



UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes - Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Special Time 4:00 PM

REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM

4:05 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL BY CHAIR: Andy Wiese

AW: Calls the meeting to order and calls the roll.

Roll Call:

Members present:

Andy Wiese (AW), Keith Jenne (KJ), Roger Cavanaugh (RC), Debby Knight (DK), George Lattimer (GL), Katie Rodolico (KR), Joanne Selleck (JS), Laurie Phillips (LP), Anu Delouri (AD), Rebecca Robinson Wood (RRW), Jason Morehead (JM), Petr Krysl (PK), Dinesh Martien (DiM), Melanie Cohn (MC)

Members not present:

Kristin Camper (KC), Kris Kopensky (KK), Veronica Ayesta (VA),

Non-voting Member:

Kristin Camper (KC).

Seat Vacant:

UC San Diego Undergraduate / Graduate Student

Note: MCAS Miramar representative Kristin Camper does not vote per US Government policy. Business seat 1 (previously held by John Bassler) is to be filled with one of the three UCPG Business 1 members.

City Staff:

Tait Galloway (TG)

Martin Flores (MF) – Parks Department

Laura Ball (LBall) – Sr. Planner, Planning Department

Katie Witherspoon (KW) – Sr. Planner, Planning Department

Some members of the public are identified below as:

Barry Bernstein (BB)

Nancy Groves (NG)

Deanna Ratnikova (DR)

Diane Ahern (DA)

Justine Murray	(JuM)
Louis Rodolico	(LR)
David Campbell	(DC)
Alyssa Helper	(AH)
Isabelle Kay	(IK)
Janay Kruger	(JK)
Public member	(Public)

6:05 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of 7/14/2020 was made by AW and seconded by GL. Motion approved without opposition or abstention.

Chris Nielsen (CN) to take minutes for this meeting.

4:08 NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

DA: Comment on UC Fire Safe Council. See appendix.

BB: Amplifies DA comment on Fire Safety; the main story is improvements at Standley Rec Center. There is a 1PM October 7 groundbreaking ceremony for the new Olympic size pool. Candidates for council district 1 will debate on October 14, 2020, following the UCCA meeting, sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

LR: Comment on pro-corporate candidates versus pro-public candidates, and the ramifications of the Citizens United ruling.

4:15 SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

No member comment.

4:15 Information Item #1: Overview of Goals and Policies Process -- Katie Witherspoon

AW: Open Space and conservation was the community's top priority. KW has prepared a set of five goals that she will present; I think the goals need modification.

KW: The purpose is to approve a draft for open space and conservation with a discussion to build consensus among the CPUS regarding goals. The new Community Plan will provide goals and policies and is part of the General Plan.

Inputs to the new Community Plan (CP) are the General Plan (GP), Climate Action Plan (CAP), and current CP. Each was reviewed. The Community Plan Conservation Element (CE) is derived from the General Plan CE.

KW: Noted the Conservation and Open Space guiding principles from last summer.

Priorities are: protection of open space and habitat, sustainable design and conservation, connectivity of trails, and Rose Canyon. The hierarchy of Goals and Policies is given here: Vision → Principles → Goals → Policies. Community input into goals and principles will be not just today ("Step 7", see page 50 of the September "Presentation PDF" at planuniversity.org). The arrows on page 50 indicate opportunities for additional input.

Goals are general statements or desired outcomes; policies are specific, actionable items to achieve the goals.

Information Item #2: Draft Open Space & Conservation Goals -- Katie Witherspoon

DK: For purposes of discussion going forward, treat "MHPA" as equivalent to "MSCP".

KW: Draft open space and conservation goals:

1. An open space system that preserves canyon lands, habitat, and sensitive biological resources.
2. Healthy and resilient development patterns that preserve natural landforms, public and private open spaces, wildlife linkages, sensitive habitat, and natural drainage systems.
3. Sustainable design that reduces emissions and dependency on non-renewable energy sources, makes efficient use of local resources, and incorporates sustainable storm-water management.
4. A system of sensitively designed open space trails linking pedestrians and bicyclists to parks, schools and major activity centers through connected paths and bikeways.
5. A sustainable and efficient land use pattern and mobility system that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and motorized vehicle trips.

Goal #1: *An open space system that preserves canyon lands, habitat, and sensitive biological resources.*

AW: I would add language from the GP and add "and increase" to "preserve".

KW: I would ask for a rephrase to move away from "actionable words".

AW: We need to go beyond the current statement.

JS: Does this apply to open space or conserved space? Or only open space?

KW: Conservation does not have to apply only to open space.

JS: Thinks the five goals are mixing apples and oranges.

PK: Some parcels may become open space due to hazards like MCAS. Is all open space treated the same?

KW: Goals would apply to open space in general with hazards addressed separately.

PK: Do we have goals that apply to open space systems?

KW: We think about open space goals that are so broad they apply to "everything"; policies can be much more specific.

DK: I like Andy's language. Enhancement and long term management are really important as we have a lot of MHPA land.

KW: We have agreement with including the statement but would push back on the verbiage.

KW: Here is the revised goal:

"An open space system that protects, enhances, and provides long-term management for canyon lands, habitat, and sensitive biological resources."

IK: These things are not static. We want to show that we are thinking about a connected system. It looks like we are trying to put in lines dividing the systems.

DK: We can add the word "adaptive" to management in the statement.

KW: We can also get to this with policy management.

Goal #2: Healthy and resilient development patterns that preserve natural landforms, public and private open spaces, wildlife linkages, sensitive habitat, and natural drainage systems.

AW: We can shorten this to "Development patterns that preserve natural landforms, public and private open spaces, wildlife linkages, sensitive species and habitats, and watersheds". I would also mention "clean water, air, and conforming to the CAP".

KW: We have "clean water, air, and conforming to the CAP" as policies, so not part of the goals.

AW: "clean water, air, and conforming to the CAP" should be here.

JS: Would change the beginning to "environmentally sustainable development patterns that protect and preserve..."

KR: "Environmentally sustainable", meaning?

KW: Means "good for the environment", or "supportive of environment".

DK: Either JS or AW is OK.

KR: It should be design and not just building: Some of these things are designed to block access to space.

KW: "Final" draft language for Goal #2:

"Environmentally sustainable development patterns that protect and preserve natural landforms, public and private open spaces, wildlife linkages, sensitive species and habitats, and watersheds."

Goal #3: Sustainable design that reduces emissions and dependency on non-renewable energy sources, makes efficient use of local resources, and incorporates sustainable storm-water management.

AW: Should "spectrum of emissions" be used?

PK: I would consider emissions and pollution independently.

DK: What about "native plants"?

KW: This would be policy level.

AW: Summarized chat suggestions.

KW: "Final" draft language for Goal #3:

"Sustainable design that reduces emissions, pollution, and dependency on non-renewable energy sources, makes efficient use of local resources, and incorporates sustainable landscaping, water use, and storm-water management."

Goal #4: A system of sensitively designed open space trails linking pedestrians and bicyclists to parks, schools and major activity centers through connected paths and bikeways.

AW: We have the issue of incorporating transportation systems into the MHPA areas. Need to include only access which is low impact. We are changing a policy level item into a goal. This would be a better balance.

KW: I agree with the sentiment but you should rephrase.

JS: How about "provides mobility system through connected paths and bikeways."

IK: We need to recognize that there can be different uses, but it's important to follow the MSCP policies. It is inappropriate to use a conservation goal to provide a bicycle track. It is a wildlife preserve not a transport system.

LP: What about "parks"?

KW: We are getting at the trails we described in July.

LP: Passive recreation and transportation are distinct.

RC: Rose Canyon land should be consistent with the MSCP. Any other use should be secondary.

PK: The goal is conforming to the MSCP policies. Paths should be connected to a system of trails or bikeways that do not violate those policies.

KR: I think that bicycle links and trails that are sensitively implemented are allowed.

JM: Sometimes when we allow bike paths storm water "provisions" are helped.

JS: The whole purpose of the goal is to give the public access. It is important to get people to the space. Trails through the space are separate. Leave it plain and simple: "create a mobility system that provides access".

AW: I could support this. On review of the other community plans (e.g., Kearny Mesa) this seems to be the way it's done. It is probably a mobility element. Trails in the open space are one kind of access. The goal should be to address the holistic nature of public access.

JS: Then you need to limit the goal to the type of open space.

DK: The MSCP is a legal document. The MSCP provides the ability to develop elsewhere. It is important that the goals recognize these limitations on impacts. It is a mistake to include in the mobility element. The MSCP is not a connectivity element. We need to get this right since it will come back again and again. On adding trails, it's not the trails, but the human usage.

AW: We need to move forward.

KW: This is an existing goal in the (current) community plan. We need to be able to balance with public access where allowed. We need keep in mind how people are currently using the trails and access. Not a primary use, but we want to make sure we keep these two uses.

PK: I would disagree it's a low impact use in Rose Canyon. Motorized bikes should be discouraged.

KW: Can't enforce rules via the community plan, but we also don't want to create bad situations.

JS: Can't come up with language that contradicts MSCP.

DK: I suggest we adopt for the time being Andy's version. Provide opportunities for public access to open space, including portion of the MHPA that is low impact, such a scenic overlook, environmental education, or research.

KW: I will workshop this internally.

AW: Low impact means trail and bike access with restrictions that have guidelines consistent with the governing body of law.

KW: "Final" draft language for Goal #4:

"Provide opportunities for public access to open space, including portions of the MHPA, through low impact recreation, scenic overlooks, environmental education and research."

Goal #5: A sustainable and efficient land use pattern and mobility system that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and motorized vehicle trips. [... and promotes safe pedestrian and bicycle transportation and mass transit.]

KW: Want to reduce VMT.

PK: Vehicles still require parking lots, and we don't want to build these.

DK: I would add "particulate pollution".

IK: We want land use to enhance open space.

KW: "Final" draft language for Goal #5:

"A sustainable and efficient land use pattern and mobility system that reduces emissions and vehicle miles traveled and promotes safe pedestrian and bicycle transportation and mass transit."

AW added two more goals:

- 6. Preservation of healthy, biologically diverse regional ecosystems and conservation of endangered, threatened, and key sensitive species and their habitats.***
- 7. Preservation of San Diego's rich biodiversity and heritage through the protection and restoration of wetland resources, including coastal waters, creeks, bays, riparian wetlands and vernal pools.***

AW: Biodiversity is an important goal, and speaks to the larger connections in the plan. It speaks to the bigger issues and includes air, water and land. It is important to have this as a goal since we have so much MSCP. This applies to wetlands as well.

DK: I think these are great.

JS: I like it as well, but erosion should be mentioned.

AW: This falls under storm water management.

KR: I back these goals, too.

AW: (Closing the meeting). Thanks to KW for the work on the goals!

5:59 Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be October 20th.

Appendix: Public Comment

Tonight I'm here to give a quick update on the First Safe Council. The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County is managed by staff at the Resource Conservation District. The San Diego area is currently home to nearly 50 community Fire Safe Councils, more than any other area in California.

I serve on the Fire Safe Council in University City (as secretary) and we are celebrating our first year this month. Clairemont is in the process of establishing a Fire Safe Council in their area.

During our first year in University City, under the leadership of Jemma Samala, our president, the Fire Safe Council has been concentrating on education related to fire prevention, preparation, and safety. Fast forward to today, and the Fire Safe Council is currently looking to continue its education efforts, to expand to include the entire UCPG area, to create its own website, and to identify potential egress routes.

This Fall, our local council is in the process of completing its Community Wildfire Protection Plan (the CWPP).

We also look forward to supporting the community plan update subcommittee when it addresses fire safety in the new community plan.

For a detailed history of the evolution of the Fire Safe Council, please visit UCCA's University City News website. And for those who wish to get involved with the Fire Safe Council, you can contact either me (Diane Ahern aherndiane@gmail.com) or Jemma Samala at jemmasamala@gmail.com. Our contact information is in the newsletter and on UCCA's website.