

Old Town San Diego Community Planning Group

Thurston Coe, Chairperson
Old Adobe Chapel, 3963 Conde St.
San Diego, California, 92110

April 9, 2014

MINUTES v.1

Old Adobe Chapel this meeting to order at 3:30 pm

- **Members Present:** Chuck Ambers; Patricia Fillet; Fred Grand; Bruce Johnson; Geoffrey Mogilner; Lorna Rice; Richard Stegner; David Swarens; David Thornton; Robert Zink
- **Members Absent:** Thurston Coe; Ann Dahlkamp; Randall Perez
- **Guests:** Benjamin Alacazar – Resident 602.717.9733 alcazarvii@gmail.com; Tom Doyle – tomdoyle92176@gmail.com 619.501.6421; Vickie Durham – Guest 619.987.5013; George Lombard – Resident, GPLOMARD@aol.com; Tait Galloway - Senior Planner, City of San Diego 619.533-4550 tgalloway@sandiego.gov; David Barnes; LaVonne Maday Peyrot – Resident, 619.764.1952; Richard Dennison – California State Parks, 619.688.3398; Clay Phillips – District Superintendent, Department of Parks and Recreation, California State Parks, 619.688.3260; Lee Steiner – Representative for Susan Davis, 619.280.5353, lee.steiner@mail.house.gov; Sonia Ortega–OTNC, 619.297.4330, soniaortega@gmail.com; Peter St. Clair – CNPS, phstc@sd.com, 619.260.1307

Non-Agenda Public Comments: 1. David Swarens representing the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) of the Bike Deco installation issue; Tom Doyle recommended this be placed as discussion for next OTSDCPG meeting 2. Fred Grand, President of Old Town Chamber and on Parking Advisory Committee stated there had been suggestions of where to install and that this will be part of the next Parking Advisory Committee meeting; Tait Galloway advised this can be placed as Action Item for May with 2/3rd votes from the group.

Modifications: None

Meeting Minutes: *Approved with edits: 1. Specific detail to Native Plant Society contribution location within Old Town San Diego State Park.*

David Swarens Motioned and Fred Grand Seconded; 9 yes votes; 3 absent

Treasurer's report: November, 2013 balance at \$401.48 with a donation of \$13.00. No meeting in December, 2013 for a total of \$414.48.

Action Items:

4. Approval of Treasurer's report

5a. Approval of Special Election in May

b. Officer elections

Comments to action items:

4. Treasurer's report approved

5a. Tom Doyle suggested the whole election to be re-run. Tait Galloway also pointed out that the By-laws do not allow for "write-ins". Geoffrey Mogilner stated that the one vote

that was invalidated for voting for 1 too many people. Fred Grand suggested we defer elections of officers and open seats. David Swarens contributed that having more candidates is not the issue, but rather the process and the By-laws based on eligibility. Tom Doyle mentioned that those running had to have been at two meetings prior to the elections. Taitl Galloway agreed of the By-laws rules “candidates must have attended and signed the sign-in sheets prior to the March elections”, so again “must have attended two meetings before February”. Vicky Durham stated she attended meetings prior to March.

5b. Fred Grand motioned and Robert Zink seconded - a special election to be held in May to replace the full election from March and that the two meeting requirement is prior to February and that the Officer Elections to be held after the special elections.

8 yes votes; 1 abstain; 2 absent

Information Items:

6a. 1. Clay Phillips, District Superintendent of California State Parks provided an update on the Old CalTrans Building and wanted to thank Senators Atkins and Block for helping in their efforts to transfer the building to State Parks. Also shared that the intention is to expand of the story of the First Settlements at about “1820” and a recreation of features and facilities – the oldest part of Old Town. The Kumeyaay will now be part of the historical interpretation. Discussed the step process of demolishing old building and then long-term solutions. This building has also been designated as potentiality for the National Register and shouldn’t be an issue, even though this is an example of mid-20th century architecture. SOHO in fact, supports demolishing of the old building and a complete Environmental Impact Report (EIR) needs to be completed. David Swarens mentioned to go beyond a “1820” date and include “First Peoples”. Chuck Ambers mentioned the Hilton Garden Inn is including an interpretive walkway that will include Native Americans. Fred Grand asked about the “Welcome to Old Town” sign located on the property of the Old CalTrans Building and that it would be great to continue to use this sign. Geoffrey Mogilner suggested if not, could be moved to Morena Boulevard. Tait Galloway provided input about Calhoun Street Closure and would like to tie-in demolition and closure of streets to public around same time and asked about surface parking. Clay Phillips discussed further the general approach to historical accuracy and in the interim, surface parking should be available. Clay Phillips also discussed Old Town State Park Exhibit Updates: Estudillo house will now be the focus of the period of “Estudillo”, removing and changing house fixtures to be more “authentic”. El Fandango Restaurant owners are now retired and the lease is out to bid; Tin Smith retail shop moved to another location and this is also out to bid. Clay Phillips encourages us all to visit the California State Parks at their visitors center and to sign up for regular updates and information. 2. The VA Center on San Diego Avenue is now open and if any feedback as a Federal Resource, please submit. 3. Richard Stegner provided an update to the 4th grade program to extend now to 6th grade as the first of small steps. Chuck Ambers pointed out that families do return to Old Town and visit the retail shops. 4. Geoffrey Mogilner asked the discussion of Stucco at East End of Adobe Chapel to be placed as agenda for the next month.

6b. Peter Sinclair, Native Plant Society discussed the contributions at the corner of Taylor to Congress and at the McCoy House within the State Park of native plants replanted in this location and contributes to the “authentic” period and utilizes the State Park and General history of this area. Both David Swarens and Chuck Ambers pointed out that again, many families of the school-age kids that tour Old Town do return and as part of the curriculum, the kids are required to submit a report.

Committee Updates:

None.

Announcements:

1. Richard Dennison, California State Parks shared the many events that are upcoming in Old Town: Each Saturday a “Living History” school program for 4th graders is now back; staff is geared up to host the kids for tours; annual 4th of July event; Stage Coach Days. Please visit the website for more information and volunteers are always needed. Working with Sycuan and Kumeyaay band of Native Americans for input on native plants (i.e. Agave, White Sage). 2. Richard Stegner announced Cinco de Mayo, 20 days away; Also received letter from City of San Diego on Deco Bikes and recommendation from Chamber to move to several locations, other than in front of Whaley House. Golf Tournament Results were \$41,000 that will go to the 4th grade program and the many contributors – Cold Stone Ice Cream and Bruce Johnson. The Program now extends to San Diego County, approved by San Diego City School Board. The Deco Bike program is now an issue and will be discussed at next Parking Advisory Meeting and stated to City of San Diego that they will need approval from the OTSDCPG. Lorna Rice mentioned if the Caltrans Building was included for an additional site for the Deco Bike Program and Tait Galloway mentioned he will speak with Molly to be sure this is a transparent process with a strong recommendation for the OTSDCPG to provide feedback and that this was shared with the Historic Resources Board and a recommendation to Design Review Board for compliance.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted by, Patricia Fillet