

City Heights Area Planning Committee
Minutes for May 3, 2021

1. Chair Russ Connelly called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. Jake Banfield-Weir, Rosa Calvario, Asma Abdi, Roddy Jerome, Edwin Lohr, Scott Anglim, Francisco Garcia, Brian Green-Carson, Denisse Lopez, Rahmo Abdi, Kenneth Furukawa, Krista Berry Ortega and Mazda Mehrnaz were present. Andrew Benavides, Jim Varnadore, David Nelson, Scott Paquette, Simonei Medina, Patty Vaccariello, and Randy Torres-Van Vleck were absent. Russ discussed the voluntary sign-in sheet per the Brown Act.
2. The minutes of April 5, 2021 were accepted as presented.
3. Edwin moved and Mazda seconded for approval of the agenda. Approved unanimously.
4. Staff Comment: Julio with Council District 9: rental assistance applications still available via SDHC, Budget Season - city council approving budgets. 2 options for D9 town meetings available May15th and June 5th. Martha Zapata - forums coming up on the budget process.
5. Off-agenda Public Comment: Maria Cortez: Mural in Teralta Park has begun, Planning celebration within the next month or so. Francisco - Survey by the NHM about the San Diego Canyons. Higher number of violent activity at Park De La Cruz issues witnessed personally by him and his family. Rosa - Ocean Discovery Institute still providing meals from 3 to 5pm and summer camp for K-5 students.

Business Agenda:

Item 6.1 - Election of Committee Officers for 2021-2022 (votes)

Chair – Russ (14) Winner: Russ Connelly

1st Vice Chair – Edwin (4), Patty (2), Asma (2), Jake (6). Winner: Jake Banfield-Weir

2nd Vice Chair – Brian (13), Patty (0), Rosa (0). Winner: Brian Green-Carson

Secretary - Kenneth (Vanessa resigned from Committee prior to meeting) (13) Winner: Kenneth Furukawa

Item 6.2 - Stop Sign Request: Columbine & Quince

Committee was asked to review and give input on requested stop sign to be on Quince Street facing westbound at Columbine. Question was asked about criteria used to make the determination that a stop sign was needed. Not clarified in the email sent to the chair. We don't have the traffic count numbers for the criteria used in this determination. Chair noted that the City already made their decision and this will be implemented in 30 days unless we have concerns then they will stop the process and review the decision. Council Policy 200-08 dictates how stop signs requests are handled.

After further discussion, Francisco 1st, Edwin 2nd motion to approve the request for a stop sign. Vote was 11-1-0 with the Chair not voting and the motion passed.

Item 6.3 - Input on Speed Limit Change – Fairmount Avenue between 47th & Home Avenue

City Traffic Engineering proposal to increase the speed limit in the area from 35 to 40 MPH pending community input. Comments included: Traffic calming be implemented before increasing the speed of a vehicle. Higher risks to pedestrians and cyclists. Goes against the Vision Zero Policy of the City. 85 percentile setting this speed is based on drivers, new bill in legislature to change the way speed limits are determined. A neighbor noted that area is very dangerous due to line of sight of hill, radar enforceable is why they are doing this, but over hills can't use radar. Future construction of 3 new housing units with concerns with how to get in and out of that driveway safely and the new Fire Station to be built nearby.

Motion by Brian, Second by Jake: Oppose increase in speed limit along Fairmount Avenue between Home and 47th due to safety and sight line concerns. Request to add speed limit signs at Home Ave and 47th street to make it radar enforceable. Vote was 12-0-0 with Chair not voting and the motion in opposition passed.

Item 6.4 - Presentation on Redistricting Commission

Tom Hebrank, Chairman, Ken Malbrough, Monica Hernandez and Lora Flemming.

Tom presented a PowerPoint that explained the commission: Redrawing boundaries for the City Council districts as to who is represented by which area based on population changes in latest census to adjust for density changes and to make each district 1/9 of total population of the City for Equitable services. Items covered: They are here to listen. Actions to be transparent and inclusive process. Result to be fair and effective representation, Preserve identifiable communities of interest and not to protect or advance incumbents. Everything is pushed back to Dec 15th 2021 due to data delays from the Census. September 30th is probably when the state will receive the census data and will push things back even further. City Heights resident Theresa Quiroz was part of the 2010 redistricting commission. 2010 stats: 10% or less population deviation, largest deviation was 4%. Questions: Language opportunities to reach people? Many languages spoken in D9. Ken noted that laws are involved in providing language services. Outreach to the youth to be a part of this process requested.

Chair's Report:

Sign in list noted again if someone wishes to run in next years election. Visit from Todd Gloria in June. 30 minute presentation at the top of the meeting. We will have time for questions. COW is still in process from the City as a ZOOM meeting on a Saturday in either May or June. eCOW option available if you can't make it to the live meeting. Russ will distribute the link to new members. Public hearing before hearing officer on - May 12 2021 for the Home Ave Cannabis Outlet Permit at 4337 Home Avenue via ZOOM at 9am. Vacated At-Large position to be on the agenda next month.

Board Comment:

Edwin - Covid calamity sculpture in City Heights.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:31 PM Next meeting: Monday June 7, 2021 6:30 PM