

Old Town San Diego Community Planning Group

Thurston Coe, Chairperson
2836 Juan Street
San Diego, CA 92110

September 14, 2016

MINUTE's v.1

Whaley House, this meeting came to order at 3:40 pm

Members Present: Gloria Andrade; Thurston Coe; Vicki Durham; Patricia Fillet; Fred Grand; Geoffrey Mogilner; Richard Stegner

Members Absent: Chuck Ambers; Ann Dahlkamp; Aime Hayes; David Swarens; David Thornton; Robert Zink

Visitors: Vickie White, City Planning of San Diego, vwhite@sandiego.gov; Don Fowler, Sherriff's Museum, ddfowlers7@gmail.com; Chuck Curtis, Sheffiff's Museum, Linda Acuna, Immaculate Conception Church, bear250@cox.net; Paul G. Chace, Ph.D., pgc@pgchace.com; Muska Laio, Naval Base Point Loma, muskalaio@navymil.gov; Garrett Sams, San Diego Planning Department, gsams@sandiego.gov; Elder Woods, Mormon Battalion, William.woods@ldschurch.org

1. Non-Agenda Public Comments:

Dr. Paul Chace, Ph.D., discussed the new projects stemming from the legacy of Presidio Park and the Presidio Park Committee's agenda to include a greater approach to marketing the potentiality of Presidio Park's Geographic Information System proposal as a remarkable resource of research.

Geoffrey Mogilner has new information about "The Birth Place of California" in the San Diego Journal, volume 62. Geoffrey would like to have a resolution to revisit the land use and circulation of the Old Town district. Geoffrey will send link on article to the secretary to forward to members.

2. Modifications:

This current meeting is unable to reach a quorum and will table the Action Items listed in September 14, 2016 Agenda to October 12, 2016 meeting.

3. Meeting Minutes:

September Meeting Minutes tabled to October 12, 2016.

4. Treasurer's Report: September's meeting collected \$11.00 which brings current amount to \$197.00. Action Item to donate the collection funds to Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO) to October 16, 2016.

5. Action Items:

All Action Items from September 14, 2016 Agenda has been Tabled to October 14, 2016 Agenda*

*Geoffrey Mogilner provided a “Proposed Resolution for the Old Town San Diego Community Planning Group” document and presentation of highlighting the urgency to support an inclusion of an historical marker as a monument of recognition to the Natives of the region. Moreover, there is a need to have the City of San Diego recognize Old Town as the “Birthplace of California”. See handout provided

Vickie White also responded with an update of the historical and archaeological component of a “Birthplace” site and the discussions have continued with the City’s Archaeologist, Myra Herman to extend the conversation to the Native Community. One concern expressed previously from the Native Community on reserving an identified site is the possibility of desecration of an identified site. More information to follow for continued discussions.

6. Information items:

Juan Street update continues without City representation at this month’s meeting. Thurston Coe expressed not only his nearly two year decrease in business due to the over-extended Juan Street Project of the impacts to the local businesses located on this street and the great personal impact to his business, as well. Continued issues of concern for those affected on this street ranged from poor signage that significantly impacted the flow and direction of vehicular traffic for businesses to the storm drains affected by the El Nino storm anticipation of heavy rains (collapse of infill for example) that contributed to the over-extended timeline of completion of this project which continues to be a works in progress.

Fred Grand discussed the 4th Grade Program and the ensuing concern of the funds raised through the Old Town Chamber and other volunteers to be able to provide scholarships as a source of bridge funding ear-marked to provide transportation to the students participating in the City Schools that visit Old Town. However, there is an ongoing discussion on how best to use the funds raised by the Old Town Chamber. Currently, the students now only visit the museums in the Old Town State Park, excluding The Mormon Battalion Church, The Sherriff’s Museum of Old Town, El Campo Santo Cemetery, The Adobe Chapel, The Whaley House, and The Casa Del Rey Moro African Museum – all of the excluded museums are “free”.

Fred Grand and Richard Stegner again stated the significance of the Old Town Chamber in providing free parking that is currently available at the Immaculate Conception Church and leads the State Park to follow the model in offering free parking as well. However, if the affordability of free parking changes for the Chamber, the State Park will also consider to change their position in offering free parking. During this Summer, the State Park installed “4-hour” parking notices in the two parking lots inside the State Park. One issue that continues to impact the free parking for visitors is the Caltrans Parking Lot, slated to be used for visitors is allowing their employees to use the spaces, instead.

Speaking on behalf of the Mormon Battalion, Elder Woods shared they will need to reexamine the current expenses of complying with ADA requirements of stairs located in the Immaculate Conception Church parking lot and the impacts this will have. More to follow.

Vickie White reminded new members of Planning Groups to attend a training session on September 20, 2016. The revised Old Town Community Plan Update should be ready to view in a few weeks – more to come.

Gloria Andrade headed up the first planned Community Neighborhood Watch Program scheduled on September 13, 2016 held at the Immaculate Conception Church; however, no one was able to attend! Most concerns are the influx of homelessness and graffiti. Richard Stegner chimed in to add two shops located near the Chamber's offices were robbed at gunpoint – the criminals were caught due to the quick thinking to photograph the criminal's license plate. Most of the small businesses do not have video cameras.

7. Committee Updates:

None at this time

Announcements:

Upcoming Art Show at the end of September and the upcoming end-of the year events in Old Town.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Officially submitted,

Patricia Fillet, Ex-officio