

Normal Heights Community Planning Group
APPROVED
MINUTES

December 1, 2009

6:00PM

Normal Heights Community Center

Call to Order by Jim Baross at 6:02

Members present: Susan Redelings, Kevin Johnston, Nancy Wolfing, Jim Baross, Dino Serafini, Art Harrison, Richard Rios, Larry Hofreiter Earlene Thom, Holly Ritter

Members absent: Morris Dye

Community Members/Guests: Dion Akers, Jenner Smith, Kim Eisenberg, Joseph Fombon, Bob Keiser, Daniel Chen, Mark Rowland, Tanya Martin, Nancy Lawler, Mark Lawler, Brian Garrett, Suzanne Ledeboer

Welcome and introductions

Non Agenda Public Comments/Information from Community Members:

- Safe Neighborhoods is organizing a Normal Heights Citizens Patrol more information may be found on the Safe Neighborhoods forum on NormalHeights.org .
- The City heights Community Development Corp. is holding a redevelopment workshop on Dec. 2 at Hamilton Elementary School.

Approval of October Minutes

Art asked if a quorum was in order for the four votes taken after he left the Oct. meeting leaving six members present, including Chair Jim Baross. Art maintained that only five votes were available, since the Chair may only vote in case of a tie and that this was less than a majority of eligible board membership. Total membership at the time of the October meeting was eleven since Bank Dawson passed away and Rosanna Harrison resigned.

Susan moved to approve October minutes, 2nd by Kevin, Art opposed, Nancy and Larry abstained, neither were present at the October meeting.

Approval of November Minutes

Susan moved for approval, 2nd by Larry, none opposed, Holly and Earlene abstained, neither were present.

Modification to Agenda: none, Jim asked that the Agenda be accepted as noticed without changes or additions.

Reports from Representatives of Elective Officials

From Todd Gloria's office, Dion Akers: Dion passed out the *District 3 Dialogue* and talked about Todd Gloria's and his experience at the Eugene Canyon restoration event. Dion has been working with Safe Neighborhood in support of the Citizen's Patrol, he noted that the Talmadge patrol (upon which the new Normal Heights group is modeled) has been very successful. The City budget deficit is a huge (\$179 million) and dire issue. Council passed a budget in July, is now looking to do another 18-month budget through July 2011. Council is hoping to correct the structural deficit (chronic imbalance between revenues and expenditures). The budget proposed by the Mayor does not close any libraries or recreation centers, but many services will be cut. Over the next 3 weeks the Council will be conducting special budget meetings and is confident that the budget will be passed by Dec. 14. Budget hits: Code Compliance, Urban Forestry, Refuse Collection, reduced library hours, regular trimming of palm trees has been cut completely. Todd Gloria invites all groups to stay involved.

Art: City should eliminate all consultant contracts in order to keep budget for maintenance crews.

Larry: What percentage of the budget is the deficit (about 15% of the General Fund).

Possible revenue generators: charge for refuse collection, updating stormwater management fees charged to property owners, asking Chargers to pay for police protection at games.

Who does a citizen call for an imminent tree hazard? Dion suggested obtaining a no-fee permit and hiring a private contractor if the tree poses a threat to property.

To whom does one report a tree hazard in the right-of-way? Dion said report the situation to Streets Division. The property owner is not liable for damage done by a street tree. Any claims for damages would be made to the City Risk Manager. People may e-mail the District 3 office, to assure notification.

Susan-referring back to quorum question: Explained that quorum is defined as majority of non-vacant seats, which is eleven.

Information Items per Agenda

- 1) AT&T cell towers at the Adams Avenue Recreation Center will be appearing on a future Agenda as an action item. Jim reminded all who were interested in future action items may ask to be placed on the e-mail/ mailing list;
- 2) Submetering--not for water utilities billing purposes, but potentially a way to charge renters for water use, will be going to City Council in February;
- 3) Grey water—item brought to Community Planners Committee to require these systems in new development, sent to CPC subcommittee;

- 4) Normal Heights is not in the first round of Community Plan updates. The CPC strongly recommended development of the community plan preparation manual and keeping the manuals with the planning groups;
- 5) Medical marijuana—CPC recommended to City Council that all currently operating storefront dispensaries be banned, since none are operating legally;
- 6) City attorney memo regarding CEQA review rights. Question: is our role limited to development of the Community Plans and not review of projects? No clear-cut answer.

Jim invited those interested in finding out more about the planning process, in particular the role of the planning groups, to visit the Community Orientation Workshop website.

Establishment of a Project Review Committee

Larry passed out a Purpose and Process and explained how the PRC would work.

Jim: reminded that meetings of the PRC must be noticed and the applicant notified.

Jim noted that any member could get involved in the review of a particular project.

Action Items:

- 1) Chen Property Project , 4939 East Mountain View Dr., Daniel Chen, applicant was present to formally request the Group's approval. The Chen project is the subject of the initial "roll-out" of the Project Review Committee process. Larry presented a memo with the Project description, committee comments and recommendations. The PRC recommended that the applicant plant a Coast Live Oak in lieu of a Torrey Pine or California Sycamore.

Jim asked if/how this recommendation would be implemented. Mr. Chen responded that he would do whatever the City requires. Jim suggested that the Group could grant interim approval pending issuance of approved plans. Mr. Chen indicated that any further delay would be a hardship and that he needed the Group's approval tonight.

Larry moved for approval of the project with the PRC recommendations, 2nd by Holly, approved unanimously.

Susan noted that the By-Laws require review of development projects by a Project Review Committee.

- 2) Board Vacancies – Eligible members of the Community with qualifying number of meetings attended were identified. Mark Rowland agreed to fill the remaining term of office. Kevin moved to install Mr. Rowland on the Board, 2nd by Nancy all approved except for Art who expressed his uncertainty with the nominating/installation process. Jim asked Secretary to verify the remaining term being filled by Mr. Rowland. Jim notified Mr. Rowland that indemnification by the City Attorney's office requires that new members attend a COW, or review the COW on-line.

Art asked to be excused.

Committee Reports

Historic/Housing – Nancy was not able to attend the last meeting of the Historic Preservation Coalition, but reported that the planner in charge of Historic Preservation for the City is losing her job.

Friends of the Canyons – Kevin thanked those who attended the Eugene Canyon restoration event. The FOC is looking into a new meeting format.

Transportation – Jim will ask Steve Russell if the SR 15 Bus Rapid Transit public presentation can be shown to the Group. Jim described the two basic configurations for boarding the buses. The SR 15 “*BRT*” is different than the El Cajon Blvd. “*Rapid Bus Transit*” with a proposed route from SDSU to Downtown

Next meeting: January, 5 in the Community Center

Adjourned at 7:47