



**NORTH PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES: September 21, 2010 – 6:30 PM**

<http://www.northparkplanning.org>

2901 NORTH PARK WAY, 2ND FLOOR

Mailing address: 3939 ARIZONA ST., SAN DIEGO, CA 92104

I. Called to Order: 6:32.

II. Members in attendance (12): Robert Barry (arrived 7:19 p.m.; departed 8:34 p.m.), Kitty Callen, Dionne Carlson, Cheryl Dye, Lynn Elliott, Vicki Granowitz, Lucky Morrison, Judi O'Boyle, Christy Scannell, Rob Steppke, Liz Studebaker, Rene Vidales.

III. Modifications to and adoption of the September 21, 2010 agenda. MOTION: Move Non-agenda Public Comments to Item 6 and Elected Officials Reports to Item 2. Callen/Carlson (11-0-0).

IV. Elected Official Reports

- A.** Katherine Fortner, Hon. Susan Davis, US Congressional District 53. Busy August including San Diego appearances. Working on disaster warnings via cell phone.
- B.** Anthony Bernal, Hon. Todd Gloria, City Councilmember District 3. Man arrested who had burgled more than 50 UH and NP homes. Balboa Park Committee will be discussing the Plaza de Panama plans and the parking structure at their 9/23 meeting. Todd discussed the Ford building demolition at LU&H; DSD might fine the owner and demolition company.

V. Action Items

A. Mid City Rapid Bus (BRT), Miriam Kirshner. Project offers higher-speed transit to serve bus route from SDSU to downtown via El Cajon Blvd. and Park Blvd. at cost of \$43 million. Replaces Route 15. Net loss of 9 parking spaces on Park Blvd. Polk would be closed to through car traffic at Park Blvd. Route saves 9 minutes start to finish. Net loss of parking will be heard at LU&H; Gloria's office said he is working with nearby DMV to open spaces. City Council must approve project.

NOTE: Kirshner left at 7:30 p.m. before complete public comment and questions were received and before NPPC members could comment or ask questions.

Public comments/concerns: senior buildings at Park and University; loss of parking between University and Lincoln on Park Blvd; safety of Polk closure for people to walk to cars; it's good that priority is being given to transit; don't delay project that could bring improvement; good use of federal dollars; encourage mature landscaping; Polk intersection closure could increase traffic on University; don't take out medians; concern about traffic impact on Lincoln, Center and Georgia streets; gains don't justify impact; what is fire department's input since they use Polk from Hillcrest into North Park; Henry's Market truck access; embarrassed that city is using buses that use gas instead of trolley; does trip-time reduction justify project; economic loss to businesses during construction; streetcar model in Portland could be better; how long \$90 million maintenance fund will last; bus ridership is decreasing while project predicts ridership to double; billions spent on I-15 and other North County routes, equal amounts should be spent in Mid-

City; SDSU to Downtown not a needed route; interacting traffic on El Cajon Blvd; Polk is thoroughfare from I-163 to North Park yet Lincoln doesn't connect; home values due to parking. Committee comments/concerns: Density justifies transit so money won't go away, hold firm for options we want such as trolley/streetcar; don't rely on old technologies; Balboa Park section has a lot of traffic; increased ridership as population ages but not immediate; proposal to change Park Blvd configuration (Vidales); lack of lateral connectivity between neighborhoods due to Polk closure and raised curbs; safety issue of right (south) turn from El Cajon Blvd to Park Blvd; what kinds of landscaping improvements are part of plan; viability of parking spaces at Howard and Park due to new development there and the fire department's request for a fire lane; SANDAG has not been responsive to NPPC concerns and no changes have been made to plan; makes Park Blvd less walkable.

(September 8 PF/PA; Members attended; Dionne Carlson, Rene Vidales, Kitty Callen, Lucky Morrison, Steve Chipp, Rob Steppke, Ernie Bonn, Lynn Elliott) **MOTION:** To deny the Park Blvd portion of the Mid City Rapid Bus Project due to traffic, pedestrian, commercial economic impacts, and community interface concerns. Steppke/Bonn (6-1-0) (Vidales).

MOTION: To deny the Park Blvd portion of the Mid City Rapid Bus Project due to traffic, pedestrian, commercial economic impacts, and community interface concerns. Callen (10-2-0) (Barry, Vidales opposed)

MOTION: To oppose the entire Mid City Rapid Bus Project. Barry/Studebaker. (11-1-0) (Vidales opposed)

VI. Chair's Report

A. No CPC meeting in August.

VII. Approval of Previous Minutes: August 17, 2010. **MOTION:** To approve. O'Boyle/Barry (12-0-0).

VIII. Treasurer's Report. \$566.22

IX. Announcements

A. CPUAC Charettes in October.

B. Special Balboa Park Committee meeting Sept. 23 regarding Plaza de Panama.

X. Non-agenda Public Comment

A. **Joyce Summer/CCDC.** Winter shelter continued. Naming of Information Center. Registry Week for homeless this week. World Trade Center for homeless proposed intake center goes to City Council on Oct. 5.

B. **Beth Swersie.** New website: northparkmeetings.info.

C. **Michael Ramirez/Neighborhoods for Clean Elections.** Want more support for neighborhoods from city. Will support neighborhood-oriented candidates. sdcleanelections.org.

D. **Rick Pyles.** Bluefoot Bar's NUP is up for renewal in October. Wants item on NPPC October agenda.

XI. Liaisons Reports

A. Alcohol and Entertainment Working Group/Granowitz. No report.

B. Balboa Park Committee/Steppke. Did not meet.

C. Maintenance Assessment District/Steppke. Double acorn lights on El Cajon Blvd and passed motion to fund \$1000 per light.

D. North Park Main Street/Studebaker. Taste of North Park in two weeks. Farmers Market expands to Herman Street, Oct. 7. Small business energy makeover day. Toyland Parade, Dec. 4.

- E. North Park Parking Management Working Group/Vidales. No report.
- F. Project Area Committee/O'Boyle. Did not approve double-acorn lighting on El Cajon Blvd. Raised funding ceiling for home improvements. Endorsed program to fund forgivable loans for multi-family units.

XII. Information Items

- A. **Rehabilitation of City of San Diego portion and entire seismic retrofit of Laurel St. aka Cabrillo Bridge**, Lou Melendez, Caltrans. Project will be done from 2010-2014 at a cost of \$32 million. No visible changes to bridge although transformer box will now be outside and below bridge in archery range. Accent lighting on footings. Improvements to drainage and pavement. Possible night closures when deck is replaced.
- B. **State Route 94 High Occupancy Vehicle/Bus Rapid Transit (HOV/BRT) Lane Project**, Lewis Michaelson for Caltrans. Addition of 2 lanes in median, one lane both ways, between I-5 and I-805, a 3-mile stretch. Will hook to larger project SANDAG is doing countywide. Wants to identify three people to discuss project outside meeting. Vidales and Carlson volunteered. Scoping meeting will be early next year.

XIII. Subcommittee Reports

- A. **Urban Design/Project Review**, Barry/Dye. NP Adult Community Center, 6 p.m. 1st Monday. Next meeting October 4, 2010. No report.
- B. **Public Facilities/Public Art**, Carlson/Vidales. NPMS, 3076 Univ. Ave, 6:30 p.m. Special meeting date Wed., Oct. 6, 2010. Gary Pence from city parking division will be there. Discussing Pershing and Redwood intersection improvements.
- C. **Utility Boxes**, Barry/Dye. No report.

XIV. Unfinished, New Business & Future Agenda Items.

- A. Morrison asked that the issues with Bluefoot Bar be agendized.

XV. Next Meeting Date: October 19, 2010

XVI. MOTION: Callen/Dionne (11-0-0). 9:02 p.m.