

GREATER GOLDEN HILL PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 14, 2013 – Approved

The meeting took place at Balboa Park Golf Course Club House on Golf Course Drive. Chair Ruchelle Alvarez called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The agenda had been posted in accordance with the Brown Act. A quorum was present.

Members present: Present: Ruchelle Alvarez, Richard Baldwin, Cheryl Brierton, Susan Bugee, Mike Burkart, Janice Davis, John Kroll, Richard Santini, David Strickland, David Swarens, Matt Thomas, Angela Vasconcellos. **Members absent:** Mike Burkart, Pat Shields.

Approval of Minutes. Strickland moved, Baldwin seconded to approve the minutes from the July meeting. Passed with four abstentions.

Non-Agenda Items. Kroll asked whether Café Madeleine is in code compliance because of the narrow sidewalk passage between its tables.

GOVERNMENTAL REPORTS

San Diego Community Police Officer Kevin Vasquez and/or Suzy de la Pena. No one present.

53rd Congressional District (Rep. Susan Davis)--Gavin Deeb (619-280-5333). Davis will co-sponsor workshops on grant writing and marriage equality (Aug. 27) and engaging girls in careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (Aug. 28).

Council District 3 (Todd Gloria)--Courtney Thomson (619-236-6633). Thomson was asked whether bicycle symbols on 30th St. and elsewhere mean that bicyclists can use the center of the road. Thomas mentioned signs stating that they have the full use of the lane. The question of whether this is safe for either bicycles or cars was left unresolved.

She will check on the Café Madeleine code compliance issue and also on the eight-months' wait Swarens has had in receiving his MAD refund check.

Non-Agenda Public Comment

1. A community member noted the need for drinking fountains and sand pits.
2. Blair Ward, representing the Golden Hill CDC, said that the CDC is eligible to apply for grants for community improvements and wants to work with the Planning Committee to identify needed improvements.

Action Items

Community Plan Update. City Planner Bernie Turgeon (619-533-6575) previewed the three topics to be considered at the Planning Commission meeting on Aug. 15. The only topic involving Golden Hill was proposed density reductions in three areas. The Planning Committee had proposed a reduction of about 1000 units, but Turgeon said a more realistic number would be lower. Proposed reductions for North Park and Uptown, which will be considered at the same meeting, would be even greater. Turgeon noted that the GGH description to be considered at the meeting had been truncated and that a sentence listing the Broadway corridor as the third area for density reduction will be added.

Davis noted that the Golden Hill Land Use map including reduced density areas reflects the committee proposal accurately.

Brierton proposed the following motion: “The GGHPC strongly supports the proposed Land Use map showing reduced density in three areas that is attached to the staff report. The densities:

1. Preserve the historic and neighborhood character,
2. Take account of infrastructure needs
3. Maintain fine-grain scale, as defined by individual houses and structures on 50-foot frontages, of our established neighborhoods and reflect existing land uses.

Baldwin seconded. The committee approved the motion with 10 in favor and 1 abstaining.

Turgeon pointed out that North Park and Uptown want to increase density in certain areas (that is, to grant density bonuses) in return for requiring amenities like parks and plazas.

Brierton proposed and Strickland seconded the following motion: “The committee does not support density bonuses in Greater Golden Hill.” The motion was approved unanimously.

Neighborhood Infrastructure Priorities

Brierton and Strickland had attended a meeting on this subject that revealed that a list of small capital improvements can be submitted for prioritization and possible funding. The list, which can include a limitless number of ideas without regard to cost, is due in October. The topic must appear on the agendas of two Planning Committee meetings so that community members can make suggestions.

Thomas mentioned that the water fountains and sand pits mentioned earlier are examples of suggestions.

Thomson said that public health and safety issues go to the top of the list of priorities. She noted that District 3 has \$150,000 in CPPS funds that Council Member Gloria likes to use for community needs. However, a multi-modal sidewalk along Golf Course Drive between the Rec Center and 28th St., a topic the committee had discussed at its July meeting, was likely to be too expensive a use of these funds. However, it could be funded through an infrastructure bond.

A motion (Strickland/Brierton) to endorse a multi-modal route enhancement along Golf Course Drive as a capital improvement project was approved unanimously.

A discussion about endorsing the use of funds for the 25th St. Renaissance Project did not come to a vote. Apparently the project design was not submitted on time to be considered for funding.

Subcommittee Updates

Historic – Bugbee reported that no action has been taken on designating sections of Greater Golden Hill as a historic district.

Airport – Thomas said that part of Golden Hill is in the airplane contour with houses eligible for new doors and windows to cut down on noise. However, the process takes a long time and criteria are being narrowed,

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.