

CITY HEIGHTS AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE
Minutes of July 5, 2021

Due to a lack of quorum at the meeting time, Chair Russ Connelly introduced San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephen who wished to speak to the committee and the community. Summer mentioned that her office is always reachable for questions and inquiries about topics her office covers. She then listed several topics of her concern in San Diego County: Opioid Abuse and how the County is dealing with it, a rise in Hate Crimes, Child Crime issues and the topic of “Ghost Guns”. She mentioned a list of services her office provides and invited members of the public to contact her office for more information. Several members of the committee and community asked questions of the District Attorney.

Having reached a quorum, Russ called the meeting to order and called roll at 7:15 PM. Jake Banfield-Weir, Francisco Garcia, Asma Abdi, Jim Varnadore, Edwin Lohr, Brian Green-Carson, Maria Cortez, David Nelson, Rahmo Abdi (8:30), Mazda Mehrnaz, Patty Vaccariello and Russ Connelly were in attendance. Absent were: Rosa Calvario, Scott Anglim, Roddy Jerome, Kenneth Furukawa, Denisse Lopez, Simonei Medina, Krista Berry-Ortega, Andrew Benavides and Randy Torres-Van Vleck.

1. After roll call, the sign in sheet was disclosed per Brown Act and Council Policy 600-24 guidelines.
2. Minutes were approved unanimously with one date correction.
3. Agenda as modified was moved by Brian; seconded by Jake. Passed without opposition.
4. Ben Mendoza of Council District 9 discussed a Town Hall featuring the Mayor and CD9 Council member, a cleanup in the Castle neighborhood, CD9 participation in LGBT Pride event on July 11 and a mobility forum on changes to parking regulations on July 14th. Ben answered audience questions. Allison Woodworth of SANDAG talked about the agency’s upcoming public comment period for their new five year transportation plan and the proposed Purple Line trolley through Mid City.
5. Delia Contreras spoke about the need for Spanish translation for CHAPC meetings.

Business Agenda:

- 6.1 Marcellus Anderson requested appointment to fill the District 3 2022 seat and gave a background on his interest and qualifications. Patty motioned and Brian seconded to appoint Marcellus to the vacant seat. Vote was 11-0-0 and Marcellus was seated.
- 6.2 Russ discussed absences by Andrew Benavides (Business seat 2022) and his attempts to contact and notify Andrew of the CHAPC bylaw policy regarding lack of attendance. After discussion by the committee David motioned and Francisco seconded to remove Andrew due to absences and vacate the seat. Vote was 12-0-0 and the motion passed.

6.3 Delilah Bruzee of MD7 representing T mobile presented on a facility upgrade (684374 PDP/LUP) at 4735 & 4739 Myrtle Avenue. After a brief presentation, the committee asked specific questions and highlighted design concerns. Ms. Bruzee then became verbally combative with a member of the Committee and disparaged the Committee as a whole and any potential action on the item by the group. After further comment, the Chair then clarified for Ms. Bruzee that the body was the correct one to give input on the item, would make up its own mind and give appropriate feedback to the City. David then moved and Brian seconded to Disapprove the PDP/LUP based on the aesthetics of the project as presented. The vote was 9-2-0 with the Chair not voting and the motion to disapprove passed.

6.4 Jake as Chair of the Mid Month Subcommittee took the floor and gave a review of the work by the Subcommittee to review the 2019 Community Improvement Program list for City Heights and any proposed changes or modifications to the list. Jake reviewed the 11 items on the list in order and noted that number 3 and number 4 on the 2019 list had been suggested to be reversed to be more in line with community needs. After discussion of the projects and clarifications by Russ, Brian motioned to approve the CIP list for 2021 as recommended by the Subcommittee. Patty seconded the motion. The vote was 11-0-0 with the Chair not voting and the motion passed.

7. Chair's report: Russ mentioned the work by the City on the proposed Parks Master Plan that is being done by the Planning Department. He mentioned several changes and highlights. The plan will be going before the Planning Commission in July. Also discussed was a possible return to live meetings and where they might be held. It was disclosed that the Governor's emergency order on remote meetings carries through September and that an appropriate space would need to be confirmed before resuming regular meetings and if the Committee and community would be accepting of a return to in-place meetings. The Planning Department, through the Community Planners Committee noted that it is up to each group to plan for their own meetings as independent bodies. He also mentioned that there will not be a September meeting due to Labor Day.

8. Committee Comment: David on cell projects vs. need to update regulations for them and Police enforcement inequalities. Maria: update on Teralta Park Mural project and change in the celebration date. Francisco discussed the return to in-person meetings. Rahmo offered to talk with the PANA Board about allowing the Committee the use of their facility again for meetings. Brian asked about the need for a Treasurer and potential fundraising for the CHAPC. Francisco asked about funding community projects through a Maintenance Assessment District. Russ gave a brief review of CHAPC expenses in FY2021 and discussed the challenges of forming a MAD.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM. Next meeting: Monday August 2, 2021 6:30 PM