

Normal Heights Community Planning Group
APPROVED
MINUTES

January 5, 2010

6:00 PM

Normal Heights Community Center

Call to Order by Jim Baross at 6:00

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

Members absent: Morris Dye

Community Members/Guests: Nicki Lawless, Lindsay Masukawa, Erika Skeie, Conni Musser, Anthony Mendiola, Celso Martinez, Woo Jin Shim, Jeff Oakley, Joseph Fombon, Richard Neuffer, Kris Mooney, Chris Mooney, Scott C. Davis, Gary Weber, Bob Keiser, Nancy Lawler, Mark Lawler, Suzanne Ledeboer

Welcome and introductions

Non Agenda Public Comments/Information from Community Members: None

Approval of December, 2009 Minutes

Art asked when the Agenda is distributed. Jim answered that the Agenda must be posted 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

Kevin moved to approve December, 2009 minutes; 2nd by Larry; none opposed.

Modification to Agenda: none,

Art asked about the Code Enforcement priorities resolution voted on in November and what became of the letter we voted to send. Jim stated that the letter to the City had been sent.

Reports from Representatives of Elective Officials

Woo Jin Shim, from Supervisor Ron Robert's office, introduced himself and announced H1N1 vaccinations were being offered on Friday at Qualcomm Stadium. The County is hosting a financial "Senior Expo: Protect Yourself & Your Wallet" session on Thursday, Feb. 25, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Bayside Community Center located at 2202 Comstock St. in Linda Vista, flyers were distributed. It was asked of Mr. Shim why events such as these are not hosted where it would be more convenient for Mid-City residents to attend. There are three of these events scheduled the others are in Lemon Grove and Valley Center. Linda Vista was considered to be the most central to the remaining County area.

Lindsay Masukawa from Assemblywoman Lori Saldaña's office: The Assembly reconvened on Monday. Lindsay announced the Assembly Fellowship Program deadline is Feb. 24th, contact the 78th Assembly District Office for more information.

City Planning and Community Investment Department: Jeff Oakley introduced himself as the new Mid-City CPG representative from CPCI. Mr. Oakley is looking forward to attending future meetings and is “just happy to be here”. Also announced that the Urban Forestry position has been reinstated in the budget due to overwhelming citizen response.

Mark: who is on the Board of Directors for the Little League, which is being charged to play on the Adam’s Ave. ballfield. Who could be asked about this? Mr. Oakley said to contact the Park and Recreation Department. Jim also suggested contacting Councilman Gloria’s office. The charge is up to \$2,000 per season depending on hours of use and whether the Recreation Center is staffed at the time.

Information Items per Agenda

Jim reminded those in attendance that they may get their name on a mailing list to receive future project applications.

- 2) Kenmore Terrace street vacation is a future application/Action Item. Jim invited members to visit the site.
- 4) Jim has additional information for this Item—a letter from San Diego Regional Airport Authority.
- 5) A physical COW workshop is also available—in addition to the on-line version.
- 6) Art highly recommends the scheduled Neighborhood Code Compliance workshop.
- 7) Jim acknowledged Suzanne Ledebor’s work on the NHCPG FAQ sheet. Members were asked to contribute other questions as they think of them.

Other information items per the Agenda

Action Items:

Project Review of Arco station tenant improvement at 3296 El Cajon Blvd.. Erica Skeie, representing applicant Celso Martinez, presented a site plan and gave a description of the project which consists of converting the former service bay at the station to a 24-hour AM/PM mini market. No pumps would be removed. No alcoholic beverages will be sold—a license is not being sought.

The three members of the Project Review Committee (PRC) visited the site Larry presented the PRC’s observations and comments.

Art interjected to inquire into the nature of the PRC, its purpose and authority. It was explained that the PRC was established at the December meeting prior to the point in the meeting that Art asked to be excused. Art then said he wanted to be on the PRC. Jim agreed. Larry continued his review and comments which recommended that enhanced landscaping should be added to the site plan before it is approved. Ms. Skeie responded that the project currently did not propose to change the property’s landscaping.

Mark asked if a traffic study was done and whether adequate parking spaces were provided. Larry stated that the proposal exceeds the required minimum number. To the question of Americans with Disabilities Act and trash screening/security: these features are required by Code and reviewed by Development Services and CPCI.

Larry was still concerned about the lack of landscaping and understands that the City will not be requiring additional landscaping. Jim offered three options: 1) unconditional approval; 2) tentative approval pending submittal of a landscape plan; and 3) delay approval until plan is provided.

Mark asked: if Development Services Group were to review the plan and if they approved the plans would that be sufficient for the Group's purposes? The reply was no, the Group doesn't believe that its recommendations and desires are consistently represented by Development Services.

Jeff Oakley stated that after DSG does its review a Comment Letter is circulated among City staff. The letter is issued to the applicant with the project conditions.

Art then interrupted the discussion to ask whether there was a motion before the board. There was not. A separate discussion between Art and the Chair ensued as to whether the questions being asked of the applicant, and the applicant's representative, were appropriate and necessary.

Kevin asked Ms. Skeie for final clarification: whether there was to be any changes to the property's landscaping. Ms Skeie: "no changes contemplated".

Jim called for a motion. Larry moved to table the action until a landscape plan is submitted; 2nd by Dino.

Mark asked if we review projects, before or after the City completes its review. It is more or less concurrent and the findings of the CPG are incorporated into the letter of conditions.

Jim called for a vote on tabling the discussion until a landscaping plan is submitted. All voted in favor of the motion except Art who voted against.

- 2) Resignation of Morris Dye, Jim explained that Morris is frequently conflicted from voting due to his employment with CPCI Department. Jim called for a motion to accept his resignation; Holly moved; 2nd by Art; none opposed.
- 3) Membership status/eligibility review: we currently have eleven members, which is one member below the minimum. According to the Bylaws we have 120 days to fill the position. However, the regular vote in March is less than 3 months from now.
- 4) Regular Meeting of the Project Review Committee: is set for the 1st Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm as needed to review project applications. The public is invited and the meetings shall be notice as provided in the Bylaws and City Policy.

Committee Reports

Historic/Housing –no report

Friends of the Canyons – The FOC are switching their meeting times and places. On the odd months they'll meet at the large date palm at the end of Eugene Place to do watering and removal of invasives. On the even months, the meetings will be at Café Cabaret. This is to be the "Year of the Trail". Kevin explained that an all-out effort is urgently needed to convince the funding agencies that the trail from Normal Heights down to the San Diego River is an asset that is needed and wanted by the larger community. If people do not get involved and show their interest, the momentum to establish the Trail will be lost. Write letters, e-mail council members, and during the year show up for canyon, trail events and "River Days". UCSD engineering students are designing a pedestrian bridge over the San Diego River; the hope is to fund the bridge's construction.

Transportation – Jim attended the SANDAG sponsored webinar entitled: "Connecting Public Health, Bicycling and Walking" very interesting.

Agenda Item for next meeting:

Nancy: A report on the Farmer's Market

Nancy Lawler: City needs to be prodded into action on the cross-walk needed for East Mountain View and Cherokee.

Next meeting: February, 2 in the Community Center

Adjourned at 7:35