



NORTH PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC FACILITIES, TRANSPORTATION, PARKS, AND PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE

www.northparkplanning.org

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 10, 2010, 6:30 p.m., North Park Main Street office
3076 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92104

Attendance:

Board Members: Dionné Carlson (Chair), René Vidales (Vice-Chair), Rob Steppke, Vicki Granowitz, Lynn Elliott, Kitty Callen

Community

Voting Members: Ernie Bonn

Also present: Steve Aldana, Alan Hoffman, Frank Roberts, William Schneider, JD Abercrombie, Greg Sorini

Parliamentary Items:

Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 6:35

Approve November 10, 2010 Agenda. MOTION: Approve Agenda. Granowitz/Steppke 7-0-0

Chair's Comments. None

**Approve October 6, 2010 Minutes. MOTION: Approve October 6, 2010 minutes:
Granowitz/Vidales 5-0-2 (Bonn and Callen abstained)**

Non-Agenda Public Comment. None

Announcements

1. The Sustainable Communities Strategy is a new element that will be included in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), as required by SB 375. For more information, go to:
http://www.sandag.org/enewsletter/feature_3.html
2. SANDAG staff recommended that the agency allocate \$2.6 billion toward bicycle and pedestrian programs during the course of the next 40 years on 11/03/2010. For more information, go to:
<http://www.bikesd.org/2010/11/sandag-staff-recommends-allocating-2-6-billion-toward-bicycle-and-pedestrian-intrastructure>

Information Items: None

New Business

- a) **Proposal for Head-in Parking on Kansas Street between El Cajon Boulevard & Meade Avenue, and between Meade Avenue & Monroe Avenue.**

Chair Dionné Carlson gave a brief recap from last month's meeting, where it appeared as an information item.

Alan Hoffman mentioned that the City's proposal was to alternate the blocks for this project; Mr. Hoffman would like to suggest the community to ask the City to have the head-in parking installed only on one side for safety purposes. Mr. Hoffman believes the original intent of the project was only to increase the number of parking spaces.

The North Avenue project was used as a precedent for discussion purposes. North Avenue has a 66' wide curb-to-curb street and has head-in parking on one side and angle parking on the other. Ernie Bonn had suggested earlier constructing a median with parking instead of angle/head-in; this would have given North Avenue a significant gain in parking spaces.

Steve Aldana said the El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association (BIA) is looking for additional parking spaces and they cannot build parking structures.

Mr. Aldana said the Mid-City Community Parking District (MCCPD) at the direction of the City surveyed only the first block south of Adams. Then the City surveyed the next two blocks; therefore the MCCPD had no involvement in the second survey. A lot of the properties in the area are owned by trusts.

The process to undo the installation of head-in parking needs to be clarified. Gary Pence's answer to that question in the previous meeting was that the City would have to obtain a minimum of 70% favorable response. A suggestion was made to have the community to accept the pilot project with a provision that after 6 months the area gets surveyed again and if the result is not favorable the project gets uninstalled.

Single family homes also need on-street parking, not just multi-family housing units. A possible incentive for homeowners to buy into the project would be for the City to offer to install landscaping for screening parking if requested by property owner. This could mitigate the head lights from cars into the properties. A comment was made to be cautious about the height of landscape screen offered, as this could act as a refuge for criminals.

Lynn Elliott suggested surveying only the properties that are impacted by the head-in parking.

William Schneider supports adding parking in the community. Mr. Schneider would like to see the angle parking option, and he believes installing the head-in parking on the east side would mitigate the flooding problem.

Alan Hoffman said that one block could have angle parking and increase its parking and the other block could have head-in parking, but the pilot project needs to include more than one block.

Rob Steppke suggested to eliminate the head-in parking and parallel parking from the corner along the frontage of the first two properties on the west side of Kansas Street between Meade and Monroe.

The proposed width of the head-in parking is 9'. Meade Avenue gains 25 parking spaces and Monroe Avenue gains 9 parking spaces on the east side.

The Sub-Committee members and community agreed to the following:

- Retain parallel parking spaces on the southwest corner of Kansas Street and Monroe Avenue, and retain parallel parking spaces on the northwest corner of Kansas Street and Meade Avenue, and install one handicapped parking spot per section in the parallel section.
- Retain parallel parking across the street from Jack in the Box from the alley south, and retain parallel parking to include at least 1 handicapped parking space.
- Request to have the City paint a buffer zone between the edge of the parking spaces and the edge of the travel lanes, to include 7' parallel parking, two 10' travel lanes, and 16' head-in parking.
- The MCCPD will offer to install landscaping for screening, but appropriately chosen to prevent crime.

- Propose a 6-Month pilot program to give the community input and have the community the ability to change or remove the project with a very clear process for the property owners.

The MCCPD will prepare a drawing for Sub-Committee members to review.

This item will be discussed again in the January 2011 Public Facilities Sub-Committee and full Board.

Old Business.

- A. Texas Street Improvement Design:** Continuation of discussion of improvements to Texas Street from Madison Avenue to Camino Del Rio South, part of the mitigation improvements for the Quarry Falls Development in Mission Valley.

Vicki Granowitz stated that she was at the last City Council meeting and Phil Roth said he has been in touch with Sudberry because Andy Fields has not received the requested information. Andy Fields later received the information and said they would find a way to resolve the issue and obtain the Acorn lights. Phil Roth is leaving the City so the process may be delayed.

Vicki Granowitz left at 7:54 p.m.

JD Abercrombie and Greg Sorini from the University Heights Community Association (UHCA) were present. They stated that Mark Radelow from Sudberry Properties came to a UHCA meeting and presented the Texas Street improvements project.

Greg Sorini presented a draft design for a sign that he said Sudberry is willing to install. The location is to be determined, probably before approaching Madison Avenue. JD Abercrombie mentioned that Sudberry does not see funding for the sign as a problem but time is of the essence.

The following comments were made on the sign proposal:

- The design of the sign can be improved; having a sign is a good idea; it announces entering an historic neighborhood.
- A suggested location is the southwest corner at the bottom of the hill.
- Fonts can be added based on historic signs.
- Remove “Normal Heights” from the sign.
- To have the sign read “Welcome to the Historic Communities of University Heights and North Park”.
- To replicate the stone and cobble stone theme of the rest of the hardscaping. Plaques with Arts and Crafts period lettering were also suggested.

The Sub-Committee members and community agreed to request the following from Sudberry Properties:

- A cobblestone monument (of same/coordinating rock/cobbles already specified for the landscape in the project) with a plaque/sign reading “Welcome to the Historic Communities of University Heights & North Park”.
- No directional arrows.
- Located at the bottom of the hill on Texas street on the West side (Southwest corner of project).
- Exact best Location for visibility to be determined by Quarry Falls landscape designer.
- Request Font for lettering to be “Arts and Crafts”, similar to but not necessarily the same as the one used on University Heights plaques, and of a size visible while driving.
- Request Quarry falls landscape designer come up with a suitable design to look attractive and coordinate with the already selected landscape plan, while reflecting the historic character of North Park and University Heights.

B. Mid City Rapid Bus Rapid Transit Project: Continuation of Discussion for the Park Boulevard segment of this project.

Ernie Bonn stated that University Heights Community Development Corporation (UHCDC) has 343 signatures on a petition against the Park Boulevard segment of the project. Ernie Bonn shared a Letter from Father Dillard of St. John Church concerning angle parking and the elimination of driveways and church access.

René Vidales will follow up with Miriam Kirshner of SANDAG about the increase of parking spaces from the Complete Street Alternative for Park Boulevard that was presented at the last North Park Planning Committee meeting.

Rob Steppke would like to find out the City Council meeting date for the agenda item to be heard regarding the installation of Angle Parking in order to alert residents along Park Boulevard.

Frank Roberts stated that some neighbors would have a problem with the installation of angle parking because of the increased number of parking spaces in one area due to the closing of Polk Avenue and backing up with increased traffic.

Steve Aldana stated that the El Cajon Boulevard BIA is in favor of the project. The project improves transit, alleviates parking, and helps residents. The BIA previously negotiated with SANDAG to eliminate “transit only” lanes on El Cajon Boulevard, relocate bus stops, and received enhanced bus stop features for the El Cajon Boulevard segment.

The UHCA will be writing a letter to several leaders stating the opposition to the Park Boulevard segment. UHCA will host a meeting for residents to offer feedback, including a street car option.

Rob Steppke will write a letter on behalf of the North Park Planning Committee with the motion from last month’s meeting regarding Mid-City Bus Rapid Transit project.

New Business and Possible future Agenda items: None

Next meeting date: Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Adjournment. Motion: To adjourn meeting. Elliott/Callen. 6-0-0. Meeting adjourned 8:50 p.m.