

City Heights Area Planning Committee
Minutes for Feb 1, 2021

1. Chair Russ Connelly called the meeting to order at 6:33p.m. Rahmo Abdi, Jake Banfield-Weir, Francisco Garcia, Rosa Calvario, Maria Cortez, Jim Varnadore, Edwin Lohr, Brian Green-Carson, Vanessa Erickson, Ana Gonzalez (6:38), Roddy Jerome, Wendy Miller, David Nelson, Denisse Lopez, Blair Overstreet, Scott Paquette, Michael Rossler, Andrew Benavides, Patty Vaccariello, Randy Torres-Van Vleck and Russ Connelly were present. Russ mentioned the sign-in sheet which is proof of attendance for election reasons.

2. Unanimous approval to the minutes of January 2, 2021 as presented.

3. Unanimous approval the agenda.

4. Staff Comment: Ben Mendoza and Julio Garcia provided updates from Sean Elo-Rivera's office.

5. Off-agenda public comment: Kathleen Lippit and Becky Rapp spoke cannabis business concerns. Susan Baldwin, Francisco Garcia, and Vickie White commented on the Complete Communities plan. Delia Contreras provided comment. Rosa Calvario spoke on behalf of Ocean Discovery Institute's after-school camps. Denisse Lopez inquired about the youth seat which Russ mentioned can happen at the following meeting when elections are happening, since it was not on the approved agenda. Stephanie Hernandez shared Price Charities opportunities for 9th graders. Maria Cortez, David Nelson and Patty Vaccariello provided comment about the loss of City Farmers Nursery's Bill Tall.

6. Business Agenda:

6.1. City General Plan: Vickie White provided information about the city updating the general plan's policies and creating a new Environmental Justice Element. Survey available during Phase 1 to find out about residents' top priorities and the environmental justice issues/concerns they experience in their neighborhoods. Survey is available in 8 languages and open through Feb. 28th, 2021. Brian Green-Carson, Randy Torres-Van Vleck, Edwin Lohr, Francisco Garcia and Linda C asked follow-up questions.

6.2. Community Input Workshop—Vice Chairs Maria Cortez and Edwin Lohr hosted the opportunity for the community and committee to outline needs and objectives for 2021. Patty Vaccariello, Brian Green-Carson, Francisco Garcia, Rosa Calvario, Wendy Miller Edwin Lohr, David Nelson, Denisse Lopez, Maria Cortez, Blair Overstreet and Randy Torres-Van Vleck provided feedback. Concerns included traffic calming, updating the Mid City Community Plan, revitalizing the slope on Euclid, removing invasive plants, graffiti removal, improved signage, sidewalk maintenance, City Heights Gateway, drainage problems, increased number of trees as a canopy, more storm water repairs, additional lighting and speed humps for safety, boosting business districts, utilizing vacant lot at Fairmount and Home, and need for parks.

6.3. Report of the Election Subcommittee: Rosa Calvario and Francisco Garcia provided updates about the upcoming election. This was the last meeting to be considered eligible to run for the 2021 election. They need people to help out on day of elections, which will be held at the City Heights Town Council, behind the library. Voting will be one person at a time and COVID safe. Deadline for applications is Friday February 19th at 5:00 PM. Brian Green-Carson and Patty Vaccariello asked follow-up questions.

7. Chair's report: Election guidelines have been issued by the planning department and topics for upcoming meetings were discussed.

8. Board Comment – Questions and Answers: Patty Vaccariello requested a presentation about Complete Communities. Blair Overstreet asked about the Brown Act. Edwin provided update on mural. Rosa shared about the Circulate San Diego and CPG event that was happening the following evening.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36. The Committee will reconvene on Monday March 1, 2021, 6:30 PM. Agenda will be posted separately.