

Midway - Pacific Highway Community Planning Group Minutes

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

- 1) Call to Order: 3:06 PM
- 2) Introductions
- 3) Members Present: George Diaz, Tod Howarth, Gilbert Kennedy, Cathy Kenton, Randall LaRocco, Judy Palmore, Dawn Reilly, Amy Stark. A Quorum was met.
 - a) Members Excused: Kurt Sullivan
- 4) Approval of Minutes: Tabled
- 5) Public Comment: Jordan Beane announced that he is a candidate for City Council; gave a brief introduction, distributed business/campaign cards.
- 6) City/ Government Office Reports:
 - a) Planning Department – Vickie White reported that a 400-page EIR (Environmental Impact Report) on the proposed Midway redevelopment will be released by the City in November. There will be a 60-days period after its release, for public comment/remarks/questions to City Council. Chair Cathy Kenton expressed concern about the timing of this release being November, just as we begin two months of busy winter holidays/vacation season, questioning whether the public or the Board would have sufficient time to read and consider an important 400-page document. Chair asked for a better time-frame of release and/or review. All Board members seemed to agree with Chair’s concern, and Vickie said she would take the concern back to the City. Additionally, Chair suggested that the Board consider breaking up the document into smaller sections to be allocated among Board members for review and subsequent reports back at the Board meeting following the distribution month. This seemed to be an acceptable idea by all Board members present in the interest of the time involved to carefully peruse such a large document with significant impact on the Midway district.
 - b) Police Department – Resource Officer David Surwilo addressed the tent housing for the homeless project recently announced by the Mayor’s office, specifically the structure that will be erected in the Midway district on Sports Arena Blvd. The tent in our community will be run by Veterans Village. Officer Surwilo’s understanding is that this tent is only for veterans who have been previously screened and are interested in moving off the streets permanently. The tent residence will be transitional housing for veterans only; it was noted that as veterans they already have services available to them; this will be a place where they can get help to access existing program services. The Police Department considers this project to be a positive for the community, as it is not intended to be a revolving door. Officer Surwilo mentioned that shift change had just occurred in the Western Division and asked that we be sure to call the department with issues in the community. Officer Surwilo made mention that he is on the Board of the Aspire Center in Ocean Beach. Officer Surwilo additionally lamented the problem police continue to have because of Proposition 47, which removed their greatest leverage for removing offenders out of our area: felony laws. Officers used to be able to make arrests and remove offenders from our streets for crimes that are now reclassified as misdemeanors. Chair Cathy Kenton commented that she was told by the Mayor’s office that the Police Department will have more leverage because of the recently declared ‘state of emergency’ due to the Hepatitis A outbreak. Office Surwilo responded to a question by a guest about what offenses

they ticket for rather than arrest; he concluded his report with a reminder how to report crimes. His email is DSurwilo@PD.SanDiego.gov and his partner Resource Officer's email is RPinion@PD.SanDiego.gov.

- c) Council District 2 Office – Bruce Williams reported that funds for a “cleanup day” in the Midway district have been approved for November, no date has been set. The cleanup will be conducted by nonprofits groups Connecting Hope and Urban Corps volunteers. A question was asked about how many dollars were approved, Bruce could not give an exact number but estimated \$10K-\$15K. To volunteer/be involved contact Bruce@@SanDiego.gov. Send a list of suggested areas for cleanup to Bruce; also, Judy Holiday offered to consolidate comments & recommendations and can be sent to her at judy@turnlanetravel.com Bruce distributed a fact sheet on the new Pacific Beach Pipeline South project, and said a representative of the project would attend our next MPG meeting. Bruce advised that the newly appointed liaison on the homeless issue in the Mayor's office would attend our next meeting. Bruce distributed the latest District 2 Update newsletter to all in attendance.

7) Chair Report – Chair Cathy Kenton:

- a) Bylaws Update: Chair Cathy advised that the Midway Planning Group's Bylaws are not in compliance with Council Policy & need to be updated. A document of notes & updates will be distributed for review. Board members Gil and Amy offered to become a sub-committee to review the Council Policy and recommend changes to be made to the MPG Bylaws that will bring them into compliance with the City's policy. Their report will be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- b) BID Funds Update: Chair Cathy reported that in response to the limitations imposed on our plans to use the existing BID Funds, she requested and was refused a meeting with the City Attorney to discuss the issue. She stated that the conversation she had with the City was heated, regarding the City's directive that any private security service we hire would not be permitted to go onto private property in the execution of services. All Board members present seemed to agree that this limitation would make the expenditure of our funds on a private security service a waste of these monies in that our Board would just be paying to do what is considered by most to be the City's job, i.e., patrolling the community to keep homeless and vagrants from congregating, camping, vandalizing, committing crimes in our district. All agreed to review the original BID document to find a new use for the funds, and further discussion will be an agenda item for a future meeting.
- c) Chair Cathy reported that she was contacted by the Mayor's office regarding the new Tent Housing project, specifically about the structure to be erected in the Midway district. She was advised that this tent is not an emergency tent and will not be used for overnight emergency situations, and will be a year-round fixture (not temporary.) It was referred to by the City as “bridge housing” with the emphasis on helping only those willing to move off the streets and into emergency and/or permanent housing as soon as possible. Chair was told that the Mayor is meeting weekly with the CEO's of prospective service providers to negotiate details of services. Chair was advised that only veterans with a DD214 discharge document are eligible for this [tent] housing in Midway. Dave Siegler of Veterans Village San Diego, in attendance at today's meeting, verified that VVSD will be overseeing the Midway tent community.

8) Information Items/Reports/Presentations:

- a) SPAWAR Development Plans: A presentation was made by Greg Geisen of SPAWAR that introduced a revitalization project for the current SPAWAR facilities in the Old Town area. This was an “information-only” presentation announcing their desire and intent to attract a partner/s for a PPV “private-public venture” redevelopment of the 62-acre property they currently are underutilizing. Also in attendance from SPAWAR was Kimberly Kessler, Director of Communications, and Bill Grise.

9) Action Items:

- a) Midway/Rosecrans Chevron Station CUP On-Sale License: Craig Shaefer of PM Design Group, Inc. distributed 2 pages of plans and gave a presentation explaining the plans for redevelopment of the current Chevron Service Station at the corner of Rosecrans & Midway. The plans require a new CUP (Community Use Permit) be approved and obtained from the City. The new business model cannot include beer/wine sales due to licensing saturation in the community. The targeted reopening is December 2018. Discussion and questions ensued, with all Board members being pleased to learn of the redevelopment of this somewhat unsightly prominent intersection property. Questions were asked about sidewalks shown on the plans not meeting the new width standards being proposed in the new community plans, which Vickie White commented on. The owners requested a vote of support for issuance of the CUP for the new project. Board member Dawn motioned that we approved the CUP for this project, and Board member Mike seconded the motion. One vote was opposed, the rest were in favor, the motion carried.
- b) Veterans Village of San Diego Board Member Replacement: James Doolittle, an employee of Veterans Village of San Diego will no longer be able to serve on the Board and has submitted his resignation. David Siegler of Veterans Village of San Diego has offered to serve as a replacement for the remainder of James’ term. Gil made a motion to accept James Doolittle’s resignation and that we appoint David Siegler as his replacement for the remainder of the Doolittle term. Amy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

10) Community Planners Committee Report – Chair Cathy Kenton reported that the Committee was “dark” in August.

11) Old Business: None

12) New Business: None

13) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 PM