



UPTOWN PLANNERS

MINUTES
12/1/2020

In attendance: Stephen Cline, Gail Friedt, Matt Mederios, Soheil Nahkshab, Dennis Seisun, Roy Dahl, Bob Daniel, Clint Daniels, Michael Brennan, Stu McGraw, Zach Bunshaft, Tom Mullaney.

Absent: Bill Ellig, William Smith, Amie Hayes, Tim Gahagen, Brer Marsh.

I. Soheil called the meeting to order at 6:02pm

1. Introductions
2. Adoption of Agenda and Rules of Order
Agenda approved by acclamation
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes
Minutes approved by acclamation
4. City Planning Committee Update
Clint: A meeting was held last week with two key items, the Short Term Rental Ordinance and the Parks Plan. CPC voted on a draft Short Term Rental ordinance by Councilmember Campbell. CPC was unclear how some parts of the ordinance would work, particularly surrounding certain carve-outs, & voted for it to go back to City staff for more community input before it can be sent to Council. There are concerns about a lack of community input on the Parks Plan as well.

II. Representatives of Elected Officials

1. Jawad Al Baghdadi from Rep. Susan A. Davis's Office: Announced that their office has discontinued casework as the Congresswoman's tenure in Congress is ending. He said to send all casework to Senator Feinstein's office.
2. Barbara Cosio Moreno from the Senate Pro Tem Atkins Office: Announced the next legislative session begins December 7th. Barbara will be attending the UP meeting for representative Chevelle Newell-Tate, who is on maternity leave. Please reach out to Barbara if there are any questions barbara.cosiomoreno@sen.ca.gov

III. Public Comment

1. Chris Cole: Attended subcommittee meeting for Plan Hillcrest, shared appreciation for process.
2. Lu Rehling: asked for a clarification on Action Item #2
3. Mary Brown: Can we cover the election procedure during Action Item #2? Yes.

IV. Action Items 6:30 p.m.

1. Project 658479 Review: UPTOWN (Process 5) Public Right of Way Vacation of unimproved excess public right of way of a portion of Andrews Street (formerly Carmel Street) located in between Puterbaugh St and Torrance St. The 0.114 acre site is in the RS-1-7 zone within the Uptown Community Plan area. Council District 3. Presenter: Jim Neil, Owner

The City Council must make a final decision. Neighbors have all been notified by the City.

Board Comment:

Clint: The Andrews Street vacation is adjacent to Washington Street. Recommends we ensure that the project does not adversely impact construction of the Washington Street Bike Lanes.

Matt: What happens if the property is declined? Does the vacated property remain private?

Dennis: Asked if Soheil is connected financially to this project since he is assisting with the presentation. Answer: No

Clint moved to approve, Gail 2nd, unanimously approved (12-0-0)

2. Election Committee Adoption: In March of this year, Uptown Planners established a committee for the 2020 election. We would like to reinstate the same board members to continue on this committee for the upcoming year.

Board Comment:

Roy: asked about vacancies available. There are 7 openings from last year, action needed to be taken to in future to address terms.

Public comment:

Lu Rehling: If this subcommittee meeting is private and there's no meeting in January, how will the word get out about elections?

Bob: We will proceed as planned for elections in March and adjust as necessary

Roy moved to approve Matt, Bob, and Stephen to the subcommittee, Dennis 2nd, unanimously approved (12-0-0)

3. Central Mobility Hub Liaison: Uptown Planners would like to nominate Brer Marsh as our liaison given that he is the chair of our Design Review Committee.

Public Comment:

Lu Rehling: Thinks it's important the action item is more neutral. Soheil: This was discussed at the last meeting and recommended for this agenda.

Tom Mullaney: Believes it's important to define the position. Soheil clarified the liaison represents the UP and cannot make executive decisions.

Clint: Believes that when the Board has not made a decision, the liaison is trusted to bring it back to the Board if there is not an explicit view of the UP on a non major issue.

Clint moved to designate Brer, Bob 2nd, approved (10-1-1) Tom opposed. Dennis abstained because he believes a "major decision" is too vague.

4. District 3 Oriented CPG Working Group: Members of North Park, Golden Hill, and Downtown have been meeting with Chris Ward's office regularly and have been successful in their efforts. Their concern is that issues in D3 don't usually align with the CPG on the CPC from other areas of the city. The board has discussed the idea of having members from Uptown also participate in this group.

Public comment:

Lu Rehling: Wanted to remind UP that the liaisons do not just represent the board but also the community.

Michael Donovan: Fully supports.

Gail moved to approve the position, Stephen 2nd, approved (11-1-0) Tom opposed.

5. Removal of Tim Gahagan from the Board: Per the Uptown Planners official bylaws, "The Uptown Planners shall find that a vacancy exists upon receipt of a resignation in writing from one of its members or upon receipt of a written report from the Uptown Planners Secretary reporting the third consecutive absence or fourth absence in the 12-month period of April through March each year, of a member from the Uptown Planners regular meetings." We will move forward with the process as outlined in the bylaws: "When the Uptown Planners is unable to fill a vacancy within 120 days [of the upcoming March election], as specified above, and the Uptown Planners has more than twelve members, a search for a new member should continue, however either the seat may remain vacant until the next Uptown Planners election, or these Bylaws may be amended to allow for decreased membership to a minimum of 12 members. If a vacancy remains for more than 60 days from the time a vacancy is declared, and there are less than 12 elected Uptown Planners members in good standing, the Uptown Planners shall report in writing the efforts made to fill the vacancy to the City. If, after 60 additional days, the Uptown Planners membership has not reached 12 members, the Uptown Planners will be deemed inactive until it has attained at least 12 members in good standing."

Public comment:

Lu Rehling: Asked for a clarification of the process to fill the seat.

Tom: Contacted Tim and he acknowledged and understood he was out.

Matt moved to remove Tim Gahagan from the board, Dennis 2nd, unanimous approval (12-0-0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm