there is an email list. White said she could email her presentation to Wally to forward to the CPC members.

Board Comment/Concern:

Outreach tools, including Cal EnviroScreen which is used to identify the geographic areas involved was of interest.

Airport noise was an issue with locating affordable housing in the flight path. Staff responded that a regulatory framework is in place that addresses this.

Interest in actionable items resulting from the new element was expressed. Staff responded that recommendations for infrastructure, regional transportation and low emission vehicles were cited as possible items that would come out of the project. White said there will be coordination with the County of San Diego and SANDAG. Concerns expressed over marijuana facilities having detrimental impacts on underserved communities and community members concerns are often overlooked by the City in a rush to grant permits and generate revenue.

10. REPORTS TO CPC:

- Staff Report- Tait Galloway asked CPGs to provide information to Planning Dept. on upcoming elections with agenda information. San Diego County has issued COVID guidance on elections. Galloway said he will update CPC in an upcoming meeting on streamlining the CPG agenda process. The roster updating process will be updated also.
- Subcommittee Reports- None
- Chair's Report – Chair said that polling places in Scripps Ranch will be manned in order to establish eligibility. Outreach on candidates for planning groups can be obtained through civic organizations, social media, flyers, mailing lists, etc. Chair reminded members to send new members in to SDPlanningGroups and City staff to update the CPC member list. Chair reminded members that DSD now has a new electronic notification process. State legislature is introducing a new round of bills relating to housing and land use, some reintroduced from last year.
- CPC Member Comments – None

ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT REGULAR MEETING: MARCH 23, 2010:

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Wally Wulfeck at 8:30 PM.