

Normal Heights Community Planning Group
APPROVED
MINUTES

February 5, 2010

6:00 PM

Normal Heights Community Center

Call to Order by Jim Baross at 6:00

Members present: Susan Redelings, Kevin Johnston, Nancy Wolfing, Jim Baross, Dino Serafini, Richard Rios, Larry Hofreiter, Earlene Thom, Holly Ritter, Mark Rowland

Members absent: Art Harrison,

Community Members/Guests: Dion Akers, Conni Musser, Woo Jin Shim, Joseph Fombon, Richard Neuffer, Gary Weber, Bob Keiser, Nancy Lawler, Mark Lawler, Suzanne Ledeboer

Welcome and introductions

Non Agenda Public Comments/Information from Community Members:

Bob Keiser invited members to participate in the Citizens Redistricting Commission. Legislative districts will be drawn by a randomly selected panel consisting of 5 Republicans, 5 Democrats and 5 independents. Bob passed out pamphlets provided by Common Cause. Information at: www.wedrawtheline.ca.gov.

Nancy announced the formation of two Citizen's Patrols operating in Normal Heights: One, started by Jennifer Brimhall, will patrol north of Adams Ave. Safe Neighborhoods is seeking to cover the rest of Normal Heights and Kensington. Patrollers are needed, go to NormalHeights.com, or talk to Nancy for more information.

Approval of January, 2010 Minutes

The UCSD engineering students (not SDSU students) are designing a pedestrian bridge over the San Diego River.

The City charges \$2,000 per season (not per month) for use of the Adams Ave. field by the Little League.

Kevin moved to approve January, 2010 minutes with corrections; 2nd by Larry; none opposed.

Modification to Agenda: none,

Reports from Representatives of Elective Officials

Woo Jin Shim, from Supervisor Ron Robert's office, announced H1N1 vaccinations were being offered at the Lesbian, Gay Bisexual & Transgender Center in Hillcrest at 5202 University. Agencies providing assistance with Earned Income Tax Credit are listed on flyers that Mr. Shim distributed.

Dion Akers from Councilman Todd Gloria's office, passed out the new "District 3 Dialogue" with the year-end wrap-up. The Councilman delivered the State of the District at the Old Globe Theater, a video of the address may be seen on: www.sandiego.gov/cd3.

Kevin Johnston, Friends of the Canyons, reported that the San Diego River Conservancy Study is complete and available for review and comment. Kevin reminded members to contact officials and register support for the urban trails system, including the Normal Heights to Mission Valley connection. The next canyon maintenance event is scheduled for 10:00 am, March 13 at the end of Eugene Place.

Larry, City Heights Project Area Committee representative, attended the last meeting. The PAC is working on a plan to improve streetlighting in the project area.

Information Items per Agenda

Jim reminded those in attendance that they may get their name on a mailing list to receive future project applications.

1) Nancy provided further information on the Farmers Market at 40th and Madison: The opening is currently scheduled for this April. The Market will take place on Wednesdays 4-7pm year round. The Market is funded for 2years.

2) Reminder that elections to the NHCPG will be held in March.

Four nominees were determined to be eligible and have agreed to stand for election:

Joseph Fombon
Mark Lawler
Nancy Lawler
Richard Neuffer

Other information items per the Agenda

Action Items:

1) Project Review of AT&T application to replace existing light poles at Adams Ave. Park and install cell phone antennas.

Shelly Kilborn representing the applicant, presented plans and was available for questions and clarified the number of antenna (4) on each of three poles being replaced.

Members of the NHCPG Project Review Committee (PRC) have reviewed the plans.

Jim asked if Adams Avenue Recreation Council had been given the opportunity to review and discuss the proposal.

It was Ms. Kilborn's understanding that City Park and Recreation staff would be discussing the proposal directly with the Rec. Council at one of their meetings.

Mark Rowland (PRC) commented that it was good that the control center had been relocated to the Recreation Center's roof but wondered about access and whether the lighting (color and luminance) could be improved. And whether the profile of the antennas be reduced so that they are not so bulky.

Since a permanent ladder cannot be affixed to the building, Ms. Kilborn surmised that a lift would be needed to service the control center. With the new poles, luminaires could be added. As for the profile, the antenna units need to be mounted away from the poles in order for all four to fit around the circumference.

Mark also asked, since the poles are being relocated, could they be placed out of the field of play—behind the fence and could a power supply be brought to the base of the poles? And the Little League needs a flag pole, could one be added to one of the poles?

Kilborn: Those would be a Park and Rec. Dept. call but could not see why not. As for the flag pole: it may be simpler to just install a separate pole rather than design one on a light pole. She would see if AT&T is amenable to that.

Ms. Kilborn was asked if there were similar installations in the area that we could see and why is this particular site necessary. She recommended Westview High School in Rancho Peñasquitos and referred to a map showing service coverage in the area with a hole in Normal Heights, the next site is in Kensington which is shared by three other carriers. Beyond that, there is a site west of I-805 on Adams Ave.

Kevin (PRC) vouches for AT&T and concurs with Mark's comments

Motion: Approve the project with the following recommendations to the City:

- Move the poles out of the playing field;
- Provide consistent lighting color;
- Investigate the potential for either adapting one of the poles to carry a flag pole, or install a separate flag pole near the field;
- Our recommendation shall be subject to Adams Ave. Recreational Council review. Jim will take on the responsibility to contact Ted Ewing of the Rec. Council

Dino moved for approval; Larry 2nd

Question from the floor (Gary Weber): how much and where does the rental fee go and what it would be used for. Adding that the fees are not insignificant and some should be returned to the neighborhood.

Ms. Kilborn believed the fees are on the order of \$1,000-\$2,500 per month, depending on the location. The user pays the fee to Real Estate Assets Management but doesn't know how the revenues are used

Jim will contact Todd Gloria's office and encourages others to request the City to use the funds for improvements in the neighborhood and called for the vote:

All in favor; no abstentions.

2) Cross-walk at East Mtn. View

Jim asked if the City has been contacted. Nancy Lawler said she did speak with a staff person sometime ago, but no further word or action has been taken.

Jim noted that this is in the area of Cherokee and East Mt. View where the City has presented plans for reconfiguring the intersection and that it is possible the improvements will provide the needed crossing protection; he will bring the plans to the March meeting.

3) Potential Regulations on Medical Marijuana Dispensaries. Jim's intent is to open a discussion and gauge the Group's points of view and opinions regarding what regulations would be effective and/or necessary, and whether the City should consider developing regulations.

Larry, drawing from his experience in drafting regulations for adult-themed book stores, thought that MMD should be well-lit and that regulations not seek to isolate them from the rest of the community—don't try to prohibit them from the vicinity of churches or schools.

Mark recommended that the Group should review the City Task Force's report (which Jim forwarded by e-mail).

Jim questioned whether the dispensaries are actually operating as for-profit enterprises and not cooperatives as was the intent of the ballot proposition. Susan asked what manner of oversight does the City conduct and thought there should be a way to determine whether they are operating within specified guidelines and that the City or interested citizens should be allowed to monitor their activity and also should consider requiring posting of prices and licenses. Mark recommended that their not-for-profit status should be documented. Joseph advised that if an organization is legitimately registered and is operating as a not-for-profit that their financial information is publically available for review.

Kevin noted that the Task Force is recommending that MMD approval shall be a Process 2 or 3 meaning a conditional use permit entailing CPG review.

Jim thanked everyone and will take these comments to the CPG committee

4) Pedestrian /Bicycle Access to Mission Valley

Jim reported that, while both the City and Caltrans want to go forward with project to provide access along SR-15 from Normal Heights down to Mission Valley, neither is keen on providing for on-going maintenance and are struggling with how to do that. Jim would like the Group to reaffirm its support for the project and to write/e-mail officials that we still want access and to work it out.

Committee Reports

Historic/Housing—Nancy reported that Friends of the University Heights Library have begun an effort to designate the former Teacher Training Annex on Park Blvd. (west side of Park where El Cajon Blvd. begins) as a new site for the Library. The San Diego Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO) is taking back operation of the Serra Museum at the Presidio. Seven property renovations in NH, that are over 45-years old and subject to review, were determined not to be significant.

Project Review Committee--Larry reminded Group of the standing PRC meeting at 5:30 pm as needed.

CPG Committee—Up-coming issues to be discussed:

- Storm water system management in canyons;
- Transitional housing;
- Wireless task-force discussing locational and height issues;
- Council Policy 600-24 Administrative Guidelines;
- Open seat on Open Space/Canyon Advisory Committee

Susan suggested that a link to CPG bylaws should be place on the City CPCI website.

Next meeting: March, 2 in the Community Center

Adjourned at 7:50