

Community Planners Committee

Planning Department • City of San Diego
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APPROVED MINUTES FOR MEETING OF TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Philomena Marino, Barrio Logan (BL)	Michele Addington, Mission Valley (MV)
Nicholas Reed, Clairemont Mesa (CM)	Dan Soderberg, Normal Heights (NH)
Tom Silva, College Area (CA)	Marty Graham, North Park (NP)
Bob Link, Downtown, (DNTN)	Mark Freed, Otay Mesa
Laura Riebau, Eastern Area (EA)	Scott Chipman, Pacific Beach (PB)
Encanto/Chollas Valley (CVE)	Korla Eaquina, Peninsula (PEN)
David Swarens, Golden Hill (GH)	Vicki Touchstone, Rancho Bernardo (RB)
David Moty, Ken-Tal (KT)	Jon Becker, Rancho Penasquitos (RP)
Harry Bubbins, La Jolla (LJ)	Victoria LaBruzzo, Scripps Ranch (SR)
Dike Anyiwo, Midway-Pac.Hwy (MPH)	Catharine Stemple, Serra Mesa (SM)
Thomas Leeman, Miramar Ranch. N. (MRN)	Guy Preuss, Skyline-Paradise Hills (SPH)
Chris Cate, Mira Mesa (MM)	Chris Neilsen, University (UN)
Deborah Watkins, Mission Beach (MB)	Stu McGraw, Uptown (UP)

VOTING INELIGIBILITY/RECUSALS: None. The following groups currently have single absences: CMR, CV, DMM, DTN, KM, MPH, NH, OT, OMN, PB, RB, CMR/SS, SP/LH, SY, SPH, SE, TS and TH.

City Staff/Representatives: Marlon Pangilinan, Planning Department.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. CALL TO ORDER/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Vice Chair Nicholas Reed conducted the meeting as Chair Andrea Schlageter was out of town. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm and roll call conducted.

2. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 27, 2023 MINUTES:

Approval of the April 27, 2023 minutes continued to the June CPC meeting.

3. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:

Non-Agenda public comment provided by the public regarding SB-10, needed update on the Planning Group recognition process, cannabis permits, benefits of in-person meetings, and opposition to "slow streets" in Pacific Beach.

4. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS - (ACTION ITEM): Continued to the June meeting.

5. CANNABIS SOCIAL EQUITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM – (INFORMATION ITEM):

Lara Gates, Deputy Director of the Cannabis Business Division of the Development Services Department presented on the proposed code amendments to implement the City's Social Equity and Economic Development (SEED) Program for cannabis operators.

CPC Comment - The following concerns and comments were expressed by the CPC members:

- The proposal is not a good idea, since underserved communities have been harmed by the cannabis industry.
- There should be no change to the distance separation between sensitive receptive uses e.g. schools and cannabis establishments. The 1,000 ft distance should be kept.
- There doesn't seem to be a nexus between Transit Priority Areas (TPAs) and this proposal.
- There should be a health study done along with an analysis regarding the consumption of water that needs to be taken into consideration relative the growing cannabis industry.
- State effort to regulate cannabis is good.
- There is an issue with location and associated litter, similar to alcohol.

Public Comment - The following comments were expressed by the public:

- The war on drugs was not an "unfair war." The issue is about equity not equality. This is a social equity program.
- In Golden Hill, the Greenheart Cannabis Collective moved into a vacant building and is an example of how the area got better.
- Proposition 64 did a positive thing. It's not perfect but it's working.
- If the legal cannabis market can be supported, it can put the illegal market out of business.
- The City's goal of equity should be supported, but not relaxing distance separation provisions.
- Use of cannabis does not increase lung cancer and there now less opioid related deaths with cannabis use.
- Walking distances should be used, not TPAs. TPAs are in low investment areas – it's like "redlining."
- The City should uphold all safeguards to protect our youth.
- Everyone is missing the point that cannabis has been legalized, and there needs to opportunity to promote equity in the legitimate sale of it.

6. EQUITY FORWARD INITIATIVE AND RELATED PROJECTS – (INFORMATION ITEM):

Sameera Rao, Assistant Deputy Director and Anisha Gianchandani, Program Manager from the Planning Department presented on the implementation of the Equity Forward initiative and changes to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) prioritization process for this year.

CPC Comment - The following concerns and comments were expressed by the CPC members:

- There is a lack of public engagement that needs to be addressed and at the same time the communities are “burned out.” Non-profits don’t represent us. Use of mail will get more engagement.
- There are non-profit organizations that don’t represent the community, but their own agenda.
- The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a priority. The use of Development Impact Fees (DIF) will benefit from an equity approach.
- The City needs to be in the spirit of listening to input and starting with honesty.
- Councilmembers’ votes are based on their interests and not in alignment with the community. They will promise a park, but then it doesn’t happen. They need to really represent their constituents.

7. UNAUTHORIZED CAMPING ORDINANCE – (INFORMATION ITEM):

Bridget Naso, Policy Advisor for Councilmember Whitburn presented on the proposed ordinance and on safe camping sites.

CPC Comment -The following concerns and comments were expressed by the CPC members:

- A solution for the homeless issue is the “County Farm.”
- Chollas Lake, Chollas Creek and Lake Miramar should be identified and added to the ordinance.
- Camping should be prohibited in open space.
- There should be a focus on the humanitarian aspect and a need for help.
- There should be a response from homeless advocate groups about this proposal. There is a concern that we might be criminalizing homelessness.
- There have been recent fires occurring in pocket parks and so they should be considered in the ordinance.
- Outreach on this matter is important. The City needs to do more outreach regarding informing communities about this issue. There has been no outreach from Council District 3 or the Mayor.

8. REPORTS TO THE CPC

- **Staff Report** – Marlon Pangilinan will provide an update at the next CPC meeting regarding the Planning Group recognition process and webpage.
- **Chair's Report:** Vice-Chair Reed expressed that he would like to continue as Vice-Chair of the CPC when the election of CPC Executive Board Members takes place next month.
- **CPC Member Comments:** None.

ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned by Vice-Chair Reed at 8:55 PM.