

Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee (GGHPC)
Minutes for Meeting of June 14, 2017

Present: David Swarens, Chair, Community Planning Committee (CPC) Rep, Airport Noise Committee Rep

Kathy Vandeneuvel, Vice Chair
Victoria Curran, Balboa Park Rep
Susan Bugbee, Historic Subcommittee Chair
Cheryl Brierton, CPC Alternate (taking minutes today)
Ruchell Alvarez
Joe Coneglio
Saad Hirmez
Cristina Magana
Oscar Medina
Janice Davis Muller
Susanna Starcevic
Dr Andrew Zakarian

Absent: Richard Baldwin
Sabrina DiMinico, Secretary
Melissa Serocki, Membership Chair

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Minutes: Vandeneuvel moved, Bugbee seconded: To approve the minutes of 10 May 2017. Motion carried. Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-4 (Coneglio and Hirmez not participating).

2. Government Reports:

A. SDPD, by Community Officer Kevin Vasquez:

--A gun buyback is planned for August-September, dates to be announced;

--"Coffee with a Cop" will be on June 29, 7-8:30 am, at 2920 Imperial

B. 39th State Senate District (Sen. Toni Atkins), by Toni Duran

--Handout distributed, legislation and budget update;

--Socks and underwear drive, items collected until 7/10 for Stand Down Homeless event 7/21-7/23 (sponsored by Veterans Village);

--Old House Fair this Saturday: Sen Atkins will be there 12-1 (Assembly Member Todd Gloria 11-12, City Councilmember Ward 12-1, Congress Rep Davis 11:45-12:25)

--Working with Chair on streetlights issue (City/State/Caltrans jurisdiction)

C. SD City District 3 Councilmember Chris Ward, by Tyler Renner

--Handout distributed; next community meeting will be in Mission Hills

--Thanked community members for appearing yesterday to oppose retaliatory cuts to District 3 (and District 1) community projects, staff, and homeless select committee were made by Mayor Faulconer, in retaliation for Councilmember Ward's vote to wait to regular election cycle to vote on Soccer City.

The GGHPC Chair, Vice Chair, Brierton and other community members spoke in opposition to the retaliation against Districts 3 (and 1). Brierton expressed indignation; Vice Chair indicated some cuts might be restored with the assistance of Council President Cole.

--City projects may be prioritized.

--City Attorney has established a program with Prop 47 funds, so nonviolent homeless can have access to services throughout the criminal justice system.

--Follow up for Vice Chair: City is unable to service trash can at 28th and B, despite garbage now on adjacent residents' properties and in street.

--Curran asked for follow up on empty lot at F and 24th Streets (related issue addressed later in meeting);
--Zakarian was informed CalTrans was responsible for repair on G Street freeway onramp.

D. City Planner Bernard Turgeon

Although unable to attend this meeting, Turgeon provided written update to the Chair:

--The upcoming Historical Resources Board Subcommittee meeting is June 19. Justification for the South Park Historic District is being requested.

--The Golf Course Drive Improvements Feasibility study has been prepared by the Consultant contracted by the Public Works Department. It is being reviewed by Parks and Recreation staff, and by Turgeon; a review meeting is planned for June 28. Three alternative bicycle and pedestrian facility configurations were evaluated with and without the realignment of Golf Course Drive. (The realignment was part of the new clubhouse project previously voted on by GGHPC. The project has been scrapped, the Chair noted.) Turgeon indicated he should be able to report at the GGHPC's July meeting.

E. There were no representatives present for Sen. Atkins, Assembly Member Gloria, or Congress Rep Davis.

3. Non agenda Public Comment

--Tershia D'Elgin spoke about emergency repairs to Juniper Canyon. It is suffering collapse due to the rains. D'Elgin expressed concerns that the repairs would cause further damage, or be inadequate. Since emergency repairs are exempt from CEQA environmental review, D'Elgin is concerned that the community will have no ability to ensure that the collapse is handled in a manner that adequately protects the environment.

The Chair noted that only Brierton had requested Notices of Environmental Appeals. Susanna Starcevic and Oscar Medina asked to be added to receive these going forward as well.

--Tim Briggs stated that GGHPC should examine the facts about efficiency of flashing speed signs and the rate of car driving by millennials before acting. Medina noted that he is a millennial who does not own a car.

--Tracy Norris observed that Briggs' data did not solve existing parking and traffic problems.

4. GGHPC Officers' Reports.

A. The Chair:

--reported on Turgeon's information (above), and the retaliatory Mayoral actions affecting Greater Golden Hill. (See Renner's report above.)

--attended the Balboa Park stakeholder meeting in lieu of Curran (not able to attend). Swarens expressed concern about access by Golden Hill residents to Balboa Park if Florida Canyon is closed. There is currently an online survey by Councilmember Ward, for those wishing to provide input.

--attended the CPC meeting, which addressed Community improvement projects. Further information is forthcoming. (See Renner report.) The CPC recommended that Soccer City not be addressed by Special Election, but at a regular election, consistent with the City Council's subsequent vote.

--noted that the liquor request for the market at 26th/Broadway was withdrawn, as not supported by City staff.

--noted the streetlight issue. (See Duran report above)

B. Vice Chair: No Report.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

A. Community Choice Aggregation (CCA).

The Chair recused himself and left the meeting room. The discussion was presided over by the Vice Chair. Each side was provided equal time to present their views. (Later, Starcevic suggested that comments be timed. Former GGHPC member Santini noted he used to do this for GGHPC.) The City of San Diego will provide a report/recommendation for review in September.

--CCA was represented by Sebastian Sarria (a Golden Hill resident and volunteer) and by Sophie Wolfram (with the Climate Action Campaign). A handout was distributed. They promoted the option to purchase power and gas from a different supplier than SDGE, via a nonprofit City agency to set rates and purchase power. They indicated their rates would be expected to be 1% to 5% less, and that they would choose all renewable energy sources. Because CCA would be a nonprofit, excess over costs would be returned to ratepayers. The City Council will be voting on this by the end of the year; it then takes 1-3 years for the program to be operational. A number of cities in California have chosen this option. The key difference is that their system is transparent.

There were a number of clarifying questions by Hirmez, Starcevic, Curran, Medina and Bugbee, as well as member of the public Norris.

--The existing utilities' viewpoint was expressed by Frank Urtasun of Sempra. He indicated that by law, 50% of energy must come from renewables by 2020. Currently, 43% of SDGE's energy is from renewables, and customers can go online to SDGE's website at Eco-Tariff if they want 100% renewables (about \$2/month more). There is also eco-share online, to share solar power.

Utilities do not make money on generation, but only on distribution, also by law. Urtasun indicated the main concern of utilities is that presently, SDGE gets 80% of its renewable energy from vendors who build solar farms and wind projects via lease, so they want this cost reimbursed as an exit fee by law, if CCA is selected. CCA only contracts with existing renewable providers, and does not create new renewable providers, a hidden cost. Urtasun suggested that all cities in San Diego County should create a Joint Powers Authority to take over these leases, or build renewable sources.

There were a number of clarifying questions by the Vice Chair, Brierton, Coneglio, Hirmez, Zakarian, Alvarez, and by members of the public Burkart and Santini.

Alvarez moved, Hirmez seconded: To table this item to September 2017. Motion carried, 10-yes, 1-no, 1-abstention, Chair not participating. Renner will assist the Chair in updating the timeline and City contact for the upcoming report. GGHPC expressed its desire for City staff and both sides to be present when the item is presented again for action.

B. CIP Prioritization.

A GGHPC subcommittee headed by the Vice Chair met on May 31 to discuss this issue. Swarens, Curran and Magana participated, as well as members of the public, including Mike Gruby and Judd Curran. At this time, GGHPC will need more information about the City's CIP Prioritization process to proceed on a vote. Swarens anticipates the information will be provided at the CPC meeting. (See Chair's report above.)

--The subcommittee wants the following projects to remain on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 list, from the FY 2017 list: 25th Street Renaissance Project, 26th Street Pedestrian Pathway, Golf Course Drive Pathway, Parkland Acquisition, and Central Operations Yard.

--The subcommittee wanted the following to remain on the list as low priorities: South Park Wayfinding system, pedestrian bridge over Pershing Drive to the opposite side of Balboa Park.

--The subcommittee noted that following projects should be removed from the list due to the City's determination on ineligibility for CIP funding: GGH Community Street Restoration (deemed maintenance), decorating South Park Utility boxes (deemed maintenance), replacing street lights with acorn lights, and deck over Highway 94 (Caltrans's responsibility).

--Swarens is in contact with State representatives to clarify the I-5 Broadway street lights issue. (See Durant report above.)

--The subcommittee discussed addition projects to include in the FY 2018 list: Russ Blvd/28th St pedestrian and bike connection (Swarens), enhanced safety of biking/walking on paved roadway at 25th St/Golden Hill Park (part of Balboa Park) (Magana); add the 5 identified pocket park locations from Community Plan (Vandenheuvel); close Grape Street between Fern and 30th for community space/park (Gruby), bike lane on Broadway from 25th St to 19th St (Judd Curran).

--The subcommittee also considered: a student project mapping bike lanes; prioritizing F Street linear Park and Glendale/25th St. Park; lighting needed for F St and for 25th St. Victoria Curran Cristina Magana will follow up on lighting.

C. Traffic Issues on F Street.

1. Stop Signs.

The problem identified is that the neighborhood street is used as a frontage road to bypass the freeway, with vehicles travelling at high rates of speed. In a meeting with a City Traffic Engineer, Swarens and Curran were informed that the GGHPC could initiate a request for stop signs. The key stop sign needed is at 24th Street, with a second one at 21st Street, feeding into the freeway onramp. After discussion,

*Brierton moved, Zakarian seconded. To proceed with the 24th Street stop sign now, and wait to observe the effect before proceeding with the stop sign at 21st Street. This motion was withdrawn by the maker and second, after further discussion.

*Coneglio moved, Alvarez seconded. To proceed with requests for both stop signs now, at 21st/F and 24th/F. Motion carried, 12-yes, 0-no, 2-abstentions.

In response to a question, the Chair clarified that under our current Bylaws, the Chair must always abstain except if there is a tie. There is a Bylaws amendment pending that would allow the Chair to vote.

2. Converting "F Street to a 2-way Street.

Curran indicated that 14/18 residents affected supported this change via signing a petition. The City indicated a petition was necessary, since this affects freeway access/Caltrans. The issue is linked to the proceeding issue, and is deemed to reclaim neighborhood streets for residents, and assist in the ultimate implementation of the community pocket park/F Street linear park.

*Curran moved, Zakarian seconded. To convert 21st/F from one way to two-way. Motion carried, 11-yes, 0-no, 2-abstain.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.