

SOUTHEASTERN SAN DIEGO PLANNING GROUP

BOARD MINUTES

Monday, September 9, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Mountain View Community Center, 641 South Boundary St., San Diego CA 92113
Contact: Steve Veach (Sveach80@aol.com, 619-238-4537)

City of San Diego Southeastern San Diego Planning Group website:
<https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/southeasternsd/plan>

Agendas and Minutes:
<https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/southeasternsd/agendas>

This Planning Group covers the area south of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Freeway (Highway 94), east of Interstate 5, north of the border of National City, and west of Interstate 805. It includes the communities of Sherman Heights, Logan Heights, Grant Hill, Memorial, Stockton, Mount Hope, Mountain View, Southcrest, and Shelltown.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Steve Veach, Chair, resident
Louise Torio, Projects Secretary and Board Secretary today, resident
Jaime Capella, resident
Dale Huntington, resident
Robert Leif, property owner
Aaron Magagna, business owner
Vincent Noto, resident
Lamont Pargo, resident
Myron Taylor, Vice Chair, resident
Alli Urguby, resident
Kerry Wesson, resident
Reggie Womack, Treasurer, resident
[not in attendance: residents Oscar Gomez and Chelsea Klaseus (Secretary)]

2. ADOPT THE AGENDA

Motion by Torio, seconded by Noto, to adopt the agenda, minus the approval of Board meeting minutes from April 13 and July 8, 2019, since the Board Secretary was not able to attend this meeting, and minus Action Item 8B (CPC Recommendation/6 Planning Groups).
Approved 12-0-0.

3. MEETING MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Meeting minutes from 4/13/19 and 7/8/19 tabled until the October meeting, per 2 above.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS (the public may speak on matters not on the agenda, for a maximum of up to two minutes)

Former City Council member David Alvarez is now a consultant. He has a client who is looking to develop property along Commercial Avenue between 29th and 30th Streets. Mr. Alvarez is doing outreach to the community. The area is currently a mix of residential and industrial uses. Any existing use of the site will be adopted, and he believes no plan amendment will be needed. While the Commercial corridor allows for density and growth, they do not expect to densify with this project. This is preliminary outreach. In the future, as ideas take shape, Mr. Alvarez can return to do a more detailed presentation.

Robert Leif wanted to be clear that he is not in favor of eminent domain.

Louise Torio said the next free interior tours of the Villa Montezuma Museum will be on October 19, 2019. This 1887 house museum is located at the corner of 20th and K Streets in the Sherman Heights Historic District. The Friends of the Villa Montezuma, Inc. (FOVM) will do the tours for this City event. Registration is through the City's event website at www.SDRecConnect.com. In addition, the FOVM will do the Permanent Victorians walk of Mount Hope Cemetery on October 26 at 12:30 p.m. This walk is free, since the City of San Diego owns the cemetery. To RSVP, please send an email to FOVM@VillaMontezumaMuseum.org. See www.VillaMontezumaMuseum.org for more information.

Kerry Wesson, who works for the City of San Diego, said that there is a backlog of projects at the City.

5. REPORTS

A. Elected Officials' Staff Reports (Districts 4, 8, and 9).

D8: Council Member Vivian Moreno and her staff member Eddie Padilla attended. CM Moreno talked about activities, efforts, and goals for District 8. She has sponsored numerous clean-ups in our region and supported requests for things like stop signs at dangerous intersections. The City's budgeting process is how projects get funding. The process starts in November, then get approved by City Council in June. It's important to let CM Moreno know what is important to our region since the budgeting process takes time. Legislation starts here. Support for infrastructure, parks, and museum needs like the Chicano Park Museum and the Villa Montezuma Museum is important. We need to target these needs and others.

SDDPG members brought up the following issues:

- There are many homeless people with mental illness in our area. The homeless storage facility at 20th and Commercial that opened in June 2018 draws more people into the neighborhoods east of downtown. We need to encourage partnership with the County (which has funds for mental health staff) to do more to assist with this effort.
- Park and Recreation always needs more support. These rec centers are important safe places for our children.
- It would be great if District 8 could highlight the SDDPG in the monthly newsletter, to encourage area residents to attend the monthly meetings and get involved in the planning group.
- Infrastructure needs: Harrison Street desperately needs more street lights and between 28th Street and Evans the street needs resurfacing. One suggestion was to use solar street lights. CM Moreno made a motion at City Council to put 5 percent of the \$20,000,000 the City will get from gas tax funds toward the \$42,000,000 need for more street lights. The motion didn't get a second, so it didn't succeed. Lighting and sidewalk repairs are needed for people to feel safe walking at night.
- How can being in the Promise Zone help us? America has 22 federally designated Promise Zones. Since 2016 the San Diego Promise Zone (SDPZ)

covers 6.4 square miles and stretches through parts of East Village, Barrio Logan, Logan Heights, Southeastern, and Encanto and spans portions of Council Districts 3, 4, 8, and 9 and areas within the 92101, 92102, 92113, and 92114 zip codes. It would be good for District 8 staff to see how we might use the Promise Zone to help our area.

- We need CM Moreno's support to fight any effort by the City to turn the 42 planning groups into six mega-planning groups. This proposed consolidation will prevent public input and will cause loss of volunteers to serve on these groups. Silencing dialog and representation should not be the aim of the City. This proposal stems from the Grand Jury discussion of "NIMBY-ism" of some planning groups and their inappropriate requests of some applicants; this situation does not apply to the SSDPG and we should not be punished. The City's planning group bylaw update of a few years ago standardized most planning groups' rules. Why change the City Charter for this? CM Moreno stated that she does not want planning groups consolidated.
- The City should do all it can to encourage electric car usage and other means that help with climate change. In addition, if there are an environmental planning grants we need to study the bad air quality in our district and how to change it. CM Moreno is a huge advocate for getting State and Federal funding for issues like this. Mayor Faulconer recently hired a person to seek Federal grants for San Diego.
- Is there any way to have each planning group be under one council district? It would be extremely complicated to do that.

D4: Council Member Monica Montgomery's policy advisor Eric Henson provided District 4 updates. (Mr. Henson was previously chair of the Skyline planning group.) He attends the Promise Zone meetings, but few residents attend and not enough information comes out of these meetings. Dale Huntington attended some of these meetings and felt that residents weren't supported or listened to (for example, the Safety group had concerns but were instructed to just use the City's Get It Done app.). Mr. Henson said that the Promise Zone staff should collaborate with nonprofits for priority for funding. He will share with Economic Development these concerns. In addition, Dale said the meetings should not be in downtown skyscrapers with \$20 parking, which further discourages area residents from participating. The next Promise Zone meeting will be at the Logan Library on September 12 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m., so there is free parking. Mr. Henson listed a number of upcoming meetings that the community may want to attend. See the District 4 website for all details. Board members also asked District 4 to publish the SSDPG meetings on the D4 calendar.

D9: no rep/no report.

- B. City Departments – none
- C. Civic San Diego – none
- D. Chair Report – none
- E. CPC Representative Report – Myron Taylor thanked the community members present here today and encourage them to tell their neighbors to attend so they can bring to our attention any concerns.

There will be five upcoming workshops for the 2021-2029 housing element updates. See online how your involvement can help the City develop a plan.

www.SanDiego.gov/planning/genplan/housingelementupdate

Senate Bill 949 will allow food vendors to sell in the community, with food services on the corners. The regulations are to be developed. This should go before the October City Council meeting. There are concerns about how it can be managed and the need for Code Enforcement, mainly on the weekends. The City may need weekend code enforcement personnel.

SANDAG has a request for proposal to hire a consultant to study micro mobility to see if people are using scooters and bikes to get to and from work, to get people out of their cars.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Logan Heights LID (South) for Stormwater Treatment and Flow Control

~~The City of San Diego is completing the design of this project that will install Green Infrastructure (GI) components to treat and filter stormwater by soaking up and storing water for water quality treatment and flow control to reduce pollutants to help achieve Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements for Chollas Creek. Presented by Roberto Diawatan, Project Engineer, PW/E&CP Department, Right Of Way Design Division.~~

No one attend from the City, so this item was not heard.

B. Circulate San Diego

The City of San Diego and the County of San Diego are working on a project that looks at infrastructure and non-infrastructure transportation projects, focused in the Mid-City and Southeastern communities. Jana Schwartz of Circulate San Diego is the project manager, 619-544-9255. The San Diego Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (SDREACH) seeks to improve health, prevent chronic diseases, and reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic populations with the highest risk of chronic disease. Over the next four years this project will focus efforts in the Southeastern and Mid-City areas. Goals include improving nutrition, encouraging exercise, and ending smoking. They seek to get funding to implement these changes. The survey was distributed. This is independent from SANDAG study. SSDPG members said that designated parking areas for scooters is a positive move, and that the bike lanes going in downtown will make biking safer. The website for this effort is very long and should be changed if they want participation. See this site: <http://www.123formbuilder.com/form-4970113/reach-public-outreach>

C. Lyft Community Pass Program

This is a low-income, discount program that costs \$5 per month and includes unlimited free 30-minute rides on Lyft scooters for people 18 years old and up. Angelica Rocha, Outreach Coordinator with Circulate SD, stated that the cost is \$5 if you qualify for any govt assistance program. Go to Lyft website to sign up and applicants can show an ABT card, etc., to get this program (just being a poor student doesn't qualify you for this discount). Scooters are emission free. If Lyft cancels the program they will give a month notice. SSDPG members noted that very few Lyft scooters are available in our neighborhoods. If area residents sign up for this program, they'd have to ask Lyft to bring scooters in.

7. **CONSENT ITEMS:** None

8. **ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Head-in Parking for the 3000-3100 Block of Logan Avenue

Installation of head-in parking at the north side of Logan Avenue between South 30th Street and South 31st Street to add 18 additional parking spaces.

Block resident Vanessa Frost stated that this head-in parking would be extremely helpful since the parking from events at Founders Hall overflows that parking lot onto the block and prevents residents from parking. Respondents to the parking survey were 77 percent in favor. Motion by Magagna, seconded by Capella, to support this head-in parking. Approved 12-0-0.

B. Community Planners Committee (CPC) Recommendation / 6 Planning Groups

~~Board discussion on the CPC proposal. CPC website:~~
~~<https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/cpc>.~~

Removed from agenda.

9. **ADJOURNMENT** at 7:45 p.m.