

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

Meeting Minutes
Hybrid Meeting
October 8, 2024
6:00 PM

Meeting held at the Terranova Conference Room, third floor of Alexandria's GradLabs building.

Directors present, directors absent

Chris Nielsen (CN) (Chair), Neil de Ramos (NR), Joann Selleck (JS), Daren Esposito (DE), Jon Arenz (JA), Anu Delouri (AD), Kristin Camper (KC), Petr Krysl (PK), Carol Uribe (CU), Georgia Kayser (GK), Karen Martien (KMar), Andrew Wiese (AW), Linda Bernstein (LB), Fay Arvin (FA), Anna Bryan (AB), Coby Tomlins (CT-City of SD Planning).

1. Call the Meeting to Order: Chris Nielsen, Chair. Chair CN at 6:05 pm.

2. Agenda: Call for additions / deletions: Adoption.

CN: Any additions or corrections to the agenda? None raised. Motion to approve by JS, seconded by KM. Passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes: September 10, 2024.

CN: These minutes are not available to approve and are deferred to the next meeting.

4. Announcements: Chair's Report, CPC Report

Welcome to the UCPG meeting for October 8! Thanks to Alexandria for this meeting room that supports hybrid meetings.

We have a short agenda tonight. Please, no baseball spoilers, particularly on Zoom.

On the agenda we have a short report on UCPG District 4 membership response, a list of those wanting to run for a Voting Member seat to be elected in November with possible candidate statements. We will then decide whether to vote up or down on the UC Plan, and if the decision is yes, take a vote.

We originally had an action item to rank our CIP project for our use and our Council office's use, but Georgia Kayser asked for this to be postponed until the November UCPG meeting.

We will also hold elections from 5 to 8PM here at GradLabs in November for District 4 resident seats. There may be an additional ballot box for UCPG members on the UC San Diego campus.

CPC considered a letter on behalf of Encanto / Eastern area strongly criticizing the specific inclusion of a clause into the Land Development Code declaring that all property zone RS-1-1 in these planning areas would automatically be considered RS-1-7. These planning groups consider this a legacy of redlining and ask the city to rescind this amendment to the LDC.

The Oktoberfest celebration on Saturday was a modest success. We had five signups at this event. Thanks to Linda Bernstein for helping me with the booth.

5. Presentations:

- **Councilmember Kent Lee (Zach Burton)**

No report from CM Lee's office.

- **Membership Report (Anu Delouri)**

None.

- **Pure Water Project (Clem Wassenberg, Mariah)**

- Matt Parks and Clem Wassenberg will report tonight. Mariah has transferred jobs within the city.
- Current Work sites:
 - Genesee Ave. north of Governor Dr. to Decoro St.
 - Genesee Ave. at SR-52 intersection
 - Tunneling work
 - Rose Canyon – first tunnel is almost complete, second tunnel ongoing, the third tunnel has begun.
 - I-805
- Pure water team to look into possibility of adding trees in area of work at the Genesee and SR-52 intersection.
- JA: I continue to be surprised about the speed at which the project is moving. I want to bring up the intersection at Nobel and Genesee. As soon as you cross Genesee to the east the number of lanes immediately drops from two to one in the eastbound direction with no transition. I don't know if it can be lengthened, but it could be smoother.

- Clem: We have seen that too, but even if we reduce it sooner, we'd still have problems. We'll take down the traffic control in as soon as two weeks so hopefully we'll get through this period.
- KMar: The project along Genesee and Centurian Square. What does this mean in terms of traffic control. How much longer do you expect just south of the 52 to be one lane. When can we expect both lanes to be restored to two lanes?
- Clem: The contractor has installed and should finish the section on the intersection of the 52 and Genesee by the end of November. The contractor has to do some rework at this intersection, so by the end of the year. We expect Centurian Square to be done by the middle of November. Once the tunnel crew is done, we'll install the pipes. We expect this work to be done by the end of the year. We'll remove traffic control as soon as an area is clear. We'll have additional work to do after the first of the year, but we won't need to modify the traffic control again.
- Clem has addressed the bike concerns of Jeff Dosick.
- To Matt, Nancy Groves would like to engage your team at UC San Diego for a presentation.

6. Public Comment: Non-Agenda, but within the scope of the UCPG, Items (2-minute limit).

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- Becky Rapp (member of the public): I have spoke recently about the County Grand Jury report about the permitting of Cannabis businesses. The Mayor's office was asked about this report, and the city responded with "the findings applied to county of San Diego, so the city is not required to respond." The City did not address any of the budget issues with business permitting. I believe this is an inadequate response. I would ask your planning group and those city-wide to question the Mayor's office about these policies and push for better regulations.
- Kathleen Lippett (member of the public): My comment segues from Becky's. My community, Pacific Beach, is also struggling with the permitting and regulation issues regarding the Land Use Code and Development Services. Tomorrow, on October 9 at 5:45 PM there will be a news conference held to highlight these issues. Appealing decisions to the Planning Commission costs money, and this cost must be borne by the appellant. These should not have to be appealed; development services should follow their own regulations.

○ Roger Cavanaugh (former UCPG Vice Chair):

Much of what compromises our health, endangers other life forms, and degrades our environment is invisible. We don't see or sense higher amounts of carbon in our atmosphere, the microplastics we ingest, hormones and antibiotics in animal products, lead and mercury in seafood, forever chemicals everywhere, nor the innumerable chemicals we use daily that contaminate our bodies, the soil, the air, and our water.

Science makes them visible. And only a commitment to objective data makes for effective decisions. Unfortunately, what's objectively toxic, as well as the science and scientists demonstrating that toxicity, are heavily contested by the industries that profit from selling products whose social costs are passed on to consumers and taxpayers.

Recently the former head of the CDC, Robert Redfield, wrote an op-ed in Newsweek that critiqued the CDC, FDA, NIH and the USDA for failing public health. He noted the fact that 40% of children have at least one medical condition or mental health issue that requires treatment tells us we are falling behind and cannot depend on existing policies. In brief, we cannot expect the institutions that fail to deliver on their promises to change course since they serve special interests, and our politics is shaped by those special interests. Historically systemic change does not come from ruling elites: it evolves out of a public consensus based on agreed upon understandings.

Most of us agree upon fundamental ethical principles. Deepening our understanding of ethics, committing ourselves to them as a community, and applying them in our decision making opens a way forward to creating a genuinely healthy and democratic way of life.

By way of example, my letter of 9/15 applies ethical principles to issues of microwave safety. Like other hazards, microwaves are invisible, and in most, but not all cases, it takes time for low doses to manifest symptoms. Only by becoming familiar with the science and acting in accord with our ethics can we protect our children and our quality of life.

- 7. Action Item: Candidates for District 4 voting member seats will be presented and make candidate statements. The election will be on November 12. Chris Nielsen, presenting.**

A list of those initially declaring their candidacy for a Voting Member seat to be elected on November 12 and give candidate statements is as follows.

- Neeraj Venna
- Mike Borisov
- Greta Mitchell
- Emma Chavez
- Henry Taylor-Goalby

Greta Mitchell requested her name be removed as a candidate. The remaining four candidates were given the choice of which seats to run for. Various shuffling of seat preferences occurred, with the following the final list of candidates:

- R-4-A Exp. March 2026
 - Neeraj Venna
 - Mike Borisov
- R-4-B Exp. March 2027
 - Emma Chavez
- R-4-C Exp. March 2025
 - Henry Taylor-Goalby

Candidate Statements:

- Neeraj Venna: My primary focus is mental health in the UC San Diego community and I'm strongly in favor of expanding the biotech hub surrounding UC San Diego and the city to attract cutting edge companies.
- Mike Borisov: A fourth-year student at UCSD studying urban policy. I'd like to focus on dense urban living with quality transit, and I'm also interested in tree canopy.
- Greta Mitchell: I am a second-year urban planning and development major at UCSD. I'm minoring in law. I'm excited about getting involved in the community.
- CN: I see Mina has joined the call. We have done three candidate statements and the screen shows the list of people who indicated they will run. Do you want to add your name to the list?
- Mina (Thien-Han Nguyen): I will give the opportunity of a seat to other students instead.
- Emma Chavez: A second-year student in global health. I believe that the decisions made for this district need to be made by people advocate for the public welfare. Health is a human right, and I have an advantage in understanding the issues involved.
- Henry Taylor-Goalby: I'm a fourth-year student running for UCPG District 4C. District 4 holds a special place in my heart, especially transit access, open spaces, and easy walkability I work as a student-appointed representative on UC-wide student housing proposals. I have worked on state housing legislation. I am experienced in planning issues for the community.
- CN: I will be in touch with UCPG members about how the D4 election will be held, and I remind all D4 residents that they do not need to be UCPG members in order to vote in the upcoming election.

- 8. Action Item: University Community Plan. The UC Plan Update passed the City Council on July 30, with the ordinance enacting the plan signed by the Mayor on August 7 with a second reading of the ordinances enacting the CPIOZ, dedication of 166 acres of open space, and the revised zoning map passed on September 10. Except in the Coastal Zone where approval is needed by the Coastal Commission, the ordinance goes into effect on December 1. The UCPG will decide if it wants a vote on this final plan, and if so, hold a vote. Chris Nielsen, presenting.**

- CN summarized the situation with the UC Plan and said that our two alternatives would be to let our May 2024 comment stand as the decision of the group on the Update, or to take an up-or-down vote. As Plan Update Subcommittee Chair, AW authored the May 2024 comment; I'll give him a chance to speak to the issue.
- AW: A few comments. I couldn't participate recently and hear what everyone had to say, but the way I see it is that we should let our comment stand at this point. We did give the city five and a half years of input and advice. We gave the City an unanimously approved report from the Plan Update subcommittee and this board. Anything we voted on today up-or-down will be a divided result and would be a symbolic gesture. I think we should allow our comment to stand. People may still want to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the plan, but we've given the city our opinion.
- CN: Thank you. A straw poll opinion we took last month resulted in eight for let the comment stand, two for taking an up or down vote, and one wasn't sure. Is there any further discussion or comment from the room?
- **CN moved that the UCPG vote to either let its May 2024 comment letter submitted to the City stand as its official vote on the plan update or to hold an up-or-down vote on the plan. CU seconded the motion. Motion passed 11 Yes 0 No, 0 Abstain, 0 Recuse.**

- 9. Action Item: UCPG CIP list ranking. We chose projects to submit to the city in July and agreed to rank the projects in September, subsequently continued until October. The rankings will primarily be for the use of our Council office and the UCPG. Georgia Kayser and Chris Nielsen, presenting.**

Georgia Kayser requested that this item be pulled from the agenda and deferred to November.

- 10. Adjournment. Next meeting will be November 12 at our usual meeting room at Alexandria's GradLabs building, third floor Terranova Room, 9880 Campus Point Drive, and on Zoom.**