

City Heights Area Planning Committee
Minutes for March 1, 2021

1. Acting Chair Maria Cortez called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Jake Banfield-Weir, Maria Cortez, Jim Varnadore, Edwin Lohr, Ana Gonzalez, Brian Green-Carson, Vanessa Erickson, Wendy Miller, David Nelson, Denisse Lopez, Rahmo Abdi, Blair Overstreet, Michael Rossler, Andrew Benavides, Patty Vaccariello, and Randy Torres-Van Vleck were present. On election duty were Francisco Garcia, Rosa Calvario and Russ Connelly. Roddy Jerome and Scott Paquette were absent. Maria later disclosed the sign-in sheet per the Brown Act.

2. Correction to the minutes of February 1, 2021 is as follows: City's Nursery should be City Farmer's Nursery.

3. Agenda was unanimously adopted.

4. Staff Comment: Ben Mendoza provided updates from Sean Elo-Rivera's office. There are two surveys currently going around for residents: one from the San Diego Public Library and available in multiple languages. The other one from Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) about second-hand smoke which has a \$50 gift card to be raffled off. Julio Garcia also provided updates from the Council member's office about COVID. City Heights will have a county vaccination site opening soon and they are trying to secure a second site. Rental assistance is available, applications are live on 3/15 but the wait list is filling up. Stephanie Estrada from the Mayor's office provided updates. The City school district has provided a timeline for the hybrid schedule and schools will re-open in April. City Council approved the ordinance to regulate short-term vacation rentals. Jayme Anderson from Nathan Fletcher's office provided updates about COVID tiers, which just added education, food and agriculture, and law enforcement. Vaccines for those with underlying health conditions start March 15th.

5. No off-agenda public comments from Zoom meeting or on phone with translation.

6. Business Agenda:

6.1. Review parking time limit proposal on Polk Avenue: There was a request to add two-hour un-metered parking on Fairmount Ave and Polk Ave.

Brian Green-Carson commented that residents need parking in the area. Jake Banfield-Wehr wanted to know who was submitting the recommendation. Patty Vaccariello commented that the parking would be available for residents to park outside the hours of 8 AM to 6 PM once they get home from work. Randy Torres-Van Vleck commented that it would help businesses in the area as far as turn-over. Blair asked about the pros and cons of the proposal. Jim Varnadore commented that there are no businesses in the immediate area. Wendy Miller brought up the benefit of a 2-hour limit to be able to unload groceries, etc. before finding a parking spot further away. David Nelson brought up that the community is not necessarily 9-to-5 and thus would still be affected by the time limit.

Brian Green-Carson motioned to approve the parking proposal as noted, which is to install a two-hour un-metered time limit parking on Polk Avenue and Fairmount Avenue. David Nelson seconded. Vote was 8-7-0 with the acting chair not voting.

6.2. Review proposed speed limit change on Swift Avenue

David Nelson motioned to reduce the speed limit for both directions of traffic to 25 miles per hour. Edwin seconded and it was approved 15-0-0 with the acting chair not voting.

6.3. Community Input Workshop Opportunity for the Community and the Committee to outline needs and objectives for 2021.

David Nelson commented that sidewalks need to be completed throughout all of City Heights. Patty Vaccariello added there needs to be a community plan amendment to implement the streetscape plan. Edwin Lohr added that the community plan needs to be updated. Ana Gonzalez brought up replacing a no left-turn sign on Landis St. and Euclid Ave since it is no longer there and is a problem. Edwin Lohr added that the 5 benjamina ficus trees outside of the El Salvador restaurant should be historically marked. Randy Torres-Van Vleck echoed to preserve the mature ficus trees on 38th and University.

6.4. Report of the Election Subcommittee: Not applicable since they were managing the election.

7. Chair's report: Nothing to report since Russ was helping with the election.

8. Board Comment – Questions and Answers

Patty V: Compliments the election sub-committee on how organized they were and how smooth everything went! Kudos!

Rahmo: The election was very well organized and smooth. Requested translator for the community during the next election.

Asma Abdi: A resident thought they were able to vote but there was a language barrier as well as being outside of the City Heights boundaries. They felt they were being scolded. Edwin asked if Asma would help the citizen locate what district she is in.

Blair: Thanked everyone for her time on the committee. The priorities for next two years should be to make everything is not only accessible, but also to feel like community and welcomed. We should consider putting in protocols for meetings to achieve this.

Dave Nelson, Patty Vaccariello, Ana Gonzalez and Maria Cortez thanked Blair for her participation with CHAPC. Maria Cortez was also thanked for running the meeting tonight!

9. Adjournment at 7:52 The Committee will reconvene on Monday April 5, 2021, 6:30 PM. Agenda will be posted separately.