

# GREATER GOLDEN HILL PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## April 10, 2013 –Approved

**NOTE:** The May 2013 meeting did not take place.

The meeting took place at Balboa Park Golf Course Club House on Golf Course Drive. Chair Ruchelle Alvarez called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The agenda had been posted in accordance with the Brown Act. A quorum was present.

**Members present:** Present: Ruchell Alvarez, Richard Baldwin, Cheryl Brierton, Susan Bugbee, Mike Burkhardt, Janice Davis, Richard Santini, Pat Shields, David Strickland, David Swarens, Angela Vasconcellos. **Members absent:** John Kroll, Matt Thomas. In the absence of Kroll (Secretary), Brierton volunteered to take the minutes.

**Additions and/or Deletions to Agenda.** Swarens requested that a revised motion concerning Plaza de Panama be addressed under action items. Alvarez indicated this could be done, since the issue was noticed as an action item.

**Approval of Minutes.** Strickland moved, Santini seconded, To approve the minutes as revised. Motion carried unanimously. (Note: revised minutes were disseminated by Kroll on April 1, 2013.)

### GOVERNMENTAL REPORTS

**San Diego Community Police Officer** Kevin Vasquez and/or Suzy de la Pena. No one present.

**53rd Congressional District** (Rep. Susan Davis)--Gavin Deeb (619-280-5333). Deeb distributed the "Davis Dialogue" & highlighted a free workshop, "Senior Scam Stopper", on April 30 co-sponsored by Davis, as well as proposed legislation prohibiting LGTB discrimination by federal contractors.

**Council District 3** (Todd Gloria)--Courtney Thomson (619-236-6633). Thomson distributed the "District 3 Dialogue" & addressed the following:

1. The year-round homeless shelter is open and tours can be scheduled.
2. The 25th Street Renaissance project is going forward, with design contracts in late April. GGHPC requested a staff presentation, since GGHPC had not been kept apprised that the project would be implemented.
3. With respect to the reinstatement of a Planning Department in the City of San Diego, Thomson relayed that Gloria had supported the ideas of Bill Anderson in the City Planning Department before it was eliminated, but was waiting for the Mayor's budget proposal.
4. With respect to billboards, Thomson will report back to the full GGHPC on questions raised by GGHPC members.
5. Thomson will report back on a news report concerning SDPD attrition/recruitment issues, and provide the new website for the community to access information on sex offenders.
6. Thomson will follow up on tree trimming schedules.
7. Thomson will provide a status update on MAD tax refunds.

**City Planner** (Bernard Turgeon) (619-533-6575).

1..Turgeon requested an updated GGHPC roster for purposes of training notices.

2. Concerning the status of the Community Plan Update, Turgeon indicated land use and traffic changes were in progress, and a draft should be ready for GGHPC by September 2013. (An earlier status report, available online, was provided to the City Council Planning Commission on December 13, 2012.)

3. Turgeon indicated that he would prepare a proposed summary of GGHPC's reasoning concerning density reduction over the past several years, to include need for appropriate infrastructure and desire to preserve community character. In addition, Turgeon will provide information to GGHPC concerning the specific numbers of density loss under GGHPC recommendations.

**39th State Senate District** (Sen. Marty Block)--Christopher Ward (619-645-3133). Ward's report was added to the agenda. Ward distributed ""Around the Block,"" flagged hearings on the Education budget & other legislation, and responded to prior GGHPC member questions concerning California's efforts at foreclosure/mortgage relief. Shields expressed concerns about the need for strong legislation to protect seniors, including adequate funding for Adult Protective Services.

#### **NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Kudos to GGHPC member Thomas in absentia. Thomas is the co-owner of local restaurant Alchemy, selected as a provider for Whole Foods according to a recent article in the San Diego Union-Tribune.
2. A member of the public reported that the Mayor of San Diego had asked GGHPC to organize a public hearing with CALTRANS concerning the proposed Highway 94 expansion/construction adjacent to Golden Hill.

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Alvarez expressed concern that a proposed letter to the mayor, concerning the proposed Highway 94 construction, as drafted and circulated to a majority of GGHPC members for comment as set forth in the GGHPC meeting of March 2013, could constitute collective concurrence under the Brown Act. Alvarez requested that Turgeon ask the city attorney whether GGHPC could take any further action on this matter, including hosting/organizing the public hearing requested by the Mayor. Alvarez indicated she would respond to the Mayor's request as appropriate.

#### **VICE CHAIR'S REPORT**

Shields reported on GGHPC Secretary Kroll's health status.

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Well Testing Update. Greg Cross (619-533-4235) indicated that permits had been secured for retesting, to begin Monday. Cross also responded to questions from community members about noise and scope of work. A community member indicated the noise level of the prior work had been disruptive.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

**Sewer Project 691.** (Joey Guinto, Project Engineer, 619-533-5474). Guinto distributed a map showing sewer changes proposed for this particular project, to begin in July 2014. No work was expected to disturb sensitive canyon areas; there would be a traffic control plan on 30th Street, immediately north of Greater Golden Hill. Guinto was not aware if any other projects were scheduled within Greater Golden Hill, but indicated he would make inquiry and inform the GGHPC Chair. Guinto also agreed to report back to the committee concerning the contractor's proposed staging area.

**Plaza de Panama.** Following questions and discussion by committee members, with input from Vicky Granowitz, Chair of the North Park Planning Committee, and Bruce Coons (SOHO), David Swarens moved, David Strickland seconded, and the following two motions were unanimously adopted on separate votes:

**The GGHPC opposes altering the City of San Diego's Municipal Code (especially Section 126.0504(i) to either weaken its protection for historical resources in general, or to create an exception for the Plaza de Panama project in particular.**

**The GGHPC recommends that the City Council and the Mayor rescind the July 2012 amendments to the Balboa Park Master Plan (BPMP) & Central Mesa Precise Plan (CMPP), and that the BPMP & CMPP of 1989 be reinstated until such time as these plans can be updated in their entirety via an established Plan Update process.**

**Community Plan Update-Evaluation of Candidate Park Sites.** (Howard Greenstein, City Parks Planner). Following extensive discussion, GGHPC members agreed to submit completed park priority worksheets to Alvarez, indicating agreement or disagreement with staff priority rankings, prior to the May 2013 GGHPC meeting. This matter will be rescheduled as an action item for that meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.