

City Heights Area Planning Committee  
Minutes for June 7, 2021

1. Chair Russ Connelly called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Asma Abdi, Roddy Jerome, Jim Varnadore (6:50), David Nelson, Edwin Lohr, Scott Anglim, Francisco Garcia, Brian Green-Carson, Denisse Lopez, Rahmo Abdi, Patty Vaccariello, and Randy Torres-Van Vleck and Mazda Mehrnaz were present. Andrew Benavides, Jake Banfield-Weir, Rosa Calvario, Kenneth Furukawa, Krista Berry Ortega, and Simonei Medina were absent. Russ discussed the voluntary sign-in sheet per the Brown Act.
2. Russ turned the floor over to Mayor Todd Gloria who commented on COVID vaccinations, rental assistance programs and the City budget. Questions/discussion from the Committee and Community: Consideration for City to buy vacant lots on Euclid Avenue for housing, completion of the Euclid RAP, mental health spending/clinic in CH, homeless outreach, local park construction, prevention of gun violence, effects of SB9 & SB10 on City Heights neighborhoods.
3. The minutes of May 3, 2021 were accepted as presented.
4. Brian moved and Patty seconded for approval of the agenda. Approved unanimously.
5. Staff Comment: Council member Sean Elo-Rivera discussed rental assistance programs and the City budget. Further questions/discussion on: equity in housing and homeless solutions, community safety issues around Hoover High School, viability of Business Improvement Districts and community engagement. Ben Mendoza with CD9 mentioned a City Budget Survey to discuss priorities and a cleanup in the Castle neighborhood. Julio Garcia of CD9 discussed a summer youth reading program, assistance with low income broadband and how to sign up for the D9 newsletter. Stephanie Estrada of Mayor Gloria's office said on July 10th at 9am there will be a Meet the Mayor with pre-submitted questions that will also feature Council member Sean Elo-Rivera.
6. Off-agenda Public Comment: Russ called for a presentation requested by a community member on sugary beverages. No one stepped forward to present. No other requests were made for public comment.

**Business Agenda:**

**Item 7.1 – Appointment to fill the At-Large 2022 Seat**

Maria Cortez stepped forward and requested appointment to fill the seat for the rest of the term and gave a discussion of her background in the community. Patty motioned and Edwin seconded to appoint Maria to the seat. Vote was 14-0 and Maria was seated.

**Item 7.2 – Appointment to fill the District 3 2022 Seat.**

No member of the community stepped forward and the Chair tabled this to the next meeting.

**Item 7.3 - Input on Parking Change – 36<sup>th</sup> Street between Wightman and Landis Streets**

City Traffic Engineering proposal to change the parking configuration to head in parking on the east side of the block. After discussion, Brian motioned and Roddy seconded to approve perpendicular parking on the east side of 36<sup>th</sup> street between Wightman and Landis streets. Vote was 14-0-0 with the chair not voting and the motion passed.

**Item 7.4 – Unity in the Community-Teralta Park mural update**

Maria Cortez, Taylor McDonald, Dan Tomskey and Edwin Lohr discussed the current status of the project and the plan for a Grand Opening tentatively set for July 31, 2021.

**Chair's Report:**

Details were provided to the Committee on the changes to commercial parking in transit corridors the City is proposing; details were provided to Community Planners Committee but not to the affected groups. Russ made a CPC motion to stop the process until affected groups can weigh in on the changes. A page on the City's website has been set up to give updates on the progress of the Fairmount Avenue Fire Station. An update was given on the Euclid Sidewalk project and its current

progress. The 2021 COW presentation was taking place at the same time as the June meeting so necessary individuals will need to take it electronically. Russ will send the link out again. A Mid-Month Subcommittee meeting will be held on June 21 to discuss CIP Review for 2021. Jake will be Chair of that meeting; agenda and materials will be sent out to the committee.

**Board Comment:**

Randy – Purple Line trolley approved that will go through City Heights, commercial parking review and working group for the Chollas Triangle Park located in the College Planning Area. Francisco – High construction material costs are affecting home prices and availability. Russ mentioned that Andrew Benavides had missed three meetings in a row and a review of his eligibility for his seat will be on the July agenda.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 PM. Next meeting: Monday July 5, 2021 6:30 PM