

## Midway - Pacific Highway Community Planning Group Minutes

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

San Diego Community College West City Campus, 3249 Fordham St. Room 208, San Diego CA 92110

- 1) Call to Order: 3:05 PM
- 2) Introductions
- 3) Members Present: Cathy Kenton, Todd Howarth, Gilbert Kennedy, Randall LaRocco, Judy Holiday, Dawn Reilly, Amy Stark, Dave Siegler, Mike Swanston
  - a) Members Excused: Kurt Sullivan
  - b) Members Absent: George Diaz
- 4) Approval of Minutes: Tabled
- 5) Public Comment: Board Member Dawn invited everyone to attend "Murette Gardner Day on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> they are looking for volunteers. Dawn is overseeing a "raffle" of a street legal golf cart that will be given away on 11/18 at the 'Beautiful Mission Beach' event.
- 6) City/ Government Office Reports:
  - a) Mayor' Office – Anthony George: Reported on the recently announced pay increase for City Police Dept. officers, up to a 30.6%pay increase by 2020; still must be approved by the City Council. This increase should help retain our officers and attract new recruits by offering more competitive compensation in line with what is offered by other cities and the county Sheriff's Dept. RE: Hepatitis A issue: Anthony discussed the vaccination program is ongoing, the sidewalk cleaning & advised the City has installed 72 hand wash stations around the City. Contact Anthony's office to learn locations where the City is sanitizing sidewalks. RE: SD River valley clean up: 60 tons of trash has been removed from the river valley. The City is increasing the cleaning of public restrooms and abatement on the streets. A Safe Camp area has been opened in Golden Hill as an interim solution for housing the homeless until the permanent tent camps are set up. A Safe Parking zone has been opened in Kearney Mesa for homeless who want to sleep in their cars. The Midway tent site will be opening next. Concerns about water testing of the beach water were directed to Anthony who advised that the City has decided testing beach water is not necessary. A discussion followed with guest and board members input re: ways to discourage panhandling in the Midway district, discussing the merits of a PSA campaign and signs posted strategically around the community to discourage both residents and tourists from giving money/food handouts to panhandlers, directing them instead to support local nonprofits who have programs in place to feed, house, and provide other services to this population. To contact Anthony George: [GeorgeA@SanDiego.gov](mailto:GeorgeA@SanDiego.gov) or 619.236.5980.
  - b) Planning Dept. – Vickie White: Announced the release date of the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) for the Midway plan is Dec. 1, and after concerns expressed by Chair Cathy Kenton about the timing during the busy holiday season, Vicky agreed to try to move the release date to Dec. 15. The Board members seemed to all express concerns there would be little time for or interest by the community in reviewing the report due to the holiday season. Vickie briefly reviewed the relevant chapters of the report that the Board will want to focus on when it is released, citing that Chapter 5 is significant and the primary impact chapter, with Chapters 6, 7, 8 and the Executive Summary being of note. Chapter 8 analyzes alternatives to the plan. The timeline for the EIR after release: Release; 60 days for public review/comment/questions; then

the City will respond to public comment/questions. A question was asked as to whether the City is required to respond to all questions/comments. The question was never specifically answered. The full EIR will be available online, and hard copies will be available at select libraries. After this overview of the contents of the report, Judy Holiday asked why the report could not just be released after the first of the year, given that a mid-December release is right in the middle of the busy holiday season and does not provide adequate time for this report to be reviewed and then discussed at the next board meeting. Vicky said she would investigate as to whether the City would agree to wait until January to release the EIR.

7) Information Items/Reports/Presentation:

a) Public Works Dept. – Presentation: replacement of the West Mission Bay Bridge over the San Diego River project by Jesus Garcia of the Dept. This is a Federally funded project which will begin in early 2018 and be completed by Fall 2021, is a \$123M project, \$103M of which is Federal monies, the balance provided by the City of San Diego. There were questions and concerns about if the recent decision by the State of California to officially identify as a “Sanctuary City” would jeopardize the distribution of the Federal funds to the City for this project. The answer was no, based on the fact that the funds had already been approved; there was no confirmation that approved funds were already distributed.

8) Chair Report – Chair Cathy Kenton: Reported that she had been in contact with Bruce Williams (Council District 2 representative) RE: Diagonal parking on Hancock St. across from The Orchard Apts. Bruce said that this project is in the works. RE: Moore St. @ Camino del Rio W intersection closing the median, there was a question as to whether this would be a Caltrans or City request/project. RE: PSAs to educate public on why not to feed/give money to panhandlers, Bruce has offered to have the Mayor’s newly appointed staff member to oversee the Homeless issue attend our next meeting. Board member Dawn mentioned that there was a meeting in PB tonight on this issue. RE: Council member Lori Zapf’s recent focus has been on bringing the City’s health issues to the forefront. Dave Schwab, reporter for the Beacon, contacted Chair Kenton about a robo-call survey he heard about that is surveying the public on redevelopment of the Sports Arena. Chair has listened to the robo-call recording, and sent emails to the Mayor’s office, Vicky White, and the Sports Arena office to inquire who sponsored these calls and learn the backstory. The calls were mentioned on the 9/29/17 Voice of SD radio broadcast, but no one seems to know who sponsored the calls. There was speculation as to whether it may be the “Downtown Partnership” organization, or at the direction of Ms. Chris Mitchell, recently assigned to major projects for the City of SD. RE: Old Post Office Bldg.: A new group has purchased the site/building and Chair has requested the make and information only presentation to our group in the future.

9) Action Items: None

10) Old Business: None

11) New Business: A resident guest in attendance brought up a confrontation with an aggressive homeless man on the resident’s private property. He was advised to report all incidents to the police, always, as number of reports in a community determines the allocation of new officers.

12) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 PM

