

North Park Maintenance Assessment District

Community Advisory Committee Minutes – April 11, 2016.
Meeting called to order at 5:03 pm

1. Roll Call:

Present: Rob Steppke - North Park Redevelopment Project Area Committee (PAC)
Jody Surowiec - North Park Historical Society (NPHS)
Jillian Wolter - North Park Main Street (NPMS)
Peter Hill - North Park Planning Committee (NPPC)
Jean Samuels - Burlingame Neighborhood Association (BNA)
Glen Torio - City Staff
Adrian Granda - City Council Rep

Absent: Karen Gross - San Diego Apartment Association
Beryl Forman - El Cajon Blvd Business Improvement Association (ECBBIA)
Kitty Callen - Altadena Neighborhood Association (ANA)
Sean Karafin - North Park Community Association (NPCA)
Vicky Heithaus - Resident Homeowners Rep

2. Approval of Draft Minutes – March 14, 2016

Tabled to next meeting

3. Chair's Report

Next month: benches and follow up on past agenda items

4. Non-Agenda Public Comment (Reordered to end of meeting)

- Greg Schloss - 3rd generation owner of A&B Sporting Goods on University and Grim
 - A&B Sporting Goods was happy to support the sidewalk improvement project when beautification was done to include the bulb out and benches in front of the store
 - The community even opted to compromise parking spaces for the sidewalk renovation and improvement
 - Unfortunately, the project is no longer functioning as intended and instead has become a congregation point for homeless community members. While that is not an illegal use, their presence has been preventing other community uses because they are always occupied and most residents and shoppers choose not to sit on them any longer
 - He has worked extensively with the HOT Team and SDPD, but the issue has only been getting worse and has now created a safety, comfort and aesthetic problem for the entire block and for the North Park community
 - He asks that we please consider the option of elimination for the time being

5. Councilmember's Report (Reordered to end of meeting)

- Budget will be released this month - to be approved by City Council budget hearings by department

6. Brief Update re: Exploratory Subcommittee to join North Park Planning Committee

- Peter has been looking at other groups that have a MAD as a subcommittee - working on collecting sample bylaws to use as a guide

7. Election of Officers for term April 2016 – April 2017

- Nominations Stand from last month
 - Rob Steppke - Chairman
 - Peter Hill - Vice Chairman
 - Jillian Wolter - Secretary

8. Update on Proposal to Modify Council Policy 100-24

- Mostly definitions and small revisions
- Rob will send out his comments

8. Introduction to Jeremy Barrick, Manager of Urban Forestry Update re: University Ave

- Presentation by Jeremy Barrick, Urban Forestry Manager since August 2015
- Management of urban trees to focus on environmental health
- Urban Forestry is highlighted in The General Plan of San Diego as well as in every community plan update
- City of San Diego Forestry Grant Programs include Urban Forest Management Plan (draft online) + Urban Forestry Canopy Assessment
- San Diego has a goal set to plant 500 street trees - money for 3 years - project up for bid, hoping to plant in fall (\$2 million total)
- TreeCity USA
- Locations will be chosen based on the best outcome and health possibility for the trees to live healthy successful lives
- The main concern is preservation of trees, maintenance of trees and to increase the overall canopy cover
- Jeremy explained the necessity of creating a diverse collection of tree species - not smart to have all trees the same in one area in case of disease, pest threats, natural disasters
- How are these goals going to be met and these standards maintained throughout the City?
 - When No-Fee Tree PROW Permits are obtained, applicants are advised by permitting office which trees are permissible and recommended - lists will be consulted when permits are obtained
 - Permits should only be limited to the recommended list and community plans
- Tree grates are not advised unless there is a maintenance partner (MAD) because they stifle tree growth and often need to be expanded as the tree grows
- Tree guards are recommended - decorative and effective but does not cover the pedestrian hazard - better for the trees

Vicky Questions:

1. The Urban Forestry website seems outdated. When will this be updated?
 - a. *City website revamps and updates are coming*
2. San Diego needs a public information campaign to increase knowledge and appreciation of trees. Is this a priority for the City's leadership?
 - a. *Public information of trees is a priority – they are working with city-wide branded initiative speaking to the Climate Action Plan similar to the Save Water campaign format – this campaign will teach people that it is okay to use water for trees during a drought with proper education on how to properly care for trees.*
3. What kind of role and support will the Urban Forestry Unit provide MADs on tree selections, plantings, maintenance (For example, requiring and complying with measures such as suspended pavements, structural soils, groundcovers, etc.)?

- a. *All supervisors follow proper procedure and will refer to the Community Plan and City-Wide plans for guidance. Glenn's work in our MAD represents the Urban Forestry goals.*
4. What kind of role will Urban Forestry have in City projects to better include and coordinate tree plantings? (For example, will public agencies including the City be required to submit tree permits to better track tree assets?)
 - a. *Urban Forestry provides the greater vision - coordinating the tree plantings will come from coordinating with all parties involved to create a strategy*
5. The draft North Park Community Plan specifies primary and secondary trees (Table 4.2). I have some concerns / comments:
 - a. A number of these are not listed on the City's own Tree Selection Guide. (Also, Latin names should be used in addition to common names for greater specificity)
 - i. *He will pass along message about including Latin names of trees*
 - b. The selections themselves for major corridors (especially University Avenue) are questionable. For example, crape myrtles, listed as a primary tree, provides little canopy and shade. Palm trees (secondary) should NOT be used except for special situations as they provide no shade at all (per Tree Selection Guide). These are ornamental and should be planted in groups.
 - i. *Palm trees - he agrees about them being used as ornamental accents for aesthetics only*
 - c. Over the years, North Park has lost many trees due to poor selection, planting and maintenance techniques. What is needed is a Street Tree Master Plan for the major corridors that considers historical info/background, current soil/planting/maintenance recommendations, shade/canopy characteristics, etc. How/when can we expect to get this done?
 - i. *Master Street Tree Plan is part of the Urban Forestry Master Plan*
 - ii. *More broad policy can help avoid forcing certain trees and selecting every individual trees*

Peter Hill noted that these questions represent one individual member's opinion and that all decisions made would require the opinion of the entire MAD group, not one sole member and he thanks Jeremy for taking the time to attend our meeting.

10. Operational Streetscape Maintenance / City Staff Update

- Red Sidewalk Project
 - Sidewalk color stain - is it worth doing, will it be sustainable? waiting on stain company
 - leftover funds: southwest corner of University + 30th by Union Bank (there is a tree there)
 - trees on the north side must be replanted by May 21 for the Festival of Arts in North Park
 - 36 in Chinese Pistache - MAD will maintain them
- Twinkle Lights
 - Locking boxes to protect electrical boxes first quote \$926 from company who installed
- Boulevard Sign Painting
 - still waiting on 3rd boulevard sign painting quote
- Power Washing
 - increase of power washing on Ray Street at an additional cost to the MAD - within budget

- Peter Hill: this may open a can of worms with adding additional power washing as needed
- intended to increase frequency while still expanding to new areas
- Glenn- can do a one-time power washing as requested - periodic washing of certain areas
- Rob requests an updated Powerwashing Schedule / Map to include new areas and frequencies
- Trash Cans
 - Cans from corner of University and Granada have been moved - Glenn has also been identifying new locations - Rob has some recommendations

11. Discussion Regarding Additional Maintenance Schedule Updates

- Tabled to next meeting

12. Bond Funding Project Update, 24 dbl acorn streetlights on ECB

- Ongoing; no new updates

13. Review of Jillian's MAD Request Form Revision

- Tabled indefinitely

14. Revised Sidewalk Replacement Policy

- Covered in other areas

15. New Business for Next Agenda

- Trees, Review of Urban Forestry Presentation
- Benches
- Twinkle Lights
- Sidewalk pigment recoloring

16. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:17 PM.

Motion to Adjourn: Jillian / Peter 5/0/0

Next meeting – May 9, 2016 at 5:00 PM