

Old Town San Diego  
Community Planning Group

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

March 13, 2013

**MINUTES v.2 FINAL**

**Edits are italicized**

**Geoffrey Mogilner Moved and Lorna Rice Seconded**

**Whaley House Courtroom this meeting to order at 3:39 pm**

- **Members Present:** Chuck Ambers; Thurston Coe; Bruce Coons; Ann Dahlkamp; Patricia Fillet; Fred Grand; Marie Pedrin-Gizoni; Bruce Johnson; Geoffrey Mogilner; Lorna Rice; Richard Stegner; David Swarens; Fred Schwartz; David Thornton
- **Members Absent:** Diane Lowery
- **Guests:** Tait Galloway - City of San Diego PSP 533-4550 [tgalloway@sandiego.gov](mailto:tgalloway@sandiego.gov); Josie Calderon – JLC/KTU and Associates, 619.475.8524 [josielc@cox.net](mailto:josielc@cox.net); Stephen Hill – Council President Todd Gloria’s office, 619.645.3133 [christopher.ward@san.ca.gov](mailto:christopher.ward@san.ca.gov); Gabriel Gitierrez – Ron Roberts’ office, 619.531.4909 [gabriel.gitierrez@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:gabriel.gitierrez@sdcounty.ca.gov); Robert Zink, Ph.D. – Robert Zink&Associates, 619.296.5802 [RDZink@aol.com](mailto:RDZink@aol.com)

**Non-Agenda Public Comments:** 1. Trolley expansion update – community members participate, flyers, and fact sheet and letter to SANDAG by Geoffrey Mogilner.

**Modifications:** Patricia Fillet announced Dr. Robert Zink, Ph.D., as candidate for one of the five seats open for the April 2103 elections, . Patricia motioned and Chuck Ambers seconded.

**Treasurer’s report:** February balance at \$275.48, donation of \$23. 00 brings forward new balance of \$298.48 for March, 2013.

**Action Items:**

4. Approval of *February Meeting Minutes*
5. Approval of Treasurer’s report
- 6a. Draft Letter to the Directors of SANDAG, presented by Geoffrey Mogilner
- b. Approval of recommendations for rescinding the plan amendments for the Plaza de Panama project, presented by Bruce Coons.
- c. Elections for five seats on the OTCPG

**Comments to action items:**

4. February Meeting Minutes Approved with one edit, italicized on V. 2 FINAL, Geoffrey Mogilner motioned and Marie Pedrin-Gizoni seconded with 12 yes votes, 1 absent, and 3 abstain.
5. Treasurer’s Report, approved.
- 6a. Geoffrey Mogilner presented a draft letter entitled “Economic Sustainability of the Old

Town Community” in response to the Old Town Trolley Expansion proposed by SANDAG. Geoffrey’s point is the OTCPG has a responsibility and instead a letter as he is proposing should be sent to SANDAG, prior to an EIR that tells a community what happens next. Bruce Coons wanted further understanding on Geoffrey’s objections, if any and Geoffrey explained in detail that an overpass as proposed will allow truck passage on Taylor Street and will therefore negatively impact the local businesses. Bruce supports the letter, but asked if there is a way to make the letter clearer. Lorna Rice interjected to ask, if SANDAG provided a presentation on area impact? Geoffrey stated that no information has been given. David Swarens stated that no improvements were planned specifically at Old Town, but further North. Geoffrey stated he is receptive to change the wording and David Swarens offered that specifically the paragraphing needs to be changed. Tait Galloway suggested this could be presented as a public charet that brings the community together before an EIR. Chuck Ambers asked for clarification on traffic impact and Geoffrey responded with “suggestion from studies gives the idea that an overpass is in the works” and asked the group if by including the language of “vehicular traffic overpass” will help to be more specific? David Swarens suggested to identify a separation and Geoffrey Mogilner confirmed not at Taylor Street and that the ability to turn on Juan, Taylor, or Congress Streets are essential for channelization, therefore missing those sites on the named streets. Patricia Fillet asked why this was not part of the Old Town Community Planning Update and Tait Galloway responded this was part of the Old Town Community Workshops during 2012 and this can certainly be part of the recommendations and presentation to the City of San Diego. Geoffrey Mogilner motioned for a Charet and to edit the letter, David Swarens seconded.

6b. Bruce Coons provided an update to the Plaza de Panama issue: A letter to the Mayor and City Attorney was presented to the OTCPG to support eliminating plan amendments and to go back to the original amendment as outlined in the letter, dated March 13, 2013 and supported by the OTCPG, and the North Park Planning Committee. Fred Grand asked what has been done to have Trolley cars to go to this area and Stephen Hill (representative from Todd Gloria’s office) responded that no studies have been provided and the costs are too high, however, Todd Gloria’s office would support Trolley/public transportation to this area. Bruce Coons pointed out that there is a possibility of “Expedition Trolley Cars” but these are also expensive. Will Old Town Trolley support this? This could be a significant filler and Mayor Filner is to propose to use Trolley to alleviate traffic into Balboa Park, altogether. David Swarens thought this could encourage the City and Todd Gloria’s office towards a problem-solving approach.

“Plaza de Panama Project and Land Use Recommendations” letter to be submitted, David Swarens motioned and Fred Grand seconded, 12 votes yes, 1 abstain, 1 absent.

6c. Patricia Fillet provided summary on public outreach with election notices posted within 1/2 mile radius of Old Town between Congress, San Diego Avenue, Jefferson, and Harney Streets and Diane Lowery speaking to other possible vendors and handing out the election notices as well. There are a total of five seats for re-election: Bruce Coons, Lorna Rice, Fred Schwartz, Richard Stegner, David Thornton.

#### Information Items:

i. Community Orientation Workshop (COW) update, two members need to complete this required process for all elected members to a community planning group.

ii. Alex Zirchenbach was to provide an update on a proposed gym next to Perry’s Café Parking lot and on private property, but was unable to present. Tait Galloway stated this

would be a “use-permit”, not action required.

iii. Christopher Ward, Chief of Staff for Senator Marty Block, introduced himself and stated Marty is new to the district, and replaces Christine Kehoe; Senator Block’s area covers: San Diego, Coronado, Del Mar, and Solana Beach; a March/April 2013 News Letter was provided. David Swarens immediately provided background and an update status of old CALTRANS building and Geoffrey Mogilner helped with further details that the CALTRANS building was not transferred due to impact on Taylor Street. Christopher Ward informed the OTCPG that a transfer of sale of One State Entity to another is prohibited, and there are no funds for the full value of the building. Lorna Rice stated that currently there are efforts in changing the law. Fred Grand pointed out that it’s been 7 years since the new CALTRANS building was completed and understood that a transfer would only take 3 months and to date that has not happened. Bruce Coons provided further background: 10 years ago, CALTRANS presented to the OTCPG wanting to demolish the historic building and to build a new one as part of the mitigation to transfer the old CALTRANS building. The Old Town Chamber of Commerce also wrote a letter to support this action and there should be a way to grandfather this in. Stephen Hill (representative from Todd Gloria’s office) also stated Gloria’s office is supportive of the transfer of the old CALTRANS building property. However, an EIR needs to be resolved before a transfer/sale occurs, as Bruce Coons pointed out.

**Discussion Items:**

None.

**Committee Updates:**

- a. Code Enforcement Committee: Lorna Rice and Diane Lowery – No updates
- b. By-laws Committee: Geoffrey Mogilner and David Swartz – David Swarens stated no meetings have been made available, yet.

**Announcements:**

- 1. Gabriel Giterrez (Ron Roberts office) mentioned a news conference was held to inform the Ramona Airport will be closed due to sequestration budget cuts and stated how important this area is for Fire Alerts and that large scale efforts during the fire season can be affected and dangerous. Public outreach to be held at Qualcomm Stadium to exchange gas lawn mowers for electric
- 2. Stephen Hill (Todd Gloria’s office) provided update on Plaza de Panama that after the Judge’s ruling, the City attorney asked if there’s a response? This will be a public document and that it may be possible to do legislative action. Mayor Filner’s office include \$500,000 for a separate review, but the City Council declined. Bruce Coons noted that Council Members: Emerald, Alvarez, and Lightner supported the review. Stephen also informed that Todd Gloria’s office donated \$2,500 of CPPF Funds to the Old Town 4<sup>th</sup> grade Program to help reach it’s goal. A March 2013 Newsletter and “100 days in Office” was provided.
- 3. Patricia Fillet stated Geoffrey Mogilner’s letter has been updated with current date of March 13, 2013 and Mayor and those interested to sign the letter to remain after meeting adjourns.
- 4. Richard Stegner asked for clarification if bylaws need to be updated first, before an election and Tait Galloway said no. There were a few openings left for the First Old Town Golf Tournament and that the funding goals have been met, with a doubling of the original goal!

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by, Patricia Fillet