



NORTH PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE (NPPC)

Draft Minutes: January 16, 6:30 p.m.

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I. Parliamentary Items

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Attendance Report (6:31 p.m.)

	Kate Callen	Carmen Cooley-Graham	Lynn Elliott	Patrick Garbani	Marty Graham	John Hartley	Bob LaRose	Basil Mournian	Heidi Orsino	Liz Saba	Douglas Schueler	Mark Spitzer	Victor Torres		
Attendance	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X			
Late															
Absent					X					X			X		

2. Modifications to the NPPC Agenda:

Approved with one correction: Minutes from last meeting should read “December 15” not “October 17.” Garbani/Schueler (10-0)

3. Minutes: Approved. Garbani/Schueler (10-0)

4. Treasurer’s Report: Our balance is \$1,010.47, reflecting a \$12 Google charge.

II. Non-Agenda Public Comment

David Pfeifer, Principle at St Augustine noted that St. Augustine’s is scheduled for a 5-year review of its conditional use permit; this item is on the agenda.

-- Christine Kuglen reported that the house next to her home in the 4000 block of Mississippi Street will be razed and replaced with a 7-story building of 36 units with no on-site parking. This will be devastating for her and her two tenants.

- Coleen Cusack reported that the “Safe Sleeping” homeless camps (20th & B, O) are below the standards of UN refugee camps: inadequate meals, unreliable transit,, no housing assistance.
- Larry Turner noted that he is running for Mayor as an independent, has experience as a former Marine and a SDPD community police officer.
- Jason Vance expressed concerns about road safety and speeding cars, suggested the solution of D that could include art and planters.
- Kate Callen suggested that St. Augustine’s might be more pro-active in community relations to address concerns about students speeding through neighborhoods.
- Matt Thompson expressed concerns about new parking configurations on Iowa; the City’s analysis is inaccurate, and residents are given little say in the decision.
- Duane Fitzgerald expressed concerns about a Planning Department application for a 7-story building at Kansas and University with 93 units and only 23 on-site parking spaces.
- John Hartley suggested holding social events before NPPC meetings to help with recruitment.

III. Announcements & Events Notices

- Mark West, NP Main Street, announced upcoming events, including Jan. 25 PATH point-in-time analysis and Jan. 30 State-of-the-District address.

IV. Elected Official & Planner Reports

Welcome San Diego Board of Supervisors Dist. 4. NOT PRESENT

Kohta Zaiser, Hon. Todd Gloria, Mayor of San Diego. NOT PRESENT

Jeffrey Ryan, Planning Department. NOT PRESENT

Gonzalo Rocha Vazquez, Toni Atkins, State Senate Dist. 39, reported on open enrollment for Covered CA and the Governor’s budget proposal that includes more funding for public safety and homeless services.

Hon. Stephen Whitburn, City Council Dist. 3, gave a report on recent activities including the budget process, “Safe Sleeping” homeless camps, income-restricted housing, traffic challenges at 30th & Upas, Morley Field improvements, and streetlights. He was questioned about:

- Elected officials not being available for and responsive to communities (Logan Braydis is a regular participant at NPPC meetings, and that is appreciated).
- Overturning CPG elections by replacing elected members with unelected members;
- The intrusiveness of asking current CPG members for personal information (age, race, income);
- Increasing support for CPGs so they have the resources to handle additional responsibilities.

Jenny Hall, SDPD Mid-City, reported that Shawn Takeuchi is being promoted to Captain, and she thanked the Board for being a voice for North Park.

V. Consent Item

Extension of St. Augustine’s Conditional Use Permit: Approved (Callen/Cooley Graham, 13-0)

VI. Information Items

Nonprofit Power Presentation: Larry Carr and Mark _____, representatives of Power San Diego, presented how the initiative will lower electricity rates and improve customer service by replacing San Diego Gas & Electric with a non-profit utility. For details, see: <https://wearepowersandiego.com>.

Updating of Water and Sewer Lines: Doug Schueler reported that the ongoing project will replace 2.31 miles of lines north of University Avenue between March 24 and May 26.

Texas Street Improvements: Doug Schueler reported that this project to reinforce and revegetate the burrow ditch has been completed.

VII. Action Items (moved from Consent Agenda)

Approval of Conversion of Existing Parallel Parking Spaces on Iowa Street Between El Cajon Blvd. and Howard Avenue: While the City reported a 93.3% approval rate in resident responses, questions were raised about whether enough information was provided and whether outreach was sufficient.

MOTION: NPPC endorses the conversion of existing parallel parking spaces; our endorsement is based on reviews of vehicle and pedestrian safety measures; we note neighborhood concerns about sufficient outreach. Callen/LaRose (9-0-1, Garbani abstaining).

No Approval of Conversion of Existing Parallel Parking Spaces on Arizona Street Between Monroe and Meade Avenues: Concerns were expressed about the low rate of community response to the City's request for feedback.

MOTION: NPPC objects to the installation of angled parking spaces on Arizona between Monroe and Meade, and we call on the City to improve its outreach to increase community responses. Callen/Cooley-Graham (10-0)

Urban Design & Project Review: Mark Spitzer reported that more than 8,000 new housing units were approved for North Park in 2023. We can expect the new units to add at least 8,000 cars to North Park streets, which will cause serious traffic problems.

VIII. Liaison Reports

CPC: Lynn Elliott reported that the CPC will take up the issue of increasing diversity in CPGs.

Balboa Park Committee: *Mieko Sudbury* reported on a planned workshop to gather public feedback on a prioritization framework, on the upgrade to the Botanical Building, and on plans for new bathrooms in key areas of the Park.

University Heights: Carmen Cooley-Graham reported on a UHCA Beautification Native Plant Donation Drive on Thursday, Feb. 1.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40