

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

MINUTES

Meeting opened 6:16 PM

In attendance: Stu McGraw, Chair; Mary Brown; Patty Ducey-Brooks; Juli Hyde; Don Liddell; Mary McKenzie; Lu Rehling; Mat Wahlstrom; Jim Walsh; Susan White

Absent: Matt Brown, Chris Cole, Troy Weber

I. Parliamentary Items

CONCURRENT ELECTION: The second day of the Uptown Planners election ran separately but concurrent with the meeting until the election ended at 7 pm. Then the Ad Hoc Election Committee members (Jim, Julie, and Sue), monitored by Sol Schumer (community volunteer), tallied the votes as the meeting continued.

- a. Agenda and Rules of Order adopted unanimously.
- b. Minutes of February 6, 2024 meeting approved with no objections.
- c. Treasurer's Report. Mary Brown:
 - Bank balance \$33.95
 - City gives us an annual allotment of \$500 – June 15 deadline to submit receipts for City reimbursement of board purchases. Allotment balance will be provided at the April 2, 2024 meeting. Receipts received to date submitted and City indicated reimbursement checks will be mailed shortly.
- d. Balboa Park Committee Report - None
- e. Airport Noise Advisory Committee Report. None.
- f. CPC Report. Mat Wahlstrom.
 - The CPC Chair has received the City's response regarding the CPC's letter regarding the complaint process. CPG Chairs have not received the response and neither has Uptown Planners, despite numerous requests.
 - Land Development Code Update: CPC had an ad hoc subcommittee focusing on this. Uptown Planners made numerous suggestions but had

to narrow down to the most important five. No particular objection to those five, but the motion to approve included those recommendations and the Land Development Code as a whole. It was passed 11-5-7.

- From a discussion tabled from February 2024: All selected CPG groups will be required to organize their own elections, but already-existing planning groups will continue to operate until non-elected groups hold their elections (within specified time limit) and seat new board members.
- Draft for submission to the Grand Jury ongoing investigation into City's Planning Department practices states, "the citizenry has been ignored in favor of other more powerful interests."
- Lu Rehling, as alternate to the CPC: Received notice of City's Environmental Justice Plan, for amending City's General Plan. It will be coming before the next CPC meeting. Comments can be made by March 27.

g. Chair's Report. Stu McGraw

- Amendment to bylaws regarding board vacancies and elections that Uptown Planners requested in October 4, 2023 was approved by the City on February 6, 2024. [Bylaws now updated.](#)
- No response yet to 2/12 request for clarification of 1/25 waiver of in-person meeting policy.
- [Requests to city re: streets and buildings](#) dating back to January are still pending.
- Status of 4100 Normal Street still is under discussion.

II. Non-agenda Public Comment.

Jay Goldberg, NiceNeighbors.org. info@niceneighbors.org. Concerned about Airbnbs taking away housing stock and violating the ordinance regarding Airbnbs. Few developers have control over several units, and that's not how it's supposed to be. Also working on changing the ordinance defining Airbnbs.

Lu Rehling. Information item that did not make agenda because of when notice received. Announcement by City of hearing regarding Local Coastal Program part of the Housing Action Package. Request by the City to amend

its local coastal program to allow additional density through SB9. The hearing is March 14 at 9 a.m. A hybrid meeting.

III. Representatives of Elected Officials, Agencies, and Institutions. None.

IV. Consent items.

None.

V. Action Items.

1. Proposed vehicle roundabout at Sixth & Juniper Streets. Heidi Leon and Louis Schultz from Engineering & Capital Projects Department presented the scope of the planned project.

Public comments and questions concerned the project design, impact on driving, pedestrian and bicycle traffic, safety concerns, impact of traffic calming, traffic speeds, grade, landscaping and maintenance, bicyclists being expected to dismount, etc. and lack of advance community input.

Answer: Design constraints at that location. Concerns legitimate, but trade-offs required.

Mary M: Concern with bicycles on the sidewalk and pedestrian safety limitations of this design.

Don: Concern for bicyclist safety.

Mat: Bicyclists and non-bicyclists oppose this design. It's a solution in search of a problem. Concerned there is no consideration for the trolley line planned at this location. There are better ways to spend \$2M only to demolish it in years to come. Encourage using "quick build" technology like the roundabout at Morley Field and Florida St.

Mary Brown: Did the City consider installing a stoplight?

Answer: Appropriate location for roundabout.

Stu: This adds concrete where dedicated bike lanes could be.

Lu: What research and criteria led to a proposed roundabout at this location?

Answer: Not known. Assignment was given by the Transportation Department. Engineers just worked on design.

Patty Ducey-Brooks: There aren't examples of this model of roundabout that would prove to be safe to pedestrians.

Lu: It is still going through environmental approval process. Deadline for appeal is on the 27th. Will the input from Uptown Planners tonight change the design of this project?

Answer: No.

Lu: The City should have brought this to the planning group earlier. Question for Mat: Could Uptown Planners still could register a position on an IB 620? Or a letter?

Motion:

Mat: Letter stating, "We want to register our disapproval of the planned roundabout at Sixth and Juniper because there was insufficient community input, and we have safety concerns for cyclists and pedestrians."

2nd: Mary Brown

Approve: Mat Wahlstrom, Mary Brown, Patty Ducey-Brooks, Lu Rehling, Mary McKenzie, Matt Brown.

Opposed: Don Liddell

Abstain: Stu McGraw (non-voting chair); Juli Hyde, Jim Walsh, Susan White (members of Election Committee who were counting votes and so missed discussion).

2. St Patrick's Day Parade & Festival. Request for support for event scheduled for March 16 with parking and road closures, plus noise. Requester: Mike Pekonen, Board Member, Irish Congress of Southern California (unable to appear in person.) Motion: Mat, 2nd: Lu. Approved unanimously.

VI. Information Items.

1. Community Plan Amendment. Second draft scheduled for release mid-month, information item at April board meeting; action item at May board meeting. Plan Hillcrest Committee intends to schedule meeting (with staff in attendance) between release date and next board meeting, plus two meetings in April. Response received to information request about city costs incurred on amending Uptown's Community Plan; there are hundreds of documents that require review. Lu Rehling, Plan Hillcrest Committee.
2. AB 1635 / DMV Site. Town Hall announced by Assemblymember Chris Ward. March 27, 5 pm, SD LGBT Center.
3. Roadway resurfacing. Project to resurface approximately 5 miles of existing

roadways located along Del Monte Avenue, Broadway, Camino del Rio North, 8th Avenue, 39th Street, B Street, Delevan Drive, El Cajon Boulevard, India Street, and Mission Center Road.

Patty Ducey-Brooks: Residents should receive 72-hour advance notice.

4. Mission Hills 5K Run/Walk. Scheduled for March 23 with associated parking and road closures.
5. San Diego Half Marathon. Scheduled for March 24 with parking and road closures, plus noise.
6. Race for Autism. Scheduled for April 6 with parking and road closures, plus noise.
7. Walk in ART 2024. Art event monthly, first Thursday through December, involving noise. and closing Mural Alley (between Robinson and 400 block of University Ave.

VII. Committee Business.

1. Election (Ad Hoc) Met 2/12
2. Operations & Outreach
3. Public Facilities: may meet re: pedestrian infrastructure in U. Heights
4. Design Review
5. Historic Resources: hope to view inside of old Mission Hills Library
6. Plan Hillcrest (Ad Hoc) Met 2/13; tentative 3/25 and 2 meetings in April

7:49 – 8:02 PM: RECESS for completion of vote count.

VIII. Uptown Planners Election Results – Announced by Jim Walsh, Chair Election Committee (results appended to these minutes). Newly elected members will be seated at April board meeting.

IX. Thanks to outgoing board members for all of their time, effort, and expertise.

Request for agenda suggestions, and confirmation of the next regular board meeting: April 2, 2024, Joyce Beers Community Center.

Current Chair will prepare transition agenda.

X. Adjournment. 8:09 PM

UPTOWN PLANNERS ELECTION RESULTS, March 2024

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTERS	235
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CANDIDATES	# VOTES RECEIVED
Four-year term ending March 2028	
Mary Brown	163
Stu McGraw	157
Laura Kuffner	156
Mary McKenzie	155
Michael Singleton	151
Dylan Brynn	147
Tami Ratliffe	145
Three-year term ending March 2027	
Matt Driver	137
John Barney	128
Two-year term ending March 2026	
Martin Alonso	118
Unelected	
Jim Scott	109
Benny Cartwright	63
Zach Thompson	56