



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

*www.northparkplanning.org*

**MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 8, 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), Peter Hill, Cheryl Dye,

**Community Voting Members:** Ernie Bonn, Kitty Callen (arrived 6:12), Rob Steppke (arrived 6:18),  
William Schneider (arrived 6:32)

**Board members not seated:** None

**Also present:** None

**Parliamentary Items**

**Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 6:09

**Approve June 8, 2011 Agenda. Motion: Approve Agenda. Dye/Hill 5-0-0**

(Kitty Callen arrived 6:12)

**Approve May 11, 2011 Minutes:** Gaetano Martedi contacted Chair with request to correct figures on Juniper Street Sidewalk project in the 5/11/2011 minutes.

**Motion: Approve May 11, 2011 minutes with the following revisions:**

**New Business A, revise budget to read \$1.1M total project estimate, ADA (\$455,000), TransNet (\$183,000), and Prop 1B (\$492,000). Bonn/Hill 5-0-1 (Dye abstained)**

**Chair's Comments.** Chair Carlson announced that Gaetano Martedi from the City had given her an update on the construction schedule for the Juniper Street sidewalk replacement project. Due to the presence of gnatcatchers and the location being in the MHPA, the construction will likely need to be pushed back to the second half of 2012. Mr. Martedi has put in a request to look into adding additional lighting on Juniper.

**Announcements:**

1. SANDAG Public Workshop to provide input on the Draft 2050 Regional Transportation Plan. Meetings at various locations within the month of June.
2. High Speed Rail Meetings during the month of June.
3. South Park 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Old House Fair
4. Post-Map Redistricting meetings during the month of June.
5. Community Clean-Up & Recycling Event this Saturday June 11 at Qualcomm Stadium
6. Recycling of small appliances sponsored by UPS Store at the Fresh & Easy strip mall, Saturday, June 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

(Rob Steppke arrives)

**Non Agenda Public Comment:** None

## **New Business**

- A. Plaza de Panama - Balboa Park (Project No. 233958):** Proposed project includes an amendment to the Balboa Park Master Plan; an amendment to the Central Mesa Precise Plan; and a Site Development Permit. Discussion of parking, pedestrian & vehicular circulation.

(William Schneider arrives)

Chair Carlson and Vice-Chair Vidales made a presentation of findings from the Preliminary Grading Plan and conceptual drawings, which included the following:

### Earthwork:

- Earth displacement and retaining walls and slopes - By the Numbers: (from plans dated 5/6/2011)
  - Earth out (cut): 159,000 cubic yards
  - Earth in (fill): 33,000 cubic yards
  - Landfill (export): 126,000 cubic yardsat approx 10 C. yds per truck, = 12,600 truckloads of earth to be moved elsewhere
- The retaining walls shown for the unsafely curving road are 15 ft to 20 feet tall in the vicinity of the organ pavilion. This is a very deep trench for the road, and the slopes and drops involved create a hazard.
- No safety railings are shown on the current set of plans or any of the renderings, but would be required in many areas.
- Sub-Committee members asked questions regarding the Park standard for safety railings and their appearance.

### Alcazar Garden parking Lot:

- Loading zone on the eastbound side of the traffic flow is too small = 100 feet, won't fit 2 busses.
- Issues with pedestrian/vehicular interference: Pedestrians must cross flow of traffic to get from ADA cars to the access ramps.
- ADA accessibility conflicts with traffic.
- Roadway exiting Alcazar Garden parking lot and running to new parking structure:
  - The curve in the road exiting the Alcazar Garden has a radius of 102'. This is a steep turning radius and would not be permitted on a local public street.
  - The curve in the roadway just on the North East side of the new parking structure has a radius of 83'. This is sharp radius and would not be permitted on a public street. The Jacobs team say they are using Park road standards, and not city street standards. Sub-Committee members would like to obtain the Park & Rec. street standards.

### Cabrillo bridge & Bypass:

- The 90-degree turn from the Cabrillo bridge onto the Bypass is no improvement over the current route through the park.
- Under city guidelines, this would require a stop sign.
- 90-degree turn creates pedestrian vehicle conflicts in this location, and renders the south (view of the city) side of the Cabrillo bridge inaccessible to pedestrians.
- Sub-Committee members asked if there would be a sidewalk and pedestrian access planned for the bypass bridge.

After further discussion the following motion was made:

**MOTION: The NPPC recommends to City Council that one or more of the Plaza de Panama project EIR alternatives include the following goals and elements:**

- 1. Reduce pedestrian vehicle conflicts**
  - 2. Reduce vehicular automotive traffic within the historical central core of Balboa Park**
  - 3. Encourage the use of public transit alternatives within and around Balboa Park**
  - 4. Encourage location of parking structures outside the historical central core of Balboa Park**
  - 5. Ensure that all improvements meet the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Historic Preservation**
  - 6. Ensure equitable access by all and avoid imposition of additional fees**
- Dye/Vidales 8-0-0**

**B. San Diego Historic Class 1 Streetcar Restoration Project.**

A presentation by Chris Chaffee was made in the May Public Facilities sub-committee meeting, which covered a lot of information pertinent to the implementation of the historic streetcar in the San Diego area.

There was a recent announcement in the Union-Tribune about the implementation of Streetcars on C Street using the same rails as the trolley to start operating in mid-July during Sundays and holidays.

In addition, the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan lists a number of Streetcars routes with implementation in the future.

After further discussion, the following motion was made:

**MOTION:**

**Whereas historic class I streetcars were specifically designed for San Diego's climate and terrain;**  
**Whereas historic class I streetcars do not require a turnaround loop;**  
**Whereas historic class I streetcars are ADA accessible;**  
**Whereas historic class I streetcars integrate well with street traffic, signal & pedestrians;**  
**Whereas streetcars are included in the 2050 RTP;**  
**The NPPC endorses and encourages the implementation of class I streetcars (original and reproduction) wherever possible and feasible in the Mid-City area and specifically North Park.**  
**Carlson/Vidales 8-0-0**

- C. 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP):** The \$196 Billion plan will serve as the blueprint for the development of the San Diego region's transportation system during the next 40 years. The draft document has been released for public input, and is designed to maximize transit enhancements, provide express lanes, integrate biking and walking, and promote programs to manage demand and increase efficiency.

The intersection of El Cajon Boulevard/Park Boulevard/Normal Street was brought up as a possible candidate for a traffic circle/turnaround, and it was concluded that the Community Plan Update (both North Park and Uptown) through its Circulation Element can be a better instrument to address issues for that intersection.

(Peter Hill and Rob Steppke leave)

After further discussion, the following motion was made:

**MOTION: The NPPC recommends revising the list of phased transit services within the revenue constrained plan to give a higher priority of implementation to projects that include the Mid-City area in order to add more transit within the urban core of the city due to future projected densities.**  
**Vidales/Schneider 6-0-0**

**Old Business**

**A. Texas Street Improvement Design.** No update

**B. Mid-City Bus Rapid Transit Project.** No update

**Information Items:**

**A. South I-805 off-ramp into North Park Way and South I-805 off-ramp into Madison Avenue.** No update

**Next meeting date:** Wednesday, July 13, 2011.

**Adjournment. Motion: To adjourn meeting. Vidales/Carlson. 6-0-0.** Meeting adjourned 8:10 p.m.