



UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes - Tuesday, July 21, 2020

REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM

6:02 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL BY CHAIR: Andy Wiese

AW: Calls the meeting to order and calls the roll.

Roll Call:

Members present:

Andy Wiese (AW), Keith Jenne (KJ), Roger Cavanaugh (RC), Debby Knight (DK), George Lattimer (GL), Katie Rodolico (KR), Joanne Selleck (JS), Laurie Phillips (LP), Anu Delouri (AD), Rebecca Robinson Wood (RRW), Jason Morehead (JM), Petr Krysl (PK) Dinesh Martien (DM), Veronica Ayesta (VA)

Members not present:

Kristin Camper (KC), Erin Baker (EB), Kris Kopensky (KK), Melanie Cohn (MC)

Non-voting Member:

Kristin Camper (KC).

Note: MCAS Miramar representative Kristin Camper does not vote per US Government policy. Business seat 1 (previously held by John Bassler) is to be filled with one of the three UCPG Business 1 members.

City Staff:

Katie Witherspoon (KW) – University CPU Project Manager, Planning Department

Tait Galloway (TG) – Program Manager, Planning Department

Martin Flores (MF) – Parks Designer, Planning Department

Kristy Forburger (KF) – DPM III, MSCP, Planning Department

Dan Monroe (DMM) – Sr. Planner, MSCP, Planning Department

Laura Ball (LB) – Project Officer II, Parks & Recreation

Some members of the public are identified below as:

Barry Bernstein	(BB)
Nancy Groves	(NG)
Deanna Ratnikova	(DR)
Diane Ahern	(DA)
Justine Murray	(JuM)
Louis Rodolico	(LR)

David Campbell	(DC)
Alyssa Helper	(AH)
Isabelle Kay	(IK)
Janay Kruger	(JK)
Public member	(Public)

6:05 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Call to approve the minutes of 6/02/2020 by KR, seconded by ?. 10 Yes, 0 No, PK abstains (not present for 6/02/2020).

Call to approve the minutes of 6/16/2020 by ?, seconded by ?. 10 Yes, 0 No, PK abstains (not present for 6/16/2020).

Chris Nielsen (CN) to take minutes for this meeting.

6:12 NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

JS: Comment on noise from I-5 in the western area of La Jolla Colony due to removal of trees and landscaping for the Mid-Coast Trolley project. See Appendix.

DA: Comment on access to Rose Canyon.

Katie Dunahoo: I support keeping the canyons surrounding University City accessible to the public as well as open and natural. I agree with the comments made earlier by Diane Ahern. I am very concerned about all the dead trees that are a fire hazard in San Clemente Canyon.

Jennifer (community member): Comment on lack of leashes on dogs at UC parks. See Appendix.

6:22 SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

No member comment.

6:22 Project Status -- Katie Witherspoon

KW reviewed the steps in the Community Plan Update, what it is, what it is not.

6:25 Item 1—Information Item: Open Space -- Katie Witherspoon

KW: At the CPU kickoff the following priorities for Open Space were selected by the community: "Protect Rose Canyon" and "Improve connections" were the top two. A complete list is in the appendix of the presentation for tonight.

KW: Reviewed UCP goals for open space and recreation. More work in September.

KW: Tonight will be a review of open space in the existing plan and a review of the Rose Canyon open space park. Dedicated lands require a two-thirds vote to re-designate for some other purpose. Reviewed City owned parcels that could be dedicated as Open Space. She is currently working with Real Estate Assets (REA) on the following list of parcels included in the motion by the UCPG on 07/14/2020.

CN: Read the following motion approved by the UCPG:

The UCPG reiterates its support for the permanent preservation (through parkland dedication or other effective means) of the following City of San Diego-owned open space parcels in the University Community:

- 1) L304MM - Governor Drive-Gullstrand St, University Gardens-Dinosaur Park
- 2) L310RU - Nobel Drive "Bowtie"
- 3) L303RU-PM - Nobel Drive, "Nobel Hill"
- 4) L307PM - City of San Diego Pueblo Lands
- 5) K302P2 – Campus Point Drive Headland
- 6) K302P3 - Roselle Canyon - Towne Centre Drive Headlands

Motion passed: Yes 16 – No 0 – Abstain 0

AW: Amplifies: The above parcels are about 250 acres and the last parcels of City owned open space in the UC plan area. The UCPG has voted multiple times to preserve these parcels. The parcels are adjacent to existing dedicated open space and are compatible with current adjacent use. They represent incredible biodiversity with very rare habitats, including vernal pools. They include two coastal watersheds and recognized regional wildlife corridors. They are distant from transit and in the MHPA. They are in the APZ1/2 zones or high noise zones where housing is prohibited. Preserving them permanently reduces the threat of development. KW spoke to various city agencies about dedicating or designating these parcels as open space. Formal dedication for these parcels could be achieved by a vote of the city council. We want to express the values of the UCPG to the City that open space is an important balance to growth.

GL: I am concerned about the Nobel Hill area, as the city looks to increase development since it's an ideal site. There is a lot of pressure for land of this type.

AW: Nobel Hill has an open space easement. Development intensity has been transferred off this land (for Illumina and the recent Podium 93 ARE project). This is a tried and true practice in UC of protecting land to encourage other development.

JS: KW, you have said you are working on open space but is there something the CPUS can do to help?

KW: We have heard the community loud and clear. We are trying to identify the appropriate tool to preserve the open space lands.

RC: This seems like a good opportunity to bring together various community groups. Maybe get the groups to sign on to the CPUS goals. This could be a more established and robust response.

Megan Flaherty (San Diego Audubon Society): We have taken an official position of support for these parcels to be protected as permanent open space. It's an important habitat and wildlife corridor, and provides water quality protection.

IK: Supports Megan's position. Contiguous, adjacent land preserves habitat in a connected way. At a UCSD parcel she spotted evidence of a (species of animal), and thus functioning wildlife corridor. Fragmented areas are not as good as contiguous.

Dave Hogan (Sierra Club chair): These parcels are very important to the Sierra Club. Dedication of the parcels is vitally important. They need the maximum level of protection possible today. Look at the power plant proposed some years ago on Pueblo Lands, the Mayor's idea. The community organized to defeat it but it shows the current protection was inadequate. MHPA priority from the start is the preservation of habitat; recreation is secondary.

6:25 Item 2—Information Item: Habitat and MHPA – Dan Monroe

DMM: MSCP adopted in 1997. It meets the requirements of the Endangered Species Act and other laws. MHPA – Multiple Habitat Planning Areas – Council-adopted areas provides the space required for habitats. There are currently 2600 acres in the MHPA. DMM showed the community atlas figures for rare and threatened "flora and fauna". VPHPA – to protect vernal pools in a similar fashion is complimentary to the MSCP/MHPA.

Kristie Forberger (KF – City): The Nobel Hill parcel is 100% 'conserved' (for the record).

Bob Burns: Are there any efforts to restore or improve the Vernal Pools area on Nobel Hill?

KF: There are "basic stewardship" levels on the property now, but nothing special.

Lou Rodolico (community member): A lot of properties had trips, but what would happen if the City refreshed the trips or the VMT system allowed for development?

DMM: The Alexandria Podium 93 project is using the remaining trips. Those trips fully utilize the property's trips and there is no intention to "refill" with ADTs.

Dave Hogan (Sierra Club): As part of the CPUS, you can specify "open space" but Council can dedicate permanently. It's important to balance new trails with a proper budget.

7:10 Item 2—Information Item: Trails in Open Space – Katie Witherspoon

KW: Reviewed the current adopted trail plan, and reviewed different types of trails.

KW: Discussion of proposed trails, area #1 (Roselle Canyon).

Paul Montgomery: If there is a path proposed but it's a public utilities easement does it make it easy or hard?

Laura Ball (LBall - City): A public utility path cannot be a part of an official trail.

Lou Rodolico: Title of "open space" is a misnomer; it closes off space to people. A patchwork, we need trails for people and bikes: it needs to be for humans.

AW: There are some missed opportunities in area #1 for vistas, loop trails, and so forth.

Karin Zirk: The Park Master Plan, not yet approved, allows paths to be put into new MHPA areas.

DK: Friends of Rose Canyon brings 1000s of people per year. We do many projects. The points David Hogan made were important. Human use is secondary in these areas. The City needs many more rangers.

KW: Need to look at the remaining slides in the presentation.

KW: Presented draft trails for area #2, East Rose Canyon and Nobel Hill and draft trails for area #3, West Rose Canyon. KW shows the final draft maps.

KJ: Trail that begins at the end of Towne Centre Drive is a marvelous trail.

LBall: Takes off from private development so not so good. Erosion issues? Will look further into this.

IK: Recommended closure of several trails is desirable in #1 leaving the Alexandria Real Estate property. It's useful to see the MHPA overlay with trails. We have paths that are part of the urban interface.

KR: I want to reiterate Diane Ahern and Katie Dunahoo's comments about access to Rose Canyon. Parking on Genesee is difficult and that limits access. Off leash dogs do damage.

LP: Conversion of informal to formal trails? What would be the impact of lighted trails for them?

LBall: Lights are not compatible with the MHPA designation.

AW: I'd like to close by saying that for south UC, access to Rose Canyon is important. We need to show where trails are eroded and need maintenance now. I'm fearful about adding trails without a commitment to maintenance of existing trails.

7:38 Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be September 29th.

Appendix: Public Comment

Joann Selleck:

Comment on noise from I-5 in the western area of La Jolla Colony due to removal of trees and landscaping for the Mid-Coast Trolley project.

- the noise problem from the I-5 has been the subject of multiple complaints at UCPG meetings

- the noise is particularly bad along Charmant in front of the private La Jolla Colony park

- the sound from 5 is deafening at least during the day

- it is doubtful that SANDAG has done any noise testing since their EIR which was pre demolition of the trees

- I plan to make public comment at the Friday 7/24 9AM Board meeting with the goal of getting SANDAG to conduct sound testing given the new conditions

- I posted the information about how to attend the board meeting virtually in the chat https://sandag.org/uploads/meetingid/meetingid_5411_27772.pdf

- The replanting likely will not be effective in reducing the noise because the trees removed were very tall and therefore a sound-barrier-wall is likely the solution.

Jennifer (community member):

After talking to--and more importantly, listening to--many community members the past week or so, it's become evident there's a strong concern around unlawful dog unleashing; particularly in Marcy Park. Not only does this activity pose an immediate danger to children, but also other dogs who are lawfully leashed. I've unfortunately heard many horrible and sad stories. A parent with an autistic child who cannot enjoy the park. Residents whose children have been attacked and no longer feel safe visiting the park. And at the very lightest offense, many stories of unlawful unleashers aggressively lashing out and cursing out those who respectfully approach them and request they leash their dogs (as per the law). The humane society law enforcement team does what they can, but it appears the threat of citations is not a strong deterrent. Unlawful unleashers have even admitted this "social norm" has been going on for decades in Marcy Park. With that said, we are in solution-driving mode. Some (offenders of this law and those offended) have voiced appetite for a large and small dog park in Marcy Park. However, someone else has told me this has already been explored and isn't possible. If that's the case, I'm looking for community planning leaders' help with identifying other possible solutions, given their expertise and vast resources.