

## UNIVERSITY CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2014 MEETING

**Present:** Barry Bernstein, President; Barbara Henshaw, Vice President; Ginny Charvat, Treasurer; Jack Crittenden, Publicity & Promotion; Diane Ahern, Publicity & Promotion; Terry Jones, Corresponding Secretary; Hallie Burch, Membership; Merle Berman, Beautification & Garden Club; Mack Langston, UCCF Rep.; Mark Powell, UCPG Rep.; Sandy Lippe, Newsletter Oversight; Don Hotz, Websight Mgr.

**Excused:** Bonnie Hornbeck, Valerie O'Neill, Darlene Ventimiglia, Barbara Gellman

**Guests:** Mel Milstein, Sherri Lightner's Office; Capt. Jerry Hara, SDPD; Lt. Misty Cedrun, SDPD; Julio DeGuzman, Community & Gov't Relations Officer; Fred Simon, candidate for 52<sup>nd</sup> District; Wil Burfitt, Shawn Skillin, Cheryl Creagh, Patrick Alexander, Vince Reardon, Amber Ter-Hrugt, Scripps Health; Andy Freeburn, Crunchy Beacom, Ian Beresford

President Barry Bernstein called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. He led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, thanked Barbara Henshaw for the refreshments, and reminded the guests that UCCA works hand in hand with UCPG for the good of the community.

**Agenda:** Barbara Henshaw moved to approve the March agenda. Terry Jones seconded the motion and the March agenda passed unanimously.

**February Minutes:** Sandy Lippe made a motion to approve the February minutes. Hallie Burch seconded the motion and the February minutes were unanimously approved.

### Introductions:

**Capt. Hara – SDPD Northern Div. Cmdr.** - Barry introduced Captain Jerry Hara, SDPD Northern Division's newest captain. He has been with the police 21 years with 12 years on patrol, 3 in investigation, hiring, and various departments. Last month he had a car accident on Genesee that prohibited his attending our UCCA meeting. He hired all police in the last year and a half, and is pleased more officers will be hired. He finds the 'cowboy mentality' of some officers unacceptable, but added that his best compliment was "You don't seem like a cop."

Capt. Hara reported that San Diego has 1800 police officers with a ratio of 1.4 officers to every 1,000 citizens. He works well with City Council and the community and adheres to Mayor Faulconer's philosophy of "One San Diego". Further, he reported that Northern Div. will get a police investigation service officer, (PISO), Officer Brown, that will free up officers to better cover their beats.

Lt. Misty Cedrun spoke about the last hit and run in U.C. on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The police will be pulling over more pedestrians who are using cell phones, intoxicated, and distracted drivers because of the increase in fatalities recently; among 54 fatalities, 51 motorists killed pedestrians. She reminded everyone to use the crosswalks and obey the traffic signals when crossing streets.

**Amber Ter-Hrugt – Scripps Health (Donation/Photo)** – Amber Ter-Vrugt, Scripps Healthcare Community Relations rep. was enthusiastic to be on the Scripps team and help our community with summer concert funding of \$3,500. She posed for a photo with a mock check held by Andy Freeburn, concert chair, and John Schindel, rec. council chair. Amber also mentioned the new Proton Therapy Center at Scripps in conjunction with UCSD and Rady's.

**Shawn Skillin – UCHS Grad Nite Chair** - Ginny Charvat made a motion to approve a \$1,000 donation to UCHS Grad Nite. Hallie Burch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Shawn Skillin, UCHS Grand Nite chair thanked UCCA for its \$1,000 donation. She stated the high school gives no money to Grad Nite and that all funding comes from PTSA, parents, ticket sales, and donors like UCCA. The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual event will continue the theme of a Roman coliseum. Shawn is collecting shoes and clothes to earn money and will accept these items until April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Barry introduced Wil Burfitt as the newest member of Improve U.C. Wil and his wife and 2 young children have lived in University City for two years.

Ginger Steketee has volunteered to be the new leader of the Garden Club. She would plan to host a garden event on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. She has lived in University City for more than 17 years and suggests that the group meet every 2 months. Barry suggested that the garden club could vote for a new leader at the April meeting.

Julio DeGuzman was introduced and then explained the community courts for low level criminals under San Diego Attorney Jan Goldsmith's leadership. He mentioned that low level criminals (with infractions such as public urination, drunkenness, disturbing the peace, etc.) will be given the option to do public service (such 4 hours of litter pickup) in the same community where the crime occurred rather than pay a fine and have a criminal record. He commented that in Pacific Beach's community court, most of the criminals are under the age of 30 and many choose the \$40 fine and the chance to pick up trash. Others that have a criminal record pay a fine and have a misdemeanor on their record.

Patrick Alexander, publisher of a new free paper, Sun Times, was introduced.

### **Legislative Reports:**

**Mel Milstein – Sherri Lightner's Office** – Mel reported that a UCHS student called about a speeding ticket he received and Mel is hoping to get a VCalm sign on Genesee.

Regarding medical marijuana dispensary sites, he said that a medical marijuana zoning order would prohibit dispensaries in University City, and that Sorrento Valley, Roselle, and possibly Carmel Valley could be sites. Four dispensaries per district were approved by City Council.

Mel reported that EdUCate food truck business would not be affected by new rules on Governor Drive which state that the truck must be 25 feet from an intersection, cannot play any amplified sound, and provide a pleasant environment.

The HOA south of Governor on Genesee will be contracting out medians to landscapers, but there is no timeline. Further, the resurfacing of Regents at Pennant will occur after the waterline project is completed, about a 2-3 week project; however, CalTrans has not issued permits for daytime work. Barry commented that the work at night is an intrusion of noise and lights. Barry said that he is working with the project manager, Susan Chavez, to see if the night work could be done during daylight hours.

Mel also reported that the new mayor has made Todd Gloria president of City Council again and that Sherri Lightner is President Protem. Sandy commented about the Balboa Park Centennial committee's waste of \$2.8 million wasted money and illegal misuse of funds. Mel said that Sherri is still investigating it.

**President's Remarks/Current Issues:** Diane Ahern and Jack Crittenden have been working on an agenda for the May 14<sup>th</sup> general meeting with a CalTrans representative to discuss mid-coast trolley issues and with a UTC representative to discuss the expansion of the UTC shopping center, the pedestrian bridge, increased traffic, additional high-rises, and parking issues.

**Public Forum:** Barry introduced Vince Reardon to the group. Vince said he dons a safety vest and then picks up about 25-50 lbs. of trash on Regents Rd. each time he goes out. He heard about the Kensington area forming a trash brigade and is planning to start one in U.C. on the second Sunday of each month to keep our community clean. He distributed flyers to the group.

Cheryl Creagh voiced a concern about a house on Bothe whose roof has been covered by a bright blue tarp since 2012. The roof is dangerous and the tarp could blow off and distract drivers on the street. Code Compliance came and fined the owner, but the fine wasn't paid. Cheryl and Crunchy Beacom tried a neighborly approach, even finding a roofer donation. Concern for rates and termites was mentioned. Councilwoman Sherri Lightner's office was contacted but was unable to solve this issue. Andy Freeburn suggested contacting the County Assessor's office for the title and pursuing a civil action in Small Claims Court. Mark Powell offered to help.

**Treasurer's Report:** Hallie Burch moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Terry Jones seconded the motion and the report was unanimously approved. Terry Jones then motioned to approve the 2014 budget. Hallie Burch seconded the motion and the budget was unanimously approved. Ginny Charvat reported that the last newsletter made \$700 in February. She also mentioned the challenge of fitting in the \$5,000 donation to concerts last summer from Sherri Lightner's office. It had to be listed as a grant. Ginny also said that the Tommasino office is working on the UCCA taxes.

**Correspondence – Terry Jones:** Terry asked to have attractive return address labels for UCCA correspondence. The Board approved Terry's request by consensus.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Hallie Burch reported that UCCA had 415 members and \$18,640 from membership fees. Hallie, Ginny Charvat, Diane Ahern, Jack Crittenden, Mack Langston, and Sandy Lippe met at 5 p.m. to discuss a UCCA business card that would give discounts.

**Beautification:** Merle Berman reported that Ponderosa would be cleaning up and checking sprinklers on Governor medians on Saturday. She shared photos of attractive, xeriscaped medians on Pomerado Rd. in Poway. She will price them to see if UCCA or UCCF can help underwrite the costs for Governor medians.

**Newsletter:** Sandy Lippe reported that the March newsletter was smaller than usual, but that the April newsletter will be bursting with news. Sue continues with the newsletter design and layout that receive compliments from the community.

**UCPG:** Mark Powell discussed the recent UCPG meeting and highlighted the following: medical marijuana dispensaries may be in Sorrento Valley (92121), but never in University City. Four high-rises are planned at La Jolla Village and Genesee south corner by Stuart Posnock; parking will be for 1300 cars. A pedestrian bridge will go from the Marriott to Costa Verde. Westfield plans 30,000 square feet expansion to UTC shopping center. The Regents property near Our Mother of Confidence Church will have around 12 houses built. The Vons Shopping Center manager will not talk about any potential tenants for the International City Bank property. Nothing has been done to put up a protective barrier in front of the donut shop there.

**UCCF:** Mack praised the qualifications of Wil Burfitt as the new member of Improve U.C.

**Neighborhood Watch:** The Neighborhood Watch now has 68 captains with 4 new ones coming up.

**Other:** Barry introduced Ian Beresford who came to the meeting in order to learn about his community and earn a citizenship and community merit badge for Boy Scouts. Ian goes to Standley Middle School.

Barbara Henshaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. The motion was seconded by Don Hotz and unanimously approved.

The next UCCA meeting will be on Wednesday, April 9, 2014.