



UPTOWN PLANNERS

MINUTES
11/10/2020

In attendance: Stephen Cline, Clint Daniels, Gail Friedt, Matt Mederios, Soheil Nahkshab, Dennis Seisun, Bill Ellig, William Smith, Amie Hayes, Stu McGraw (Arrived for Info Item #1, #2, and #4), Roy Dahl (Arrived for Info Item #1, #2, and #4), Tom Mullaney (Arrived for Info Item #1, #2, and #4)

Absent: Tim Gahagen, Zach Bunshaft, Bob Daniel, Michael Brennan, Brer Marsh.

I. Call to Order - Soheil called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

1. Introductions

2. Adoption of Agenda and Rules of Order

Agenda approved by acclamation

3. Approval of July Meeting Minutes

Dennis requested his comment on Action Item 2 be changed to more accurately reflect his request for a clarification between the focused plan vs. the current plan.

Bill moved to approve with the amendment above, Dennis 2nd, minutes unanimously approved (12-0-0).

4. Public Comment

- a. Bill Ellig: If you are speaking from your personal opinion, please make sure you indicate your comments are personal and not from the perspective of the board.
- b. Lu Rehling: Q: Why were prior meetings cancelled during the pandemic? A: Soheil Nahkshab: Fewer items moving forward during Covid.
- c. Councilmember Chris Ward provided an update from the City & answered questions from the board. He provided updates on completed projects, University Pipeline, Richmond Storm Drain, Rainbow Crosswalk, Hillcrest Focus Plan, Beginning transition to Stephen Whitburn, Beginning transition from Todd Gloria, and the process for keeping constituent services moving forward.
- d. Bill Smith: Expressed concern for the DMV site to Chris Ward. Chris agreed this is a top priority.
- e. Clint Daniels: Asked Chris about experience with D3 Working Group (See Item 3). Chris answered that the Group was primarily focused on parks master plan issues.

II. Information Items

1. Hillcrest Focused Plan Amendment Status Update and Schedule

Michael Prinz provided a presentation on the status of the Hillcrest Focus Plan

Subcommittee meetings are slated for 3rd Thursday of Month

Board Comment:

- a. Dennis: Q: What is the connection between Hillcrest Focus Plan, Complete Communities, Gateway Project? Michael Prinz: Gateway Project: Private effort in 2016 that led the city council to recommend a specific plan for the Hillcrest area. City staff decided to expand the boundaries beyond the Gateway area for the Hillcrest Focus Plan Amendment. Complete Communities: Citywide opt-in program to address state law and city's housing needs.
- b. Dennis (again) Q: If there are conflicts, does one program take precedent. A: Michael Prinz: Complete Communities is an opt-in and will tell on conflicts.

Public Comment:

- a. Mary Brown: Q: How will the focus plan affect the historical / unique architecture in the community? A: Michael Prinz: Zoning sets the guidelines for development, and it's up to private developers to decide whether buildings are regulated assuming they follow existing land use regulations.
- b. Mat Wahlstrom: (from chat) "I want to emphasize that Mr. Prinz on behalf of the Planning Dept. has stated on the record that the impetus for this entire Plan Hillcrest effort is claimed to be from unnamed 'planning staff deciding' that reopening the entirety of the Uptown Community Plan Update for Hillcrest and Medical Complex."
- c. Mary McKenzie: Reiterated the need for affirmative commitment to handicap needs in the Hillcrest Focus Plan. Michael Prinz: ADA and handicap needs will be a larger commitment moving forward.

2. Uptown Planners Elections Procedures Discussion

Planning Department staff (Michael Prinz and Tait Galloway) are evaluating opportunities for elections in March 2021. Emergency orders are still in effect, but there is a desire to continue with elections. Public health guidelines are still being worked on within City Hall.

Public & Board Comment:

- a. Tom Mullaney: Bylaws require the election committee to be formed during the December meeting.
- b. Lu Rehling: Q: How will the meeting requirements be addressed for the election? Michael Prinz: These details are still being worked out.
- c. Mat Wahlstrom (from chat): "I agree with Lu. I do not believe that this issue should be CPG-by-CPG. The process needs to be determined for all by the City Attorney and the City Council so that we don't have inconsistencies. COVID is affecting all CPGs and needs a uniform and transparent process." Michael Prinz: Looking for citywide guidance that aligns with existing local conditions.
- d. William Smith: Q: Does state law have any bearing on this discussion? Michael Prinz: A: Not sure, will get clarification.
- e. Matt Medeiros: Recommend the same election committee from last year
- f. Soheil: We will make that recommendation for the December meeting

3. City Planning Committee Update

Clint Daniels provided an update from Community Planners Committee (CPC) on Complete Communities, will request to participate in the D3 Community Planning Group

consortium, and will attend one meeting of the "D3 consortium" and report back to the group at the next meeting.

4. SANDAG Central Mobility Hub Update with presenter Gia Ballash

Board Comment:

- a. Clint Daniels: Described a meeting as the public facilities chair meeting with SANDAG report. Suggested SANDAG contact Bob Daniel due to prior work with train noise. Provided feedback that the project should be human focused, look to provide better connections to Five Points business as Trolley, and consider replacing Middletown station moving forward with a N. Little Italy station. Will recuse from any vote due to potential conflicts moving forward. Recommended Design Review Committee chair serve as liaison moving forward.
- b. Bob Daniel: Happy to offer thoughts based on experience from related work. Curious what happens if the Navy goes a different direction.
- c. Dennis Seisun: Would like more direction on how we can meaningfully contribute to the discussion.
- d. Matt Medeiros: Provides a good opportunity to create connections to Uptown in conjunction with the Hillcrest Focus Plan.

Meeting adjourned (time not recorded).