



North Park Planning Committee

General Meeting

Minutes

July 16, 2024 6:30PM

Call to order: 6:33PM

In attendance:

Board Member	Present (online)	Absent (excused)
Jay Robinson Duff	X	
Lynn Elliott	X	
Patrick Garbani	X	
Bob LaRose		X
Barton Lynch	X	
Roger McClish	X	
Heidi Orcino	X	
Kevin Piechota		X
Liz Saba	X	
Doug Schueler	X	
Glenn Todd	(X)	
Mark Spitzer	X	
Mieko Sunbury	X	
Jason Vance	X	

I. Agenda modifications

- Approval agenda
 - Schueler/McClish 12-0-0
- May Minutes Approval
 - Edit on minutes - Non agenda public comment - Pat's comments about senior center - the way it is worded doesn't emphasize the point that demo will not benefit the community or the staff whereas the items that still need to be done will benefit the community and staff.
 - Move to approve with edit - McClish/Schueler 12-0-0
- Treasurer's Report
 - No report

II. Non-agenda public comment

- Michael - Intersection at Landis and 33rd - seems very dangerous for pedestrians. The traffic circle is too small in diameter to slow cars down and the corners are blind to see pedestrians. There has been a hit and run by a car on a biker here.
 - Logan says going through the traffic service request form is the way to do it. Michael has communicated with traffic engineering who suggested coming to NPCC.
 - Lynn says the many different offices are unsure where to best route this in the short term. Lynn will pass it to Logan again.
- Mark with NP Main St - new shops opening, exciting for the community. There's questions about the shuttle program that's coming to NP. NPMS expects the shuttle to begin this fall and have free rides for a year. Reach out to mark@northparkmainstreet.com with questions.
 - Mark will send out information about the full-day walk audit by AARP about improving walkability. This will be on September 26th. Sign up with NPMS to participate.

III. Elected Official & Planner Reports:

- Joshua Dunn, Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe, San Diego County District 3, Joshua.Dunn@sdcounty.ca.gov
 - Priorities of the supervisor are reimagining public safety, homelessness and housing, economic opportunities, food injustice.
 - Today on the dais they voted to put the tiny home shelter in Lemon Grove.
 - There is a subsidy program for those over 55 of \$500 monthly for 18 months to offset unexpected expenses.
- Emily Piatanesi, Hon. Todd Gloria, Mayor of San Diego, epiatanesi@sandiego.gov
 - New fire chief approved - Chief Robert Logan, has been with fire dept for 24 years
 - Scott Wahl is new police chief since the beginning of June. Native San Diegan and been with SDPD for 26 years.
 - City planning dept has the infrastructure priorities survey live year round. Depending on submission date will dictate when things will be addressed.
 - [City Planning Infrastructure Priorities Survey](#) on the SD website to find it or Lynn will send it out this week.
 - On homelessness - coastal commission approved H Barracks safe parking site. Construction will happen over the rest of this year, operational early next year.
 - [Hope at Vine](#) - 1000 congregate beds in Middletown - will be brought up July 22 to city council. Encourage all supporters to come down - expect a late night so you can write a comment or view virtually.
 - Question: Is there a long-term plan for homelessness by the mayor?
 - H Barracks is temporary until it becomes a Pure Water facility. The Hope at Vine shelter is more permanent.
 - Big picture long-term - outreach, shelter, permanent supportive housing, housing. Working to develop housing at all income levels. Last year San Diego permitted more housing permits than in the last two decades.
- Logan Braydis, Hon. Stephen Whitburn, City Council Dist. 3, (619) 236-6633 LBraydis@sandiego.gov
 - Community Projects Programs and Services (CPPS) funding for FY2025 has begun. Applications open until Aug 9.

- Office is hosting a back to school drive July 23-Aug 6. If you can donate school supplies you can do so at the NP library and NP Main Street office. More info on social media and [here](#).
- Submit about traffic calming on the traffic service request form that goes directly to the office.
- University Ave Mobility Project - there are a few University intersections with non-operational signal lights. There are some issues but they should be operational by September. The work is expected to be substantially complete this fall.
- Question: What's the plan for bus lanes?
 - Westbound on University - as is is the final setup
 - Eastbound on University - there are plans for a bike lane here but no timeline
 - Ultimately there should be a continuous bus/bike lane on either side
 - City Council will be on recess in August. Logan will have more time to respond to community concerns so send them in.
 - Some sidewalks, dirt, and traffic cones issues in the area. Logan will provide an update.
 - Put things on the Get It Done app.
- Lynn Elliott, Chair CPC Report
 - They presented about the CIP infrastructure survey. They asked about reimbursement funds - all groups said they could use more money.
 - There's discussion on the short term vacation ordinance. Someone expressed that if many of the short-term rentals were normal rentals we would have better rental prices and fewer homeless issues.
 - The CPC is looking at storm water drains in Switzer Canyon. The community was upset about this and the city changed the scope to address these concerns. People are concerned about the wildlife and other environmental issues involved with the storm drain project and the city is taking this into consideration.

IV. Consent Items

- A. Approve : PRJ 110314 installation of .7 miles of sewer line and associated manholes in
 - Switzer Canyon. Installation at four locations of .7 miles of storm drain in the Balboa Golf
 - Course and Switzer Canyon. 5/0/0 vote in UDPR subcommittee
- B. Approve : PRJ 1107372 Cell Tower at 2235 University ave., roof of Smart And Final
 - Market vote 5/0/0 in UDPR subcommittee
- McClish/Scheuler move to approve, 12-0-0

V. Action/Informational Items

- A. Presentation of Pershing Drive status by SANDAG representative: Chris Carterette, AICP, Senior Regional Planner
 - Sat July 27 10:00 Bird Park grand opening
 - Bike lane goes through eastern Balboa Park to connect recreational and commuting bike infrastructure. Also major additions of sidewalks and landscaping. Expected to be fully complete in coming weeks.
 - Upas between Pershing and Utah bike lane is coming next

- Comment: Pershing and Redwood roundabout is not level. It's difficult to see the other cars with the tree in the center.
 - It's a complicated place to have the roundabout. There's been a lot of grading work to make it more level. The tree is to make it so people have to be cautious. This is counterintuitive but it is best practice.
- Question: Northbound and Southbound lanes - it seems there is no room for error for cars. Was thought given to that?
 - Narrower lanes encourage people to drive more slowly. A median in the center of a roadway like this tends to make people treat streets like freeways. This is another best practice.
- Question: There's been a lot of trees planted along Pershing. Who is responsible for maintaining and watering? Are they drought resistant?
 - Balboa Park will have responsibility for maintaining the trees. They were selected by Balboa Park horticulturalists for hardiness, drought tolerance, and beauty. Many of them are Australian, where there is a similar climate to SD.
- Question: Is the lane width wide enough for emergency vehicles? They seem very narrow.
 - It's 11 ft, this is standard for traffic calming. It's designed for large vehicles and there will not be a problem for fire trucks.
- Question: The downhill bike lane heading south on the right - if we add the bike lane the street will be even narrower. Bike advocates have said the downhill is the most dangerous part of the ride.
 - This is made so that people can pull over and have a safe spot to be and for bikers who want to go fast downhill at this point. The bike lane provides extra room for people to make space for emergency eventualities, for those who are confused about where the bike lane is, and for those who want to go faster. It is likely too late to change the design. The bikeway remains the best and safest way for bikers to take this path.
- Question: What's the cost of this project?
 - Construction cost to SANDAG \$14 million, about \$2 million over original budget. The city has funded the paving.
- Question: What's the speed limit for cars?
 - There's an 85th percentile survey practice to set the speed limit where they set the speed at the 85th percentile speed for drivers. SANDAG has worked to make it 45 mph right off the freeway, 35 mph on Pershing from Florida to the Velodrome, 30 mph around the nursery driveway, 25 mph after that. There is no speed indicated right at the roundabout because people go in at that speed or faster, and then 25 mph from north of the roundabout to Upas. After this is established, they will do the speed survey and re-sign as needed.
- Question: Is there the assumption that SANDAG would prefer people to go slower than the marked speed?
 - That would be ideal, but realistically SANDAG was unable to push for speeds as low as 25 mph. There is belief that Pershing

is arterial. San Diego isn't to the point like Portland or Chico with a city-wide 25 mph speed limit.

- Question: Are there plans to close the gap between Upas and 30th st bikeways to create a contiguous bike lane?
 - Upas and Landis are pretty calm already, so people can connect there. But the city would ultimately like to connect the Pershing and 30th bikeways with separated bike lanes.
- Question: Concerned about the roundabout during rush hours that it will back up on Redwood. Shouldn't the signs say merge instead of yield? Is there a backup plan if this creates backups?
 - The yield signs are California Vehicle Code that says the car in the roundabout has the right of way. It *is* a merge ultimately, but it's a yield and merge.
 - The modeling didn't show a backup onto Redwood. Usually roundabouts smooth traffic flow rather than creating bottlenecks. In San Diego, and particularly in NP, people are learning to use roundabouts. The roundabout there was placed to avoid the backups of 4 way stops.
 - The city can modify the roundabout if needed based on backups after Pershing opens.
 - Roundabouts are often unpopular when they are planned but people tend to like them after they're done.
- Question: Is it Balboa Park Foundation or Parks and Rec Dept who's responsible for the landscaping maintenance?
 - It's divided between transportation, stormwater, and parks and rec. P&R is responsible for natural areas and landscaping. Stormwater is in charge of the stormwater infrastructure. Transportation is responsible for sidewalk, street, and bikeway surfacing and paint.
- Comment from Juan Guerrero - Thanks for work on the bikeway both as a biker and a driver.

- B. Election of Board Member
 - 2 min speeches, Board votes, seating of New Board Member
 - Neil Heacox wins open seat

VI. Subcommittee Reports

- Urban Design & Project Review: Chair, Mark Spitzer
 - Switzer Canyon sewer and stormwater project was approved
 - Cell tower on Smart & Final also approved
- Public Facilities & Transportation: Chair, Doug Schueler
 - Parking proposal on Monroe between 30th and Ohio to add four 90 degree parking spots. This was pushed to the next meeting where the city rep will be able to attend. Committee wants to ask about angled back-in parking.
 - Jason Vance presented on street safety solutions and Vision Zero. Showed new solutions for pedestrian, bike, and vehicle safety.
 - CIP survey was introduced. Submissions due by Aug 15, before our next full board meeting. Jason helped to put together a Google survey to provide input on CIP project proposals. This is not for routine maintenance but to improve public

infrastructure. Looking for inputs by July 30 for the subcommittee to rank the submissions and submit to the city by Aug 15 deadline. There are 34 responses to the survey so far.

- Will the subcommittee submit things on behalf of the board or the subcommittee?
 - Will be on behalf of the board to beat the deadline. Lynn asked the city to provide an extension but they said no. We may do an NPPC special meeting to approve the final list submitted on behalf of the board. Lynn will check on best course of action here.

VII. Liaison Reports

- MAD/NP Main Street: Patrick Garbani
 - There will be a vote on the NPMS events that will continue.
 - Skate night coming up, Oktoberfest at the end of September.
- AABA: Roger McClish
 - They're planning for various events coming up.
- El Cajon Blvd: Lynn Elliott
 - Lynn didn't get a notice from them about their meeting
 - Aug 10 at the NP mini park they're doing the [Disaster Relief Trials](#) to show how cargo bikes can be used in emergency situations.
 - Library - Aug 13 employment info session, art project coming up, [check their calendar for events](#).
- UHCA: Liz Saba
 - No meeting info has come yet, both Lynn and Liz have tried.

VIII. New Business

- Comment - The city training is substantially less than training from a couple of years ago. Members should all get familiar with some of: Community Plan, bylaws and operating procedure, 600-24, Brown Act. All on the NPPC website.

IX. Meeting adjournment: 8:05PM

Lynch/McClish motion to adjourn

Next meeting: August 20, 6:30 PM