

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

MINUTES

Oct.6, 2009

6:00PM

Normal Heights Community Center

Members present: Jim Baross, Art Harrison, Kevin Johnston, Susan Redelings, Richard Rios, Holly Ritter, Earlene Thom

Members Absent: Morris Dye, Larry Hofreiter, Dino Serafini, Nancy Wolfing and Rosanna Harrison

Guests Stephen Russell, Jim King, Richard Neuffer, Gary Weber, Suzanne Ledebor, Bob Kaiser, Erin Chambers-Smith, Jenner Smith, Hannah Cha, Lance Billingsly, Justice Castanedo, Mie Katayama

Minutes of the September meeting

- Art mentioned that he would like more information on Parliamentary items in the minutes
- Motion to approve by Holly, second by Kevin.
Ayes – Earlene, Holly, Jim, Susan, Kevin
Opposed – Art
Abstained – Richard

Jim King gave an update on the San Diego River Conservancy project, which seeks to establish pedestrian connections between Normal Heights, Mission Valley/San Diego River, and Serra Mesa. The funding for the project has been restored and Jim will be visiting the CPG with updates in the future.

Stephen Russell discussed the planning for Bus Rapid Transit stations along the I-15 corridor. Four options are being studied by SANDAG.

Suzanne informed the group of a flashing sign at Adams Elementary, noting that the school will not close.

Mark Giandoni with City of SD Engineering discussed the three projects for traffic calming and improvements for pedestrians and bicycles. These projects received Smart Growth funds from the federal government.

The Madison/Cherokee intersection project is designed to bring the intersection up to standards, including improved sight distance for drivers, standard turning radii, and improved pedestrian crossings. Earlene noted the high fence in the southeast corner of the intersection that impedes sight distance. Art asked about funding priorities and the need for street cleaning. Bob Kaiser noted the CPG discussions on this intersection when

the plans for the new elementary were first being discussed. Kevin asked if there would be any additional street parking associated with the changes – none planned.

Holly motioned to recommend approval of the plan, Kevin second

- Ayes – Earlene, Holly, Jim, Susan, Kevin, Richard
- Opposed – Art

Art excused himself at this time. However, the quorum was in order for voting on remaining Action Items.

Mark discussed the 40th Street Promenade plans with the group. This is designed to provide an improved pedestrian atmosphere in this area that connects El Cajon Boulevard to Ward Canyon Park. Gary noted this area as a link in the urban trail network, intended to eventually connect City Heights, Normal Heights, Mission Valley, and Serra Mesa. Kevin asked about the public input. Gary mentioned that the community provided input years ago, some of which is included in the plans. Jim mentioned the need for a curb cut at Monroe. Mark noted this and other recommendations.

Holly motioned to recommend approval of the plan with the CPG recommended changes, Susan second.

- Ayes – Earlene, Holly, Jim, Susan, Kevin, Richard
- Opposed – none

The final project was the SR-15 Bikeway from Landis St. to Adams Ave. The group recommended more directional signs in the plans, along with park identification signs. Even though the plans were just provided at the meeting Jim recommended that we vote on the plans and provide additional recommendations within two weeks.

Earlene motioned to conditionally approve as Jim mentioned, Richard second

- Ayes – Earlene, Holly, Jim, Susan, Kevin, Richard
- Opposed – none

Gary Weber introduced the plans for a Public Right of Way (PROW) district along El Cajon Boulevard. The plan would allow restaurant/café tables out on the sidewalk.

Holly motioned to approve, Susan second

- Ayes – Earlene, Holly, Jim, Susan, Kevin, Richard
- Opposed – none

Gary also showed the group a few designs for street light poles for the El Cajon Blvd. Business Improvement District.

Jim motioned to recommend the concrete pole design in grey or black, Susan second

- Ayes – Earlene, Holly, Jim, Susan, Kevin, Richard
- Opposed – none

The group decided to table the water conservation discussion to next meeting so Nancy could be involved.

The group will set up a committee to nominate new members and possibly hold a special election for new members. Suzanne informed the group that NHCPG member, Bank Dawson has died.

Susan discussed some of the info from the Community Planners Committee meeting. There was discussion of providing incentives for developers to provide certain percentages of handicapped accessible units in condo/apartment developments. Some on the CPC thought that this should be done without incentives.

Kevin gave an update on the Friends of Normal Heights Canyons. The Phase 3 Native Plant Restoration planting is scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 9-noon, meet at the end of Eugene Place. Our District 3 Councilmember, Todd Gloria will be there. Many volunteers are still needed.

Jim went through the information items on the agenda and answered questions on these.

Next meeting: November 3 in the Community Center

Meeting adjourned at 8:00