

# GREATER GOLDEN HILL PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## September 11, 2013 – Approved

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 Burkart, Janice Davis, John Kroll, Richard Santini, Pat Shields, David Strickland, David Swarens, Matt Thomas. **Members absent:** Angela Vasconcellos.

**Approval of Minutes.** A motion to approve minutes from the August meeting was passed with one abstention.

### GOVERNMENTAL REPORTS

**San Diego Community Police Officer** – Kevin Vasquez reported.

**53rd Congressional District** (Rep. Susan Davis) – Gavin Deeb reported.

**Council District 3** (Todd Gloria)--Courtney Thomson (619-236-6633) reported that bicycle symbols remind auto drivers to share the roads with bicyclists. MAD refunds are expected to be issued in 30 days. The 25<sup>th</sup> St. Renaissance project is fully funded; construction is expected to begin in late fall or early 2014. A question regarding the City Counsel's approval of the Sunroad easement without payment of proper fees will be answered next month.

**City Planner** Bernie Turgeon reported on the Planning Commission meeting at which the committee's preference for lower density in three neighborhood areas was expressed. He said it looks as if reduced density is not a city priority. In fact Planning Commission director Bill Fulton wants to increase density in older neighborhoods, and the Planning Committee's opinion is only one in the chain. Fulton has been briefed on the committee's recommendation but does not seem sympathetic. At the Commission meeting no support for reduction was expressed or guidance offered. A working draft of the community plan update will come out in early October. The Commission will revisit the issue in November or December. A draft for public review will come out in January, after which the Commission will make recommendations. Brierton asked that Fulton address the committee.

A video of the Commission meeting is available at

[http://granicus.sandiego.gov/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=8&clip\\_id=5883](http://granicus.sandiego.gov/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=5883)  
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### ACTION ITEMS

#### Neighborhood Infrastructure Priorities

The following items were suggested for various types of funding:

- 1.Acquire parkland
- 2.Central Operations Yard park
- 3.Replace street lights with acorn style lights

4. 25<sup>th</sup> St. Renaissance Project – funding of Phase 2 and restoration of items deleted for budgetary reasons such as landscaping
5. Install walkway and bicycle path along Golf Course Drive
6. Install way finding system
7. Fill potholes
8. Build deck over SR 94
9. Install street lights on the Broadway overpass
10. Build pedestrian bridge over Pershing Drive to the opposite side of Balboa Park
11. Road down 26<sup>th</sup> St. hill

A motion (Shields/Thomas) to limit the suggestions to those already made was approved unanimously.

Based on committee comments, the top three priorities appear to be:

1. Golf Course Drive walkway
2. 25<sup>th</sup> St. Renaissance
3. Acorn lights

### **Presentation on SR-94 Expansion**

Three representatives of the City Heights Planning Committee presented a motion to abandon Caltrans and SANDAG's proposal for high occupancy vehicle lanes above SR-94 and reallocate the funds to transportation and circulation improvements adjacent to that part of SR-94. The proposal had already been approved by planning committees in City Heights, North Park, and Southeastern San Diego. The representatives noted that Council President Gloria has promised to put the motion on the City Council agenda once public comments have been received.

A motion (Brierton/Shields) to support the City Heights motion was passed 10-1.

### **INFORMATION ITEM**

Gregory Cross of the City Water Department gave an update on the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street well. The purpose of additional testing is to examine deep water. The department has drilled test wells in five or six sites in this area and have not ranked any in terms of desirability. The water from this well is brackish, suggesting the site is infeasible. A few committee members drank samples of the water, giving rise to concern as to whether a quorum will be alive for the next meeting.

Brierton expressed concern that wells may harm the canyon land. Cross said they would look closely at this issue if they decide to proceed.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Historic: Bugbee reported that no city review of the proposed historic district can take place until December because of a lack of city staff. Turgeon was urged to get more help from city staff on making this item a priority.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.