

UPTOWN PLANNERS

Uptown Community Planning Group Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2024

Present: Mary Brown, Dylan Brynn, Matt Driver, Juli Hyde, Don Liddell, Mary McKenzie, Tami Ratliffe, Mike Singleton, Mat Wahlstrom, Jim Walsh, Susan White

Absent: Martin Alonzo, John Barney, Matthew Brown, Patty Ducey-Brooks, Laura Kuffner, Stu McGraw

I. Board Meeting: Parliamentary Items/ Reports

A. Introductions/ Roll Call

1. Call to order at 6:08 PM
2. Meeting opened

B. Adoption of Agenda and Rules of Order

MOTION to approve: Susan, second Tami
Approved unanimously
Chair abstained

Reports from Officers and Representatives

C. Secretary - Approval of Minutes of June 4, 2024

MOTION to approve: Mary B, second Mike
Approved unanimously
Chair abstained

D. Treasurer's Report - Mary Brown, bank balance \$8.95

Will close account and return remaining funds to City once newly elected Board seated.

E. Balboa Park Committee:

Mike Singleton – appointed by Board to represent Uptown, no word from city on status of Application
Mary McKenzie, District 3 Rep – provided Balboa Park Stakeholder Update from J Richards, Dep Dir
Discussed impact of World Champion Street Running Event coming to Balboa Park area in 2025.

F. Airport Noise Advisory Committee Report – No report

G. CPC Report – Mat Wahlstrom, Rep.

Provided update from recent meeting.

H. Chair's Report – Jim Walsh - Response to inquiries:

1. July 2024 City Council Approval of Blueprint San Diego, Hillcrest Focused Plan Amendment, University City Plan Amendment and EIRs.

II. Non-agenda Public Comment

Public comments

-Cliff – Thanked Board Members for their service! Emphasized that one can often do more as an individual.

Urged Board to continue being of service to the community through the multiple opportunities available including: submitting comments on Land Development Code update by deadline 9/15/24, seeking solutions for housing unhoused (beyond proposed 1,000 bed mega-shelter) because solutions are missing, and there are many more opportunities to contribute. Thank you for your service, please don't just disappear.

III. Representatives of Elected Officials, Agencies, and Institutions

-Joshua Dunn – Rep Supervisor Monica Montgomery-Steppe – Grant application process underway. Two Grant offerings for non-profit organizations: 1) neighborhood re-investment program, and 2) community enhancement program. Provided business card with contact information, requested that any non-profit that may be interested, be sent his way.

Public comment

Mat – encourage Sup Montgomery-Steppe to support Sup Lawson-Remer's desire to investigate and bring to heel corporate landlords.

Chair comment

Jim – I want the record to reflect that no one from Councilmember Whitburn's office, Assemblymember Ward's office or Mayor Gloria's office has attended this meeting or thanked Uptown Planners for over 50 years of dedicated volunteer service or this Board for their service.

IV. Information Items – None

V. Consent Items – None

VI. Action Items

1. Susan G. Komen More than Pink Walk – Request for support for event scheduled at Balboa Park, Sunday, November 3, 2024. Requester: KC Ollila, Spectrum Sports Management (unable to appear in person).

MOTION to provide letter of support for **Susan G. Komen More than Pink Walk** in Balboa Park, Sunday, November 3, 2024: Juli, second Matt D

Approved unanimously

Chair abstained

2. Uptown Community Planning Group – Request Uptown Planners advertise UpCPG Election on Uptown Planners' website and notify Uptown Planners' contacts on our Mailchimp list of same. Requester: Gail Friedt, UpCPG Election Committee (unable to appear in person).

Public Comment

Sol – I looked at their website and according to the information posted, Thursday, August 8, 2024 is the first date they will send ballots out to people so they can vote electronically and the only in-person date to vote is August 20, 2024 from 6-8pm.

Board Comments

Must register to vote and provide proof of name and address.

It is taking some time to get approved online, I submitted 4-5 days ago and still waiting on response.

I completed mine a week ago and just got a response.
Don't leave it to the last minute.

MOTION to notice the upcoming UpCPG election on the UP website and notify our contacts on UP Mailchimp of same: Tami, second Mike

Board Comments

We must get the word out to the community about voting.
Some people not even aware of this change, need to provide an explanation

MOTION AS AMENDED Uptown Planners to place on UP website and provide notice to those on the MailChimp list information regarding the upcoming Uptown CPG election. **Chair will prepare notice to be posted***

Tami, second Mike
Approved Unanimously
Chair abstained

***Letter of Explanation** per Motion at end of the Minutes or use the link below.

<https://uptownplannerssd.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Uptown-Planners-Notice-of-Uptown-CPG-Election.pdf>

3. Public Facilities Committee – Report and Request for approval of priority capital improvement projects through 2030 as requested by City of San Diego. Presenters Tami Ratliffe and Michael Singleton.

Color-coded map of CIP locations distributed.

Tami, Chair Public Facilities – Public Facilities Meeting held 8/25/24 (14 attendees) Purpose: to review CIP Priorities and get input from the public about projects and those they believe should be added to the list.

Mike – as a CIP it means the City is going to be in charge and responsible for funding. Best to think of this like you're a farmer and putting seeds in the ground, because they're only seeds at this point, but without seeds nothing grows. The intent was to hear from the community. It was a rush because even with the deadline extension time was limited. The Medical Complex was not addressed, don't know enough and primarily UCSD's area.

Identified location and provided overview of each project one neighborhood at a time. Map with acreage of neighborhoods broken out, not all the same size nor the same mix of land use and population.

Motion to approve Bankers Hill portion of CIP Prioritization and Project Identification through 2030:
Mary McK, second Susan

Board Comments

Mat - DIF fees that support the CIPs are supposed to be used according to the same proportion in which they're collected. In Uptown the breakdown is: 8.7% mobility, 0.9% Fire Rescue, 2.2% Libraries, 88.2% Parks & Recreation because that's where we're most deficient. We should properly weight CIPs and have first priority be Parks & Recreation. The only CIPs that have multiple alternate revenue streams are mobility projects, no other dedicated sources to fund the other three sectors. Want to prevent the city from taking funds dedicated to one sector to fund mobility projects they had planned anyway. Hillcrest is especially of concern as it has no parks of any kind.

Mike – there is a Park Impact Fee category and city does put that DIF money there. Unfortunately, the city went with a citywide use of park fees so there's no guarantee that money will stay here, can probably assume 50% of it is going away. The other criteria besides disadvantaged communities that will help is any community which already has a deficiency and is experiencing or will experience major growth. This will help, but need to constantly remind the city that they need to spend that money here. All the CIPs listed have a park element associated with them. Should **not** be able to use park impact fee on mobilization, they're supposed to be kept separate. Will check to make sure projects are listed with parks as top priority.
Approved Unanimously
Chair abstained

Motion to approve Hillcrest portion of CIP Prioritization and Project Identification through 2030:

Mat W, second Matt D
Approved Unanimously
Chair abstained

Motion to approve Middletown portion of CIP Prioritization and Project Identification through 2030:

Mary Mck, second Tami
Approved Unanimously
Chair abstained

Motion to approve Mission Hills portion of CIP Prioritization and Project Identification through 2030:

Juli, second Mary B
Approved Unanimously
Chair abstained

Motion to approve University Heights portion of CIP Prioritization and Project Identification through 2030 with modifications suggested by Board and Public:

Tami, second Mat W
Approved Unanimously
Chair abstained

Use the link below to review recommendations approved by the board for the six neighborhoods of the Uptown District.

<https://uptownplannerssd.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Uptown-CIP-Prioritization-Process-ver-2.pdf>

-Chair thanked Tami and Mike for all the time and work done on CIP List and Mike for his excellent presentation. This is one of our last important projects for the Community to try and get things moving forward prior to the City's deadline which will occur before the new CPG is elected.

Mike will complete Uptown CIP List with discussed modifications and submit along with the Map to: City at Public Spaces, Planning Department, Chair-Uptown Planners and Chair-Public Facilities Committee, prior to the August 15th deadline.

VII. Administrative Action Items

Chair reports and set dates for meetings

1. **Election** - none
2. **Operations & Outreach** - none
3. **Public Facilities** - done

4. Design Review - none

5. Historic Resources – Mike announced that the ‘Heart of Bankers Hill’ was historically designated by the State of California Historical Resources Board last week! One of the Commissioners went so far as to state that Bankers Hill is one of the top, intact historic districts in California and even on the west coast. It contains the work of a lot of famous architects. It means signs can be put up identifying it as a Historic District and if there was a project that would potentially wipe out homes a CEQA and a MEPA review would be required first.

6. Plan Hillcrest – none

VIII. Thank You – Farewell - Long Live Uptown Planners!

Jim – As Chair I would like to say ‘thank you’ to a great group of people to have worked with for my short term. I thank everyone who has volunteered for Uptown Planners currently and in the past, we have been an integral part of the community and representing the community.

Our term is officially over when the new CPG board is seated August 20th – a cause for sadness and celebration.

Mary McK – I would like to recognize Mat, Stu and Jim who served as Chair recently for steering us through this whole process. You have been wonderful serving as Chair.

Tami – thank you for all you’ve done

Juli – recognize Sol for consistently attending UP meetings and for his many thoughtful contributions

Susan – sad commentary the city didn’t do anything to recognize UP’s years of volunteer service

IX. Adjournment at 8:41 PM

PER Agenda Item VI. 2

Letter of Explanation prepared for Uptown Planners website per Motion Item VI. 2 on Agenda

August 7, 2024

Hello

It is with sadness that I officially inform you that the City Council and Planning Department replaced Uptown Planners as the officially recognized community Planning Group for the six neighborhoods of the Uptown District. Uptown Planners has been a vehicle for supporting our neighborhoods over the past 40 plus years and provided thousands and thousands of volunteer time. We were replaced by Uptown CPG, an offshoot of Vibrant Uptown, an organization that falls in line with what mayor Gloria and third district council member Whitburn want for Uptown – a developer’s paradise without parks, recreation, community centers, parking, etc. Their legacy of poor planning.

August 6, 2024, was the last meeting of Uptown Planners as a CPG. Our last act was to unanimously support, recommend and submit to the City our list of priorities for capital improvement projects through 2030 for each of the neighborhoods [INSERT LINK](#). You will see our top priorities in every area are for increased parks and recreation for the current and 30,000 prospective new residents of the District.

Uptown Community Planning Group is holding virtual elections commencing August 8 and concluding on August 20, 2024. The voting is all online except for one, two-hour window, for in-person voting. Voting is by neighborhood for individual representatives and district wide for businesses) We urge you to remain involved and interested in the development of the Uptown District. Check out their website www.uptowncommunityplanning.org/elections to register and review the candidate applications. There are several current and recent Uptown Planner’s board members who are committed to continue to represent you:

- Michael Singleton and John Barney (Bankers Hill/Park West)
- Matt Brown and Mary Brown (Medical Center/North Hillcrest)
- Matt Driver (University Heights)
- Lu Rehling and Mat Wahlstrom (Hillcrest)
- Patty Ducey-Brooks (Mission Hills)
- Business Owners
 - o Tami Ratliffe
 - o Stu McGraw

Thank you all for allowing Uptown Planners to serve our Uptown District.
Jim Walsh
Chair – Uptown Planners CPG