

# Old Town San Diego Community Planning Group

Thurston Coe, Chairperson  
2836 Juan Street  
San Diego, California, 92110

February 12, 2014

## MINUTES v.1

Whaley House Courtroom this meeting to order at 3:36 pm

- **Members Present:** Chuck Ambers; Thurston Coe; Ann Dahlkamp; Patricia Fillet; Fred Grand (left @ 4:40pm); Bruce Johnson; Marie Pedrin-Gizoni (left @ 4:45pm); Fred Schwartz; Richard Stegner; David Swarens; David Thornton; Robert Zink (left @ 4:30pm)
- **Members Absent:** Geoffrey Mogilner; Lorna Rice
- **Guests:** Benjamin Alacazar – Resident 602.717.9733 [alcazarvii@gmail.com](mailto:alcazarvii@gmail.com); Vickie Durham – Guest 619.987.5013; Kathy Lippitt – NCPC 858.565.4148 x247; George Lombard – Resident, [GPLOMARD@aol.com](mailto:GPLOMARD@aol.com); Tait Galloway - Senior Planner, City of San Diego 619.533-4550 [tgalloway@sandiego.gov](mailto:tgalloway@sandiego.gov); Lee Seiner – Representative Susan Davis 619.280.5353 [lee.steiner@mail.house.gov](mailto:lee.steiner@mail.house.gov)

**Non-Agenda Public Comments:** 1. Kathy Lippitt from NCPC gave a presentation on outreach and information to the group and provided flyers. 2. David Thornton shared the Old Town Trolley Tours is celebrating 25 years. 3. Fred Grand mentioned the OTMC owner, Bob Estrada approached him to discuss the empty lot and is wanting to communicate with community residents. Patricia Fillet mentioned this has been an ongoing issue with the neighbors/community and the grievances are pointed out that the OTMC has not been a good neighbor in finding ways to make this a positive and healthy outcome. Patricia further mentioned this is an historical/archaeological site, as identified by the South Coastal Information Center with an appropriate ID number, and SOHO has also been informed of the inappropriate methods; furthermore, the City of San Diego has cited the OTMC numerous times as inappropriate use of an illegal graded lot, without proper permitting for the grading, which has often been used for parking, from mid-week through the weekend, causing congestion on Congress Street, impacting the residents and increasing the noise and air quality. She also mentioned the OTMC has not in good faith come before the OTSDCPG to present an alternative to benefit the community. Patricia has advocated for the residents and has offered to discuss with the owner of the OTMC alternatives for the benefit of the community, neighborhood, and residents of Old Town.

**Modifications:** None.

**Meeting Minutes:** *Approved with edits:* 1. Treasurer to replace Secretary, under Comments to action items #5. 2. Comments to action items, 6a to read “Motion to act on the by-laws as Agenda for February, 12, 2014 meeting” 3. In Information Items 7a., edit word from “record” to “permit”. 4. Information Items 7b. to read “Richard Stegner mentioned the State Parks is now relinquishing and has received the Old Town Chamber’s submitted application to take ownership...” correction from 6-8<sup>th</sup> grades to only “4<sup>th</sup> grades”. 5. Include “visitors” to Old Town visitors Chamber.

**Treasurer’s report:** None, Treasurer absent

**Action Items:**

- 4. Approval of February Meeting Minutes
- 5. Approval of Treasurer's report
- 6a. Final approval of the By-Laws
- 6b. Elections reminder to fill vacancies

**Comments to action items:**

- 4. February Meeting Minutes Approved, with edits noted above. David Swarens Motioned and David Thornton Seconded. 9 yes votes; 4 abstain; 2 absent
- 5. Treasurer's Report: None, Secretary absent
- 6a. David Swarens reminded the OTSDCPG we already voted to approve January, 2014 and this is just for review. The group voted: 12 yes votes; 2 abstain. David Swarens Motioned and Marie Pedrin-Gizoni Seconded.
- 6b. see comments in 8a.

**Information Items:**

7a. Thurston Coe provided information of conversation with Project Manager, Nitsu Aberra again and dialogue was exchanged to narrow down a starting date to perhaps August, but September may be best. The project is expected to take 6 months. There remains a number of concerns: number of storm drains, curb cuts, exact starting date and completion; pattern of cement. David Swarens had many concerns on specific details, like what materials are to be used and pointed out again, the many discrepancies and cited that when the group came before OTSDCPG, the details were never revealed. Richard Stegner mentioned that we should point out examples of deviation that there are significant issues of the project that will be affecting the community and the historical significance/historical area, as there is a unique character of Old Town San Diego. A letter will be drafted up by contributing members: David Swarens, Patricia Fillet, Richard Stegner and to be sent to City of San Diego City Council and Mayor. Tait Galloway contributed to say that he has invited Nitsu Aberra to come back to the group to provide an update. And, if you visit the City Website, the project is now out for bid with other supporting documents/plans. Tait also encouraged the OTSDCPG that if there is a need to review further, to state that in the letter as a recommendation from the OTSDCPG.

8a. Thurston Coe announced those members that are running again for re-election: Chuck Ambers, Fred Grand, Fred Schwartz, Richard Stegner, and David Swarens. Marie Pedrin-Gizoni shared that she is resigning from the OTSDCPG. Thurston also pointed out that when Bruce Coons resigned, Robert Zink filled his position to 2016, a three-year term. Ann Dahlkamp and Patricia Fillet are the election committee and will canvas and post election announcements throughout the neighborhood.

**Discussion Items:**

None.

**Committee Updates:**

None.

**Announcements:**

1. Tait Galloway announced that Richard from California State Parks informed that they will be demolishing the Old Caltrans Building and he has been invited by Tait to present to the OTSDCPG an update on where things stand. Street closures will occur on Calhoun and handouts will be provided to the community. 2. Richard Stegner announced the next Chamber meeting is at Café Coyote. Richard also informed of a few issues have come up with the Catholic Church parking lot the Chamber is now taking over, like new quotes for landscape. He did point out that many of the business members are volunteering to help clean and they're doing a wonderful job. March 17<sup>th</sup> is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Golf Tournament and there remain openings for sponsorships. Again, Casper will be the official host. We are getting more trash barrels for the neighborhood. Cinco de Mayo is around the corner. There is a new title for the annual arts and crafts show in October called "Old Town Fiesta of Arts & Crafts" and there will be more historic demonstrations in the State Parks main area. Chamber met with Mormon Battalion about replacing steps to make safe and accessible. We still need volunteers for Chamber, specifically Friday's and Saturday's. During the last Old Town Saturday Market reports that 4 people were soliciting. 3. David Swarens is a member of the Presidio Park Council Committee and shared they are trying to find ways for interpretation for the Presidio Park. The committee originally formed for the historical and archaeological concerns. They meet every other month at the Old Navy Building on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. 4. Richard Stegner mentioned we haven't heard anything further on Marriott Hotel, proposed on Taylor Street. The tourist busing coming into the neighborhood will now be parking on Pacific Highway for unloading. 5. The Alamo has found a new home at the previous "Old Town Mining" restaurant and will be opening soon.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm

Respectfully submitted by, Patricia Fillet