



North Park Planning Committee

General Meeting

Minutes

June 18, 2024 6:30PM

Call to order: 6:30PM

In attendance:

Board Member	Present (online)	Absent (excused)
Jay Robinson Duff	X	
Lynn Elliott	X	
Patrick Garbani	X	
Bob LaRose	X	
Barton Lynch	X	
Roger McClish	X	
Heidi Orcino	X	
Kevin Piechota	X	
Liz Saba	X	
Doug Schueler	X	
Glenn Todd	X	
Mark Spitzer	X	
Mieko Sunbury	X	
Jason Vance	X	

I. Agenda modifications

- Pat S comment - Agenda item C and D - agenda should be June 16 and Minutes should be May 21
 - Unanimously adopted as modified (14-0-0)
- May Minutes Approval
 - Adopted unmodified (13-0-1)
- Treasurer’s Report
 - No Report

II. Non-agenda public comment

- Pat - North Park Senior Center issue - Letter from Parks and Rec says that the Center is safe but has a cracked slab. City Council proposed \$250k to North Park Park & Rec then the Council added \$500k additionally to demolish the building. Pat argues, also on behalf

of Claudia, that demolition of the building will not benefit the staff or community whereas completing the items listed for renovations would benefit both groups.

- Brian Hoffman, local resident, Aug 10 Disaster Relief Trials event - cargo bike race/challenge course. Family friendly. This will show that cargo bikes can move supplies around cities in emergency situations. The fire dept and Red Cross will be there to help prepare people. Goal of event is to show the utility of cargo bikes both for regular and emergency use. DRTSoCal.com for more information.
- Adele Campbell on behalf of Larry Turner - visiting the NPPC from the City Heights group to see what's going on at NPPC and collaborate in the future.
- Will from NP Main St - June 27 mid-city policing team will have a community coffee chat at Subterranean at 10AM. 3764 30th St.
- Kathleen - mayor's cuts in the city budget meetings were mostly reversed other than for the cannabis equity program. Councilmember Moreno said this cut was unacceptable. The city's analysis showed the cost-benefit would save \$3 million despite the return of \$1 million in state grant money. It's unlikely the city would have been able to meet the requirements of the grant in time anyway.
- Roger McClish - Taste of Adams Avenue on June 30th, 11AM-3PM. Advance tickets are \$50 now or \$65 day-of. They expect to sell out in advance.
- Bob LaRose - dump trucks going through the neighborhood are going to Morley Field. Their CEQA permit says they have to level it periodically to ensure the previous underground landfill remains properly sealed. Until Pershing project is finished the dump trucks will continue coming through the neighborhood. Then SANDAG will turn over maintenance of the Pershing bikeway to Balboa Park.
- Lynn - NP Recreational Council - June 24th, 6PM at the Rec Center. They will discuss CIP meeting.
 - The NPPC website is stable and searchable on Google.
 - We are currently paying for Zoom but will trial Google Meet.

III. Elected Official & Planner Reports:

- SD Board of Supervisors Dist. 3, contact Ariel Gibbs, Ariel.Gibbs@sdcounty.ca.gov (619) 531-5544
 - Still organizing team, no report
- Emily Piatanesi, Hon. Todd Gloria, Mayor of San Diego, epiatanesi@sandiego.gov
 - Budget approved June 11th, Lynn has the link for details if you'd like
 - New chief of police, Scott Wahl, was selected. The mayor is now looking to appoint Robert Logan II as the fire chief. Please contact Emily for more information.
- Gonzalo Rocha-Vazquez. Toni Atkins, State Senate Dist. 39, (619) 688-6700 Gonzola.Rocha-Vasquez@sen.ca.gov
 - Legislature is busy with the budget for FY 2024-2025. June 15 was the deadline to pass a budget through the Assembly and Senate - they met the deadline but are negotiating with the Governor. That is the focus through the end of June. There are cuts and Gonzalo will discuss them at the next meeting.
- Logan Braydis, Hon. Stephen Whitburn, City Council Dist. 3, (619) 236-6633 LBraydis@sandiego.gov
 - FY2025 budget passed unanimously. Whitburn is happy with the outcome after months of input from District 3. Goals are reducing homelessness and safer

streets. The CPPS (community programs) program is fully funded. ACCF (arts) and small business enhancement are funded as well.

- Logan brought information about CIP funding to the group and answered many of the questions we had. Encourages people to attend that meeting if they want more info. It will take time to decide how to spend this \$750k.
 - Bob asks if there are new CIP funds and it is unclear.
 - 30th and Upas stoplight - no update.
- Jeffrey Ryan, Planning Department, (619)235-5221 JTRyan@sandiego.gov
 - No update
- Zar Shain Head Librarian, NP Library (619) 533-3972 SDhain@sandiego.gov
 - New designs coming for library cards. There's a month to find their Odie the Coyote mascot at all SDPL locations to win a prize. Dolphin doctor is coming to visit, reptile visit, mad science, summer reading program - lots of programming. You can win prizes for summer reading.
- Jenny Hall SD Police Community Relations Officer, jmason@pd.sandiego.gov
 - Coffee with a cop announced again (after Will's announcement) on June 27th 10-11 at Subterranean.
 - There was a swat standoff on Alabama Ave 3700 block on the 11th of June. DV issue. The police checked the house and didn't find a firearm. Male was arrested.
 - June 14th, call to same location. Family member dispute. Everyone left the house except for the male. They left him behind but are expected to issue a warrant.
 - Assault with a deadly weapon May 23 - 3200 block of 28th st. Male was punched and slashed by roommate. Went to hospital without calling police. Police at hospital took the report. Suspect was gone from the house. Conducting followup with the victim but unclear if they will bring charges or cooperate.
 - NP Community Assn charging issues are moving forward with Lynn's help.
 - Any other concerns - reach out to Jenny
 - A question was asked about if the police were using the Sr Center and the response was they use it for its restroom.
- Lynn Elliott, Chair CPC Report
 - Went through Blueprint San Diego - lots of discussion about how it mostly affects Hillcrest and University City. Group wants more information related to fixing infrastructure if there is large development - group wants to see this in writing. Grand Jury reported on several items - Lynn is tracking this and can pass on any other information.
 - CPC meeting next Tuesday, June 25th at 6:15 at rec center near Clairemont Mesa West. They will discuss how they present CIP planning to the community groups in the future.

IV. Consent Items

- Recommendation from PF&T: The NPPC is would like to be involved with the pilot studies of the program exploring the potential of allowing owners and tenants to park in front of their own driveways. LaRose/ Sunbury motion passes 14-0-0
 - There was a presentation at the last PF&T meeting. This is just a study for now from the mid-city parking group. Other cities have done this. Study will show how this applies to San Diego. PF&T thinks this is worth discussing.

- Recommendation from PF&T: We support a four way stop sign at Thorn and 30th Street.
 - A request was made we remove this item for additional discussion. Will be discussed after St Augustine issues.

V. Action/Informational Items

- Saint Augustine High School Substantial Conformance Review (SCR); Project Number PRJ-1107756; SCR for Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 8110 and Planned Development Permit (PDP) No. 34245 (Project No. 4869); North Park Community Plan Area
 - Mark Spitzer: The school operates under a conditional use permit which must be reviewed by NPPC and city every 5 years. Urban Design subcommittee had a presentation from the school. There has been discussion between the community and the school and they will make a presentation here.
 - David Pfeifer, architect, representing St Augustine. There was a complaint filed in the fall and the city found the school to be in compliance. The issue at hand has been fixed. The new permit is not for any construction or other changes, but to affirm the status quo. There are issues of traffic and there have been discussions about traffic calming. The school believes there are neighborhood-wide issues that are beyond their control, but they are working with the community to help fix these issues.
 - Ed Hearn, president of the school, there have been concerns about traffic on 33rd st from Mr. Morsey over Zoom. Ed has met with him to discuss these concerns. The school does safety instruction with students and parents. During upcoming fall semester, Ed will be on the streets at least twice a week to monitor the driving and any safety issues. He expects that the presence of the president of the school may help the students drive more safely.
 - Terrance Morrissey - There have been traffic humps installed and the speed limit has been reduced. Spoke for the sincerity of Ed Hearn to help bridge problems between the school and the community. The city hasn't provided the proper infrastructure to get the cars out of the neighborhood safely. There must be a long-term solution to these problems, but there is confidence that the school is working with the community in good faith to fix these issues. There is a desire for continued communication between the school and the community. Traffic around basketball games is another issue. Terrance would like to work with the NPPC, school, and community to help find a solution to people using 33rd st as a cut through and driving unsafely.
 - Mark recommends approval with a request that the city continue studying the following issues:
 - Traffic congestion, safety, and parking both for daily and special events
 - The use of the campus for outside groups not part of the school
 - The community is noticing increased use of the facilities by outside groups - flag football, cheerleading camp in the summer, etc. - which impact the community. This may not be permitted under the CUP so we recommend that the city looks into this.
 - For the school to better communicate with the community that the track is available for their use

- It is currently available during the school day, but this is not regularly used by the community. Need to communicate more that this is available.
 - Discussion included- Will security be present if community members use the track?
 - Security will be responsibility of the school. The campus has become more locked down over time as safety concerns at schools have grown in recent years. There are concerns that the community is not aware of the track availability. Can a callout be added to the newsletter from St Augustine about the availability of the track?
 - Also there needs to be a stop sign on Palm and 33rd Streets. This is a dangerous intersection that requires a 4-way stop.
 - For the school to work with the community to discuss issues and search for solutions.
 - Discussion about if the aforementioned studies will delay approval of the CUP or if they can continue after the CUP is approved. Unclear about the response. It is recommended that the board approve the CUP with addition of the studies.
 - Motion: To support the continuation of the Conditional Use Permit/SCR for the school with the following comments.
 - 1) San Diego City to study traffic congestion, traffic safety and parking for daily use and for special events and make recommendations for improvements.
 - 2) San Diego City to examine the use of the school facilities by outside groups not directly a part of the high school.
 - 3) St. Augustine to communicate with the neighboring community in regards to the availability of the track for community use.
 - 4) St. Augustine to communicate on a regular basis with the neighboring community to identify issues and, where possible, to reduce negative impacts.
- . Spitzer/McClish Motion passes 14-0-0
- St Augustine proposal for an event to dedicate their gym as a unique and hallowed site as it served as a makeshift morgue after the PSA crash on Sept 25, 1978.
 - There are building permits submitted to the city for this memorial - hoping to be completed by Sept 25. The city can't issue the building permit if there is an open SCR, so the school is hoping to close that item to start this construction as soon as possible. The school is hoping that the support of NPPC could help them get this building permit sooner.
 - It will be a challenge to get this built by this year. David asks that we support the permit for the memorial no matter the progress of the SCR.
 - Motion: To support St Augustine proposal for an event to dedicate their gym as a unique and hallowed site as it served as a makeshift morgue after the PSA crash on Sept 25, 1978, Spitzer/McClish 14-0-0

- Recommendation from PF&T: We support a four way stop sign at Thorn and 30th Street.
 - It was questioned why PF&T and NPPC reviews traffic items. Asks if this board has a unified idea on if signing off on these issues is within the jurisdiction of NPPC.
 - Discussion Included: it is our responsibility to make these types of recommendations. We are not a decision making body, but we make recommendations.
 - The city evaluated a 4-way stop at 30th and Thorn. This met 19 of the 20 required points. Pedestrian warning lighting would have to be removed if the stops are put in. The city can use the NPPC as a way to show the need for items like this and work around the city's evaluation process. Neighbors in the area, including preschools, expressed widespread support for the stop signs and had stories of accidents and other issues.

This came to NPPC due to not meeting the 20 criteria

- Petitions signed in 2016 and 2018 for stops by St Patrick school, turned down twice for the city. We need a clear policy on when NPPC can recommend these things and not. City policy doesn't consider stop signs to be traffic calming but just for flow.
- City dept has a veto over NPPC recommendations if the stop would create safety issues.

The Utah and Polk new stop signs have made it much safer.

There is a way to convert stop signs to other types of traffic calming if there is a new study

- Stop signs can push traffic to other areas in the neighborhood and there is low compliance for existing lights. We should consider the impact of how stop signs direct people to different areas to drive quickly.

NPPC can endorse things based on our experience and that of the community. The city has the traffic engineers to make these types of decisions ultimately. NPPC does not make these decisions ultimately, just to endorse them or oppose them.

- Community members can still come to NPPC to petition for stop signs. If NPPC can approve these stop signs we have a responsibility to be knowledgeable about what may happen as a result.
- It was noted that after Pershing is reopened, 30th st may become less congested. NPPC can be a forum for community members to voice concerns and liaise with the city.
- Discussion of issues with the points rating system for approving these stop signs. There is not clarity on what the system means. The 19 points scored for this stop sign were discussed and had been emailed to Board Members before the meeting. Questions about previous BikeSD petition for a stop at Utah and Polk which met 16/20 points. NPPC can recommend the stop sign regardless of the ultimate score from the city traffic dept.

Support for how a stop sign of how could slow traffic around the area.

- Motion to support the stop sign, Schuler/LaRose (13-1-0)
- Election of new Board Member
 - Candidate speeches 2 min each. Candidates leave room and Board votes. Bring candidates in and announce new Board Member
 - No candidates are present at the meeting.
 - Motion to table the election, Garabaldi/Todd passes (14-0-0)

VI. Subcommittee Reports

- Urban Design & Project Review: Chair –Mark Spitzer
 - Mark says these items were covered in previous sections
- Public Facilities & Transportation: Chair Doug Schueler
 - Discussion of diagonal parking issue is moving forward.
 - Update on the Pershing bikeway - project manager at SANDAG presented that they're doing a ribbon cutting in late July for an early-August official opening. Doug proposes that the PM comes to NPPC in the future to show more about the project, the thought process, and what is coming next.
 - Resolution on the CIP money going towards the NP Rec Center. They're taking this to the community rec groups to be able to better decide our recommendation.
 - Stop sign at 30th and Thorn was already discussed.
 - Stop light off of 805 S and NP Way. No representative from the city spoke about this but the committee got input from the community about if the timing is working better so as to not back up traffic on the 805. There is mixed feedback on if this is working.

VII. Liaison Reports

- MAD: Patrick Garbani
 - No meeting this past month, no update
- NP Main Street: Patrick Garbani
 - Meeting at Working Class this past week to elect board members. Nothing earth shattering came of this meeting but they are working towards the circuit golf cart-style vehicles. They should be here late summer.
- BPC: Howard Blackson
 - Not online. Lynn says he was reappointed as our representative two weeks ago. It has been a while since he last attended our meeting.
- AABA: Roger McClish
 - No news items concerning NPPC other than the Taste of Adams Ave festival, described above.
- El Cajon Blvd: Lynn Elliott
 - Will be meeting this or next Thursday. Stroll the Blvd happened already.
- UHCA: Liz Saba
 - Was out of town for the past meeting but will be at the next one.

VIII. New Business

- Is CIP list is due to the city by August?
 - Discussion: CPC will meet with the planning dept about this next week and will address this. Lynn has asked about policy 00032. Neither Logan nor the Planning Dept know anything about how this will work. Council policy says this will start in July and be due by Oct 1. Unclear what planning dept has done.
- Bob asks about bus lanes on University. The discontinuity on the bus lanes causes issues as it changes from street to street.
 - Doug will research and add to PF&T agenda.

IX. Meeting adjournment: 8:05PM

Next meeting: July 16, 6:30 PM