

# GREATER GOLDEN HILL PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## July 10, 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: Ruchell Alvarez, Richard Baldwin, Cheryl Brierton, Mike Burkart, Janice Davis, John Kroll, David Strickland, David Swarens. **Members absent:** Susan Bugbee, Richard Santini, Pat Shields, Matt Thomas, Angela Vasconcellos..

**Approval of Minutes.** Burkart moved, Strickland seconded to approve the minutes from the June 26 meeting with an amendment to include the spreadsheet showing instances in which members' recommendations for park priorities differed from city staff's.

### 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 met with SANDAG about SR 94 and urged that the community continue to voice its opinions about construction or no-construction options. Swarens urged outreach on SR 94 to all community members

**Council District 3** (Todd Gloria)--Courtney Thomson (619-236-6633). Thomson did not attend the meeting but later sent updates as follows:

- 1..GGHMAD Update: Claims currently take about 30 days turnaround, if there are no issues. (There has been a delay because of the recent influx of PBID claims.) Since Jan 2013, the City has processed 84 claims totaling \$78,162.
2. Billboards: I am working with Deputy City Attorney Carrie Gleeson and she has requested the April minutes with your list of questions and is asking for any backup materials referring the moratorium.
3. 25<sup>th</sup> Street Renaissance Project: The construction documents are done and have been submitted to Caltrans for their review. Since the design was partially funded by grant funds the City needs to get NEPA environmental clearance and get Caltrans approval before we can advertise the project. With Caltrans, it's hard to estimate the time they'll take; it could be several weeks or 1 to 2 months. We're aiming to start construction this fall. To schedule a presentation, please contact David Li, Associate Civil Engineer, at 619-533-5164 or [DLi@sanidiego.gov](mailto:DLi@sanidiego.gov).
4. SDPD Recruitment and Retention Issues: The Police Officers Association has launched a public outreach effort to raise awareness of the staffing challenges currently facing the Department. They have created a Power Point presentation, which they will be distributing to community groups and organizations throughout the city. Please contact John Paul Wainio, of the San Diego Group, to schedule a presentation at 619-299-8683 or [john@thesandiegogroup.com](mailto:john@thesandiegogroup.com). The Megan's List website is located at <http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/>.
5. Tree Trimming: I do not have a schedule, but I do have the list of trees selected to be trimmed this time around with the \$250,000. The trimming has begun in urban areas (my trees on the 3000 block of Ivy were trimmed last week.) The urban areas were begun after the moratorium on tree trimming at the beach begun at the beginning of summer. The list shows that a sizable number of palms in GGH are scheduled for trimming.

## Non-Agenda Public Comment

1. Tershia D'Elgin urged the committee to support urban forests and street trees as priorities for the City Capital Improvement Projects.
2. David Swarens noted that he has not received his MAD refund despite filing in January.

## Information Items

1. **The 32<sup>nd</sup> St. and Broadway Monitoring Well** presentation has been postponed until August.

**2 Balboa Golf Course Clubhouse project** – presentation by Todd R. Schmidt, park designer San Diego Public Works ([TSchmit@sandiego.gov](mailto:TSchmit@sandiego.gov))

The present clubhouse was built in 1930 and is listed on the national and California Historic Structures Register, a designation that prevented its previous demolition. A new design, proposed in 2012, has been presented to the Historic Register and received general approval. The Register requires that new additions must compliment the original style but cannot look as if they date from the original construction; they must mirror contemporary architecture. The aim of the new design is to create a campus feel with separated buildings and plazas and courtyards between them. An extensive series of drawings was presented to display the new structures and design. The cost will be \$11.7 million.

Brierton and Strickland asked whether the project provides for safe paths for pedestrians, joggers and bicyclists along Golf Course Drive, especially between 28<sup>th</sup> St. and the Rec Center and preferably on the south side of Golf Course Drive to avoid crossovers. At present, they were told, sidewalks and bike paths are provided within but not outside the project area, which does not encompass the entire 28<sup>th</sup> St to Rec Center distance. Swarens urged that all these paths be included in the design rather than postponed until the clubhouse area is built. Schmidt and his colleagues noted that funding for any paths beyond the clubhouse is uncertain but said they would try to get it included in the master plan.

Baldwin pointed out that the reconfiguration of the ninth hole gives space for more paths. Davis said that the new facility is intended for purposes that go beyond golf (such as weddings), which provides a justification for multi-modal pathways.

Schmidt expects the plan to go to the Balboa Park Committee soon. Permits will be obtained in FY 2015 so that construction can begin after the Centennial Celebration.

A community member noted that paths for baby carriages and other kinds of transportation have been promised as long ago as the 1970s. Public commenters also asked whether a golf course restaurant will be open daily (it will) and whether the golf course will expand to 28<sup>th</sup> St. beyond the present fence (it won't).

**City Planner** (Bernard Turgeon) (619-533-6575).

**Neighborhood Density.** The Planning Committee's density reduction will be analyzed by the city planning staff. The Planning Commission has asked to see the proposed changes for the entire Uptown area before a plan is drafted.

Turgeon also passed out statements made by individual committee members as recorded in previous minutes. However, the committee doubted that these comments, which did not take the form of motions, accurately expressed the viewpoint of the entire committee. Baldwin stated, "We support reduced density because it reflects what is already there." Swarens stressed the need to conserve community character. Brierton noted that the committee does not want increased density without appropriate infrastructure (such as for traffic). Community member David Skillman noted that the neighborhood includes two proposed historic districts which if

enacted would go far to preserve community character. Alvarez expressed the need for a cohesive statement to be presented as an action plan for the August 14 meeting.

**Action Item: Eliminate the Code Compliance Subcommittee**

Alvarez placed this item on the agenda because the subcommittee is currently not in compliance with GGHPC bylaws. She thought that discussing code compliance issues at a full committee gave them the transparency they deserve. Burkart called the elimination of sub-committees a dangerous precedent to set. Baldwin said that discussing the issues at a sub-committee was an important tool because it allows private conversation. Until about five years ago, he said, code compliance officers would come to closed sub-committee meetings. Some discussion took place about linking the code compliance and land use subcommittees, but no conclusion was reached.

The motion as expressed in the agenda was proposed by Swarens and seconded by Alvarez. It failed with three votes in favor and five opposed. Alvarez will talk to Turgeon about getting a code compliance officer to attend meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25.