

SOUTHEASTERN SAN DIEGO PLANNING GROUP (SSDPG)

Meeting Location: Neighborhood House, 841 S. 41st Street, San Diego, CA 92113

MINUTES

March 8, 2010 6:00 p.m. – 7:55 p.m.

This Planning Committee covers the area south of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Freeway (Highway 94), east of Interstate 5, north of the border of National City, and west of Interstate 805. It includes the communities of Sherman Heights, Logan Heights, Grant Hill, Memorial, Stockton, Mount Hope, Mountain View, Southcrest, and Shelltown.

NOTE: Election of Officers will take place in April 2010.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Steve Veach (Chair), representing Sherman Heights
Reynaldo PISAÑO, representing Mount Hope
James Justus (Treasurer), representing the Business Community
Louise Torio (Secretary), representing Sherman Heights
Liliana Garcia-Rivera, representing Sherman Heights
Robert Leif, representing the Business Community
Vincent Noto, representing the Business Community
Ben Rivera, representing Logan Heights
Paul Sweeney, representing the Business Community
Ivette Vela, representing Grant Hill
Joshua Von Wolkfolk, representing Mount Hope

Board Member Not At Meeting: Reggie Womack, representing Stockton

City of San Diego Planning Department Staff: Karen Bucey

Chair Steve Veach introduced himself, welcomed Board members and guests to the meeting, and explained the purpose of this planning group, which serves in an advisory capacity to the City of San Diego in regard to land use issues in this area.

2. APPROVAL OF TODAY'S AGENDA (ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS)

Motion by Leif, seconded by Justus, to approve the agenda. MSC: 9-0-0

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS (two minutes per public speaker, on non-agenda items only)

Justus said that the 2010 Soap Box Derby races will be in Encanto on Saturday, April 24, and in Sherman Heights on Saturday, May 29 (Memorial Day weekend). Boys and girls ages 8-17 can participate. If any companies or individuals would like to be a sponsor, please contact James.

4. STAFF REPORTS

- 1) Mayor's Office - None
- 2) Council District 4 – see below
- 3) Council District 8 – see below
- 4) Congresswoman Susan Davis' Office – None
- 5) Congressman Bob Filner's Office - None
- 6) SEDC – see below
- 7) CCDC – None
- 8) Planning Department – see below
- 9) Other – None

District 4 Report from Bruce Williams: The mid-year budget report from the Mayor's Office indicates that the City will need to cut an additional \$11 million before the end of this fiscal year. This will result in a reduction in City services. Leif suggested keeping libraries open and not putting the new library out for bid, or combine a new library with a new City Hall. Council Member Young and Mayor Sanders broke ground for a new tot lot at Martin Luther King Park; the improvements will be complete in about six months. Torio thanked Bruce for connecting her to Ronnie Hicks of Brothers United, who spoke at the Congress of History of San Diego and Imperial Counties conference about Fire Station No. 19, the all-Black historic station house (and the only historically designated building in District 4). Because the SSDPG is looking for additional members, Bruce will promote this in the District 4 e-mail blast newsletter.

District 8 Report from Humberto Peraza: Council President Hueso will hold a press conference on March 9 for Southcrest Trails and getting \$1.6 million to build a park at 38th and Alpha. District 8 is working with SEDC to find a wall for a mural and seeking an alley to be upgraded to create a "green" alley.

SEDC Report by Sherry Brooks: Sherry said that the next Entrepreneur Academy is an advanced class and will be weekly from April 8 – April 29. The Business Forum was well attended. SEDC is doing a Green Streets program in Barrio Logan and San Ysidro (cleaning up a few blocks, painting out graffiti, and doing tree planting with area volunteers). In May they want to have another program somewhere else in District 8. Call Sherry at 619-527-7345 if you have an idea where this can be held. SEDC wants to bring the final Strategic Plan to the next Projects meeting, then back before the full SSDPG Board. SEDC also provided matching funds for a HUD program to remove lead paint and make affordable housing units save for families with young children. There is no agreement yet for SEDC to contribute any funding to the proposed Comm 22 project on Imperial Avenue between 22nd and 25th Streets.

Planning Department Report from Karen Bucey: The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Smart Growth grant to study Market Street and Imperial Avenue should be issued soon. \$400,000 should come from SANDAG. The City also applied for a grant for the 43rd Street Master Plan Project. If these grant applications are successful, Karen will form working groups and there will be public input.

5. CONSENT ITEMS: **None**

6. INFO ITEM:

Sewer and Water Group 768

Presentation of a sewer and water main replacement project that is scheduled to begin construction in the Fall of 2011. City Engineer Ali Mohammadian provided information. The City wants to take cast iron sewer lines out of private property and put them in the public right of way. They will move 10,265 feet of sewer lines and 2,858 feet of water main along 35th, 36th, 39th, 41st, K, F, J, Market, Toyne, Witmore, and Broadway, and in the alleys between J,K, and Island, and between 40th and Raven. The total cost of this project is \$5.6 million, and it is funded. SSDPG members asked that there be good communication with local residents, that signage be provided with City contact information, that signage be in the languages of the neighborhoods, and that residents have good access to their homes during construction. While no asbestos pipes will be removed, City Engineering assured the community that when such pipes are removed, they are done so under special handling so as not to release any fibers. Call 619-533-4207 if there are any questions, or see www.sandiego.gov/engineering-cip.

7. ACTION ITEMS:

- A. **Clearwire SD Comm Relations, 446 26th Street, Project #192607** – Conditional Use Permit and Site Development Permit for a wireless communication facility on the roof of an existing commercial building (the old hospital in Grant Hill at 446 26th Street). Sean Scully said this will be part of Sprint's 4G Network. All antennas comply with all safety regulations. The technology will be on the roof, but it will be screened and not visible. The SDPD did review this project.

The Projects Committee recommended that no impacts of frequency transmissions be made on the electronic equipment being used in the community, and that the electro-magnetic fields (EMG) and radio frequency emissions (RFE) must be measured and compared with the national acceptable standards.

Motion by PISAÑO, seconded by Noto, to support the project with the Projects Committee recommendation. M-S-C: 10-0-1

- B. **City's Medical Marijuana Task Force**
At the February 2010 SSDPG meeting this item was brought before us as an information item. There was extensive discussion at that meeting. We are asked to provide input on the Task Force's recommendations to the City.

Motion by PISAÑO, seconded by Rivera, to not accept the Task Force's report and to not allow medical marijuana dispensaries within our Planning Group area. While many SSDPG members hate the idea of these dispensaries and the negative impact they can have on our inner-city communities, it is not a local law and the City of San Diego must follow the law. It puts the City and local communities in a terrible bind that medical marijuana cannot be sold in pharmacies, where it would be most appropriate. If we provide comments to the Task Force recommendation, we can try to lessen the possible impacts to our community. M-S-F: 4-7-0

Motion by Leif, seconded by Sweeney, that we support the Task Force recommendation, with the following changes:

- That there be a limit per Council District as to the number of dispensaries that may be in each district (i.e., no more than 10 per district);
- That there be a "lottery" or some way to distribute these limited number of licenses (similar to the finite number of taxicab licenses);
- That criminal background checks be mandate to prevents convicted criminals from operating dispensaries;
- That the allowable distance between dispensaries be 1,000 feet, not the Task Force's recommended 500 feet (which is about one per City block);
- That the dispensaries not sell marijuana paraphernalia (not be "head shops" in appearance);
- That the Task Force recommendation that a dispensary be 1,000 feet or more from schools and youth facilities also include that they be that distance away from CHURCHES and PARKS;
- That the hours of operation be 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.;
- That the dispensaries not be allowed to sell marijuana via the Internet; and

- That the process for getting a medical marijuana dispensary license be a full Process 5, so that each and every application goes before City Council for approval.

M-S-C: 8-3-0.

C. Board Member Elections

Karen Bucey explained that no more than 25 percent of the Board can be over the maximum term limit of serving 8 years. Currently the Board consists of 12 Board members (although we may have up to 14 Board members), so no more than 4 can have extended terms. Both Steve Veach and James Justus have served over 8 years (Veach as Chair since 2004), so neither is eligible to be reelected to the Board. The SSDPG thanked them for their many years of service. Vice Chari Pisaño will Chair the April meeting, until a new Chair and new Treasurer are elected at that meeting.

The term for Ivette Vela, representing Grant Hill, was up. Vela said she would like to continue to represent Grant Hill on the Board. She is a homeowner who has seen improvements in her neighborhood while serving here, and would like to continue to make improvements.

B.D. Howard of Sherman Heights is a General Member of the SSDPG and was eligible for Board membership. Howard is concerned with underperforming schools and wants to be active in the community at the grass roots level. He has a law degree and has worked for the City of San Diego in the past.

In total, there were 12 General Members at the meeting who could vote. A ballot election was conducted. Each of the two candidates received 11 votes. The SSDPG welcomed Ivette Vela back to the Board, and welcomed B.D. Howard as a new Board member.

The SSDPG now has 11 Board members, and has 60 days to find at least one qualified person who meets the requirements to serve on the Board.

D. Approval of January and February 2010 Minutes

Tabled until April due to lack to time.

8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – none due to lack of time.
9. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – none due to lack of time.

ADJOURNMENT

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