



NORTH PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC FACILITIES, TRANSPORTATION, PARKS, AND PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE

www.northparkplanning.org

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 9, 2011, 6:00 p.m., North Park Recreation Center/Adult Center
2719 Howard Avenue, San Diego, CA 92104

Attendance:

Seated Board Members: Dionné Carlson (Chair), René Vidales (Vice-Chair), Rob Steppke, Vicki Granowitz, Lucky Morrison, Kitty Callen

Community Voting Members: Ernie Bonn, William Schneider

Board members not voting: Lynn Elliott

Also present: Roger Lewis, Gary Pence, Luis Schaar, Myrna Rodriguez-Valladolid, John Burford

Parliamentary Items

Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 6:17 (facilities not opened until 6:15pm)

Approve February 9, 2011 Agenda. Motion: Approve Agenda. Granowitz/Bonn 8-0-0

Chair's Comments. None

Approve January 12, 2011 Minutes. Motion: Approve January 12, 2011 minutes with the following changes: (1) Announcement item 7: Revise from "Berney Field School Joint Use Agreement" to "Berney Joint Use Field Re-Opening"; (2) New Business item A, 2nd paragraph, delete the word "block" since it is shown twice; and (3) New Business item A, 6th paragraph, replace "creating parking" with "landscaping". Bonn/Morrison 7-0-1 (Schneider abstained)

Non Agenda Public Comment

1. Ernie Bonn mentioned that Walk San Diego will be presenting a Webinar on Complete Streets, Wednesday, February 16 at 1 p.m. at 740 13th Street, suite 502, San Diego, CA 92101
2. Lucky Morrison went to Palm Springs to visit the restaurant "Wangs in the Desert", and had a pleasant experience in the establishment that is coming soon to North Park in the JC Penney building.

Announcements: For the sake of time, announcements were not presented. (See Agenda for links)

Information Items: None

New Business

- A. **Proposal for improvements to the intersection of Pershing Drive and Redwood Street.** Update on project since the October 1, 2009 presentation to this sub-committee, which incorporated comments from the community, the Balboa Park Committee, and the Council Office in order to provide a more comprehensive plan to address concerns on Pershing Drive from the Frisbee Golf Course to Jacaranda. *Gary Pence, Sr. Traffic Eng., City of San Diego.*

Gary Pence presented plans for pedestrian and traffic calming improvements at the Pershing and Redwood intersection, and disclosed that the cost estimate for the originally planned roundabout option would be over \$1M. The roundabout project is currently underfunded and is a low priority. The City would like to retain the roundabout project for future implementation, but make some immediate improvements for which there is currently a budget. The following items were discussed:

- Placing an uncontrolled crosswalk may not be feasible because the average speed is 45 mph. The crosswalk would have to be controlled; perhaps with pedestrian activated flashing beacons, currently used for mid-block intersections
- Amount of sidewalk shown in the drawings presented may be reduced to a much smaller area, depending on budget constraints
- A proposed landscaped median could be used as a traffic calming measure
- The traffic volume at the intersection may qualify for a stop sign, which would help prevent pedestrian conflicts.

The possibility of a pedestrian refuge like the one installed on Adams Avenue was discussed. Type of pedestrian crossing may depend on average daily traffic.

Some history was brought up regarding the amount of time from community members that was spent discussing this intersection a number of years ago. At the time, the community wanted a roundabout because it would provide a Gateway to North Park plus enhancements, traffic calming, etc. Even then, there was not enough money available to build the roundabout.

A roundabout would be preferred, but the community has concerns about crossing the street, and the improvements suggested by Gary Pence would not preclude implementing the roundabout in the future. According to feedback from many years ago, the community said “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it”.

The intersection improvement project is currently TransNet funded. There is approx. \$400K available to do improvements. The total cost for the roundabout option is around \$1.2 M. The current \$400K budget would be enough for a 3-way stop, some sidewalks, medians and traffic calming on the center. In order to add a crosswalk, a controlled intersection would be required.

The intersection is not in a high accident location, although the current traffic speeds on Pershing are a concern. Traffic calming medians were suggested. Landscaping on the medians was discussed, but due to lack of maintenance funding, cobblestone treatment was suggested instead.

The Board agreed to the suggested improvements as presented by Gary Pence, but would like to add traffic calming medians with pedestrian refuges. It was agreed that the sidewalk section towards the Frisbee Golf Course should be a priority over other sidewalk sections, as the budget allows. There was consensus against installing a stop sign. It was agreed to request the immediate implementation of the proposed improvements for which there is currently a budget rather than waiting for a roundabout that might never be implemented due to lack of funding. It was agreed to retain the desired roundabout on the public facilities financing list for future implementation, should funds become available.

After further discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To support the installation of pedestrian refuge(s) and traffic calming median(s) to allow pedestrians to cross Pershing Drive, and install sidewalk from the crossing to the Frisbee Golf Course. The refuge(s) shall incorporate cobble stone treatment. Vidales/Granowitz 8-0-0

- B. **Sewer Job 738, Sewer Replacement within the BeHi community.** Construction will take place from Fall 2011 to Spring 2012. Project location is shown in the graphic on the second page of this agenda. *Luis Schaar, Project Manager, City of San Diego.*

Luis Schaar with the Right-Of-Way Division presented the project. Previous presentation was at 30% design. The project will go to construction towards the end of the year and will be completed in spring 2012. Approximately 1.6 miles of sewer will be replaced, will require open trenches, and a lot of the work will be within alleyways.

The project only covers sewers within existing right-of-way; property owners are responsible for sewer laterals within their lots. Contractors are willing to work with property owners if they desire their laterals replaced, but the City would not be involved in those negotiations.

The work area will be wide enough to maintain one traffic lane in each direction, and some parking may be restricted in some areas; proper signage with the “working hours/no parking allowed” will be posted. At 3:30 p.m. the trenches will be covered and parking will be allowed once again.

Work on Adams Avenue will take place in less than two weeks. Regarding alleys, some flexibility will be provided for allowing ingress/egress during construction.

Trash pickup will be coordinated for bins (single family) and dumpsters (multi-family) during construction.

There will be 30-day pre-construction notices posted in doors.

Old Business

- A. **Texas Street Improvement Design:** Continuation of discussion of improvements to Texas Street from Madison Avenue to Camino Del Rio South, part of the mitigation improvements for the Quarry Falls (Civita) Development in Mission Valley.

Rob Steppke mentioned that the developer is ready to pull permits to get the work started. The community has been successful in getting the City to approve the installation of 16 Acorn lights. The retaining wall will be graffiti resistant. The standard sidewalk will have a 6” concrete strip with decorative pattern, with xeriscape landscaping and cobblestone. \$100K in mitigation funding is to be deposited into an interest bearing account at the City of San Diego for maintenance of the acorn lights; this amount would cover the difference between the maintenance cost of acorn lights and the maintenance cost of cobra lights. Regarding the entry signage requested by University Heights Community Association, the developer proposes to install a large boulder with the lettering requested rather than have a structural sign that would require maintenance.

After further discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To approve developer mitigation improvements on Texas Street to include graffiti resistant Keystone retaining wall, standard width sidewalk with 6” specialty border, Xeriscape landscaping featuring cobblestones and boulders, 16 single-globe Acorn lights, \$100K to be deposited into an interest bearing endowment account with the City of San Diego for maintenance and utility costs over and above the City standard, with the balance of the endowment account to be refunded to the community when a permanent funding source for the costs becomes available; and to authorize the Chair of the NPPC to execute agreements with the City of San Diego necessary to implement the improvements. Steppke/Granowitz 8-0-0 (Note: “specialty” later changed to “decorative” for the full Board Motion)

B. Mid-City Bus Rapid Transit Project: Discussion/Update

Rob Steppke had a meeting with the Chair of Uptown Planners and a couple of SANDAG representatives: issues discussed were buses running at the center of the street on Park Boulevard and the closure of Polk Avenue at Park Boulevard. SANDAG may take a second look at other options for the project.

Information Items:

A. South I-805 off-ramp into North Park Way and South I-805 off-ramp into Madison Avenue. Signage and entry monuments. *Lucky Morrison*

Due to lack of time, this item will be discussed in the next meeting. The discussion will include identifying gateways and entryways to North Park as well as signage and branding and monuments.

Unfinished, New Business & Future Agenda Items. None

Next meeting date: Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Adjournment. Motion: To adjourn meeting. Bonn/Callen. 8-0-0. Meeting adjourned 7:54 p.m.