



Downtown Community Planning Council San Diego

Planning a Vibrant Downtown for All

Downtown Community Planning Council Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2025, 5:30 PM

**12th Floor Committee Room, City Hall,
202 C Street, San Diego, CA, 92101**

I. Call to Order & Roll Call: Meeting called to order at 5:35pm

A. Call to Order

1. Meeting called to order at 5:35pm

B. Roll Call

1. In attendance (7 of 11): Eddy, Barr, Bargmann, Werve, Hewitt, JP Schwartz.
2. E Schwartz joined meeting prior to Item V (Action Items)
3. Absent: Helmer, Link, Salas, So

II. Non-Agenda Public Comment

- A. Becky Rapp- Provided recommendations for budget priorities

III. Community Reports

A. Representatives from Elected Officials and Agencies

1. Christina Gaffney: Community Representative (Councilmember Whitburn)
 - a) Introduced herself as the new representative for Downtown.
 - b) Mayor released proposed budget and councilmember released his budget priority memo. Councilmember voted no on parking reform package and will support some level of free parking at Balboa Park.
 - c) Other updates: Transient Occupancy fee increasing; Streetlight repairs delayed because of budget; New shelter opening Downtown for women and children; Police walking patrol pilot in Downtown; Street closures in Downtown for marathon.
2. Randy Reyes: Community Representative (Mayor Gloria)

- a) Restored the following budget items: Humane Society contract; Restored Northwest Division, Vice-Detectives, and CSR for Fire Department.
3. Ross Tritt: Field Representative (Assembly Member Boerner)
 - a) Introduced as new representative for Downtown
 - b) Indicated that many bills will be coming to the floor this month and it would be a good time to show support. Assembly Member will be conducting webinar on microplastics.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Public Spaces (Hewitt)

1. Asked Chair to agendize parking update item for next month

B. Communications (Werve)

1. Asked for more member participation on committee

C. Balboa Park (Eddy)

1. Balboa Park Committee developed budget priorities document; RFP for Village Grill released; Memorial park signage installed
2. Upcoming events: Balboa Park Pow-Wow, March for Babies, Rock and Roll running series

D. Design Review- (reserved from Item V-D)

V. Action Items

A. Approve April Minutes

1. Motion by Bargmann, seconded by Werve, to approve minutes. Unanimous approval.

B. MTS Transit Center Street Vacation

1. MTS Staff made presentation regarding vacation of 1313 National Avenue to improve bus operations at Imperial Transit Center. MTS wants to vacate small sections of public streets inside station as part of improvement. Project would increase bus bays from 6 to 13. Agency will have separate proposal for what to do with will do with new remnant parcel, most likely affordable housing.
2. DCPC asked questions about configuration of bus bays and pedestrian crossings.

3. Motion by Hewitt, seconded by JP Schwarz, to authorize chair to submit letter of support from DCPC if requested by MTS. Unanimously approved.

C. Streetcar Renewal Project

1. Representative from Vibrant Uptown made presentation regarding potential streetcar project connecting from Uptown to Downtown.
2. Discussion from DCPC included questions about how people would pay, the potential of connecting to the Kensington neighborhood, potential operational issues and suggestion that Vibrant Uptown should work with MTS and SANDAG to further develop project.

D. 1401 Imperial Housing Project

1. Representatives from Carrier Johnson and Arete Development, on behalf of SVDP Management (Father Joe's Village) made a presentation regarding their proposed adaptive reuse of the former skydiving building and former homeless assistance center as a low-income housing project. Developer recently purchased site from the City.
2. Discussion from DCPC included questions about project timeline, concerns about density of low-income housing in the neighborhood, and configuration of existing and proposed building. The Design Review Committee reviewed and had a favorable opinion, but had concerns that there would be no parking.
3. Motion by Bargman, seconded by Werve, authorizing Chair to submit a letter of support for an affordable housing grant application. Unanimously approved.

E. Amendment of Representative Terms

1. Chair presented proposal to realign vacancies so that an equal number of resident and businesses seats would be up for election each year.
2. Motion by Hewitt, seconded by JP Schwarz, to approve the recommended change in seat expiration years. Unanimously passed.

F. New Member Appointment

1. The consideration of appointing Danny Avita to open At-Large Resident seat was tabled until he was able to attend a meeting.

VI. Remainder Non-Agenda Public Comments

- A. No comments

VII. Adjournment

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A. Meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm