





NORTH PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE

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## PUBLIC FACILITIES, TRANSPORTATION, PARKS, AND PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 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, Lucky Morrison, Omar Passons, Stephen Williamson

**Community Voting Members:** Ernie Bonn, Kitty Callen

**Board members not seated:** None

**Also present:** Beth Swersie, Jennifer McDonald, Mark Burns, Norm Glick

#### Parliamentary Items:

**Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 6:13 pm

**Approve April 11, 2012 Agenda. Motion: Approve Agenda. Bonn/Hill. 8-0-0**

#### Chair's Comments.

- None

#### Approval of Previous Minutes, February 8, 2012.

**Motion: Approve February 8, 2012 Meeting Minutes with the following revisions: change "lineal" to a"linear". Bonn/Hill. 5-0-2 (Morrison, Passons, and Williamson abstained)**

#### Approval of Previous Minutes, March 14, 2012

**Motion: Approve March 14, 2012 Meeting Minutes with the following revisions: revise the word 'cel' to 'cell' and change the word "Turner" to "Porter". Bonn/Callen. 5-0-3 (Williamson, Morrison, and Passons abstained)**

#### Announcements:

1. SANDAG has released a Smart Growth Concept Map
2. SANDAG acquires land for preservation in North County
3. Tools for Preserving Community Character: Conservation Areas, at Grace Lutheran Church, April 12
4. Mission Hills Heritage will be having its Spring Walking Tour, April 21
5. Adams Avenue Business Association: Unplugged music and arts event on April 21 to 22
6. MTS looking for feedback in order to add service. Several meetings in different locations, including an online survey at [www.sdmmts.com](http://www.sdmmts.com)
7. Mayoral Candidates forum, Friday April 20 at Thomas Jefferson School of Law
8. Update on Property Value Protection Ordinance: Presented by the Center on Policy Initiatives, regarding homes that have been put for foreclosure, in order to fine banks if they fail to maintain foreclosed homes up to code. April 11, 2 p.m. at Land Use and Housing Committee.

9. Bankers Hill Residents Meeting, April 16 at 6:30 p.m.
10. NPCA will have its annual elections on April 25 at Mission Gathering Church on Polk Ave. and Illinois St. [www.northparksd.org](http://www.northparksd.org)
11. UHCDC is nominating Mary Wendorf for the people in preservation award

**Non Agenda Public Comment:**

- A. Ernie Bonn: UHCDC board members did a walk on Madison Ave. from Park Blvd. to Kansas St.; measured all red curb. Can bring back about 47 parking spaces. Ernie Bonn contacted Gary Pence and had someone from the City walk the area. The City agreed with the assessment of 47 spaces.
- B. Smart Carts are legal, approved by the State and the DMV.

**Information Items:**

None

**New Business**

- A. Proposal to install three road lumps on the 3500 block of Alabama Street.** *Signed petition indicates residents representing approximately 82% of the property frontage and neighboring properties along the subject portion of the street are in support of this proposal.*

Vice-Chair Vidales gave an explanation to explain the different terminologies:

Speed Bumps: Speed bumps are roughly 1 to 2 feet long and up to 5 inches tall. They are commonly found in private parking lots such as major shopping centers. Due to an extreme height relative to the short length, speed bumps are meant for slow approaches of 5 to 10 MPH, typical of many parking lots. Speed bumps are not approved Traffic Calming Devices and are not used in City of San Diego public streets.

Speed Humps: Speed humps were most commonly used for traffic calming on residential streets. They are normally 12 feet long and 3 ½ inches high. The long length and lower height allows this calming device to be traversed at 25 to 30 MPH. Speed humps require special signage to notify drivers of the upcoming Hump. While this traffic calming device is in use in the city, it has been replaced by Speed Lumps for all new installations

Speed Lumps: Speed lumps are similar to humps but divided into three lumps with one foot of space between each mump. The space between the lumps is specifically designed to accommodate the axle width of fire trucks & emergency vehicles. This allows emergency vehicles to pass through without having to go over the speed lumps. All other vehicles with smaller axle widths have to go over the lumps with at least one side of the vehicle. Speed lumps require special signs to notify drivers of the upcoming lump. The visual appearance of the lumps with the extra signage needs to be considered. Lumps may divert traffic to other neighboring streets, and may create aesthetic issues. Lumps are most effective when spaced appropriately. Speed Lumps require Fire Department approval.

Once the location of the lumps is approved the Traffic Division & the Fire Department, the lumps will go into the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) approved facilities list and will be installed when financing becomes available (as part of the North Park Public Facilities Financing Plan). If it takes more than 10 years and the lumps on the CIP list are not installed, the item may have to go back to the planning committee. Lumps can also be removed by petition circulation and if community planning group supports the removal. A number of streets parallel to Alabama Street have already requested speed lumps, have been approved, and are on the CIP list.

The following recent history in the area was presented by Chair Carlson:

- Upas Street is a primary fire response route in this area, and the Fire Department did not approve the requested traffic circle at Granada St. and Upas St.
- Granada Av. has humps between Upas St. and University Ave.

- Alabama St. has been approved (11/11) for lumps between Upas St. and Landis St.
- Villa Terrace was approved for traffic calming in October 2004, from Upas St. to Wightman St., so this segment is likely to be re-evaluated.

The community initiated the request for road lumps in the 3500 block of Alabama St.

Road Lump Petition guidelines state that support from a minimum of “75% or more of affected properties on the proposed street and on nearby streets that may be directly impacted by the proposed road lumps” is required. A sketch prepared by the Traffic Division was presented, showing the proposed location for each of the three (3) lumps. Three community members were present to show support for the lumps and one community member was present to oppose them.

- 3442 and 3438 Alabama St. have 25’ frontages and do not have driveways, and placement of lumps on those frontages may affect the only parking available in front of those properties, since the lump will take most of the frontage. The original petition notice stated “3500 block” and did not include that a lump was going to be installed on the 3400 block.
- Alabama Street is very wide and cars can drive very fast even with parked cars on the sides. There is a considerable distance between Upas St. and Dwight St because Myrtle Ave. does not cross through the 3400 and 3500 blocks of Alabama St. This is a public safety issue for the neighbors.
- On the existing lumps on Granada St., red zones were not installed.
- Spillover may become an issue. Alabama Street between Dwight St. and Upas St. is a route that connects directly Morley Field to Florida St.
- Public safety comes first, and the lumps may be relocated without compromising safety.

After further discussion, the following motion was made.

**MOTION: To support the speed lumps on Alabama Street from Upas St. to Dwight St. as proposed in the 82% petition approval sketch, with the exception that the southerly lump be located outside of narrow property frontages, as long as the overall lump system is efficient for traffic calming purposes. Vidales/Bonn 8-0-0**

Motion carries.

- B. McKinley Elementary Joint Use Field.** Even though this item was listed in the agenda it does not need any discussion

### **Old Business**

- A. Texas Street Improvement Design.** *Update/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 (Civitas) Development in Mission Valley. Action Item.*

The contractor for the entry monument sign will get the approved March meeting minutes for reference in putting together the sign.

- B. 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. Ongoing discussion of parking, pedestrian & vehicular circulation*

Following a brief introduction by Chair Carlson and lengthy discussion by the sub-committee (Building on discussion and motion from UD/PR subcommittee), the following motion was agreed upon:

To oppose the proposed Balboa Park Master Plan Amendment, Central Mesa Precise Plan Amendment, Site Development Permit and Balboa Park Plaza de Panama circulation and Parking Structure Project based upon the following:

- 1) Per the General Plan Land Use element, Sec LU-D.10, the proposed Plan Amendments must be “consistent with the goals and policies of the General Plan and Community Plan” NPPC finds that there are basic inconsistencies with existing goals and policies adopted within the City’s General Plan, Balboa Park Master Plan and Central Mesa Precise Plan, as outlined in detail in NPPC’s March 14, 2012 letter to Mayor Sanders. Key issues include:
  - An intrusive bypass bridge and road in non-compliance with the General Plan’s Historic Preservation, Urban Design, and Recreation Elements in terms of historic preservation goals
  - Excessive and unnecessary grading and use of retaining walls
  - Overtly project-specific amendments which jeopardize future approval of superior alternatives should the proposed project not go forward
  - Inappropriate use of the plan amendment process for fundamental land use changes that merit comprehensive plan updates.
- 2) Proposed circulation and parking designs are in conflict with current regional park best practices which encourage relocation of centralized parking and related traffic to the park’s exterior, combined with investment in Traffic Demand Management techniques within the park’s interior.
- 3) The three findings required by Municipal Code 126.0504 for any project to be approved or conditionally approved for a Site Development Permit (SDP) cannot be made to justify the project’s adverse impacts, specifically related to historic resources.
  - The proposed project will adversely affect the applicable land use plan(s). The applicant’s SDP findings fail to acknowledge the General Plan’s applicability to the project and thus fail to acknowledge non-compliance with the General Plan’s Historic Preservation, Urban Design, and Recreation element goals, as has been concluded by City staff and documented in the Draft EIR.
  - The proposed project will be detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare by increasing pedestrian and vehicle conflicts in the Alcazar Garden and Cabrillo Bridge/new bypass road intersection, by relocating existing disabled parking from the Plaza de Panama to more than 800 feet away from the museum core, by charging parking fees at the Organ Pavilion parking garage with an anticipated domino effect on other currently no-fee parking lots; and by creating the potential for general fund liability to be paid by local residents.
  - The proposed project will not comply with Land Development Code regulations (Chapters 11, 12, 13, and 14) because it will cause significant unmitigable impacts to historic resources and does not qualify for a deviation from Historical Resources Regulations under §143.0260(c).

After further discussion, the following motion was made.

**MOTION: To adopt the motion as presented and amended by Carlson.  
Carlson/Callen 6-0-2 (Passons and Williamson abstained, new members, insufficient knowledge).**

Motion carries.

**A. North Park Entry/Gateway Monuments.** *Continuing discussion of potential improvements to entryways to North Park, including landscaping, signage and entry monuments/gateways. Action item.*

This item was tabled for sake of time.

**Adjournment. Motion: To adjourn meeting. Carlson/Hill. 8-0-0.** Meeting adjourned 7:52 p.m.