

**UNIVERSITY CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2014 MEETING**

**Present:** Barry Bernstein, President; Ginny Charvat, Treasurer; Bonnie Hornbeck, Secretary; Barbara Gellman, Neighborhood Watch/Beautification; Sandy Lippe, Newsletter Oversight; Darlene Ventimiglia, Historian & Tree Lighting Coordinator; Mark Powell, UCPG Rep.; Diane Ahern, Publicity & Promotion; Jack Crittenden, Publicity & Promotion; Mack Langston, UCCF Rep.

**Excused:** Barbara Henshaw, Terry Jones, Merle Berman, Don Hotz, Hallie Burch

**Absent:** Valerie O'Neill

**Guests:** Mel Millstein, Sherri Lightner's Office; Allison Don, Marty Block's Office; Lena Lewis, Interim Mayor Todd Gloria's Office; Hugo Carmona, Scott Peters' Office; Rachel Gregg, Toni Atkins' Office; Bonnie MacRitchie, Ghalia Barr, Jerry Herrman, Dr. Ernie Lippe, David Cox, Paul Hedley, Lois Cross, Barbara Dietrich, Jemma Samala, Sharon Toc-Horn, Terry Brandes, Noalle Pilkington, Jennifer Hall, Jilleta M? (Von's Shopping Ctr.), Jeff Olivero, UCHS.

President Barry Bernstein called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Barry then welcomed members and guests. At this time Barry announced that Amber Ter-Vrugt, Scripps Health liaison would not be present at the meeting; however, that Scripps has donated \$3,500 this year to UCCA for the 2014 Summer Concerts at Standley Park. He mentioned that Scripps Health has contributed generously in the past for UCCA sponsored programs.

**Agenda:** Bonnie Hornbeck made a motion to approve the February agenda. Ginny Charvat seconded the motion and the February agenda was unanimously approved.

**January Minutes:** Diane Ahern made a motion to approve the January minutes. Darlene Ventimiglia seconded the motion and the January minutes were unanimously approved.

**Legislative Reports:**

**Hugo Carmona – Scott Peters' Office:** Hugo reported that both the Senate and House passed a bill to increase the US debt limit. He also reported that there was a seminar that was held previously at the JCC in Sen. Block's and Toni Atkins' offices. He also said that they were getting increased enrollment in the Affordable Care Act program in the Logan Heights area.

**Allison Don – Marty Block's Office:** Allison reported continued work on SB850 which enables Jr. Colleges to grant BA degrees in selected subject areas as well as continued work on a bill to investigate & alleviate elder care abuse in senior living facilities. She also said that there is now work on SB939 which proposes to streamline court appearances of victims of human trafficking to one court appearance. The main purpose is to alleviate the stress on victims because of multiple court appearances now required.

**Rachel Gregg – Toni Atkins' Office:** Rachel said that they were excited and proud that Toni Atkins has been elected by her peers to be State Assembly Speaker and the transition to this position would probably take place in two to three months. She said that they especially proud as Toni is the first Speaker from the city of San Diego. Rachel also said that they were sponsoring a free tax preparation workshop aimed at helping those whose yearly incomes are less than \$52k. The workshop will be by appointment only and will be held on February 26, 2014.

Rachel then reported on the investigation Toni has conducted over the past few months regarding alcohol/drug rehab houses located in residential neighborhoods. She said that after lengthy review with state legal attorneys, that this issue is judged to be a US Constitutional issue and cannot be solved by the State of California. She said that Toni tried hard to approach the issue from a variety of angles, but that it always came back to a Constitutional issue.

**Mel Millstein – Sherri Lightner’s Office:** Mel reported that the City Council would recommend a replacement for Kevin Faulconer on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The replacement person for Faulconer would probably serve a term of 8 or 9 months. He also reported on the City’s budget priorities for 2014 and said that SD Police Department was the first priority on all members’ lists. Further, he said that the fire department, parks & recreation, and libraries were also high priorities for funding. Coming up this spring is the Children’s Pool closure issue in La Jolla, and the location of medical marijuana stores. The issue of the medical marijuana outlets will not impact University City as they will be located out of our area. When asked about the construction staging area at the west end of Governor Dr., Mel said that everything would be gone by Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. He is still working on maintenance of the medians on the south side of Genesee Ave. Ginny Charvat asked that the city resume notices regarding when Miramar Air Base would be doing controlled burns as the most recent one that UC residents could see caused concern. Mel said that the notices would be resumed. Also, Mel said that he would look into realtor Katie Dunahoo’s concern regarding the city’s historical review of older homes in the UC area that may cause owners to spend considerable money.

**Lena Lewis – Interim Mayor Todd Gloria’s Office:** Lena reported that since a new mayor has been elected, that Todd Gloria’s office will cooperate fully in the transition and she would pass all notes she had taken while attending UCCA meetings on to the new mayor’s staff.

**SDPD – Officer Hesselgesser:** Officer Hesselgesser reported that a new captain, Captain Jerry Hara, has been assigned to the Northern Division. Capt. Hara couldn’t attend the Feb. meeting, but will try to attend the March UCCA meeting. Off. Hesselgesser praised the officers on the street for all the work they do in sometimes difficult situations. He reported that a group of three people that had broken into cars in our area on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> has been apprehended. Anyone that was a victim of those crimes should contact the SDPD No. Div. so that property can be returned. With regard to the recent hit and run in west UC, Off. Hesselgesser said that he has not had an update as yet on the progress of the investigation from Det. Velovich.

**Public Forum:**

**UCHS Grad Nite Request for Funds:** Jemma Samala, a Grad Nite committee member, summarized what Grad Nite provides for graduating UCHS students, and then referred to the letter from Shawn Skillin (Chair, Grad Nite) requesting \$1,000 from UCCA.

**UCHS – Community Concern/Discussion of Non-Game Night Use of Athletic Fields:** UCHS Principal Jeff Olivera presented an overview of who is responsible for band practice scheduling as well as turning on/off the athletic field lights. He also informed the group that next year, UCHS will be undergoing a 2-year improvement project that will affect both athletic scheduling and other concerns. In response to John Barr’s repeated attempts to alleviate both the late night lights and noise from band practices, he indicated that while an individual school has little control over field lighting, etc., he now has approval to move band practices to 5 pm - 8 pm and not later. With regard to John Barr’s question about city noise ordinances, Jeff replied that city schools were exempt from those ordinances and that they had different rules. He also informed the group that other schools that do not have a home field or do not have lighting on their athletic fields can request use of UCHS or others who have lighted fields. Final discussion resulted in Mr. Barr’s continued pursuit of a solution and UCHS doing what they can to appease the noise and glare from lighting on the surrounding neighborhoods.

**President's Remarks:** Barry introduced Vons shopping representative Jelita Mayville, the property manager for Vons shopping center, who reported on the latest happenings at the center. She said that a new sushi restaurant is already in place, and 3 companies are interested in the bank building, but that details were not yet available. Barbara Gellman then reported that she and Diane Ahern had met with Jelita at Barbara's request about posting Neighborhood Watch signs in the Governor Square parking lot. Mark Powell commented that there was a potentially dangerous traffic situation in front of the Golden Doughnut shop in the center and asked if cement barriers for parked cars could be installed. Jelita said that it would be done immediately.

Barry announced Tanya's resignation as President of the Garden Club, and that UCCA, at this time, will continue its support based on requests for planned events.

Barry then gave the floor to Jerry Herrman who spoke of his concern about developers' plans to build high-density apartment complexes on a small parcel behind Curie Elementary School. Mark said that this issue will be discussed at the next UCPG meeting.

Barry also acknowledged and thanked Diane Ahern, Sandy Lippe, and Barbara Henshaw for their help with the SD County Fair "Fab Four" photo session.

**Treasurer's Report:** There was discussion regarding late ad payments as well as raised allocations for some recipients of UCCA funds. The "Improve UC" program's amount will be determined in the future. Barry gave clarification re: the amount the Garden Club spends. He said that after a new chair is determined and the club has an agenda, the club should request their monetary needs from UCCA in writing. In response to Diane Ahern's request to have the newsletter website updated, Barry said that he would ask Don Hotz to do that. After all discussion, Bonnie Hornbeck made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Sandy Lippe seconded the motion and the Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Beautification – Barbara Gellman:** Barbara reported that she, Barry, and Merle met with the Carl's Jr. landscaper recently. The landscaper stated that he now has permission from Carl's Jr. to maintain the median in front of the restaurant and that Carl's Jr. will pay him for that service. He has already cleaned the median and, with recommendations from Barbara and Merle, will start new plantings soon. Barbara and Merle also went with the Ponderosa reps to the Miramar Nursery and selected plants for the Governor Dr. median. Ponderosa will do another clean-up and check all the irrigation in the medians.

Sandy Lippe reported that she is still working on the issue of the dumpsters at Standley Park. She added that 2 more electrical boxes will be painted soon and that the box in front of Swanson Pool is now painted.

**Promotion/Publicity – Diane Ahern/Jack Crittenden:** Diane and Jack mentioned possible membership strategies which will be brought before the board at our March meeting.

**Membership/March Newsletter:** Barry remarked that the UCCA newsletter continues to be excellent in appearance and content. There was a short discussion regarding an increase in new ads in the newsletter, the dog wash at the Mobile gas station at Governor and Genesee being an example.

Barry then reported that as of Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, there are 353 members in UCCA. He also said that a 'thermometer' tracking the number of residents joining UCCA would be in the next newsletter. The goal will be 650 members for 2014.

**Spring General Meeting/Planning – Diane Ahern/Jack Crittenden:** Diane distributed a list of proposed speakers for the General Meeting planned for April or May. After discussion, it was decided that there would be one topic (the UTC expansion/trolley impact/changes to Governor & Genesee intersections) and three speakers to address those issues. Barry also recommended that the Spring General Meeting take place in May to give ample time to plan the program. Diane/Jack will advertise the meeting in the newsletter that is distributed in April so that residents can plan to attend.

**UCCF – Mack Langston:** Mack reported that UCCF is going full speed on various plans for fund raising for the UC community. They are in the process of raising \$2,500 in the next 90 days for required city building permits. He also reported that Greg Zinser is in the process of writing a fund raising plan that will go to community businesses.

**Neighborhood Watch – Barbara Gellman:** Barbara reported that the Watch group is expanding and that there 3 meetings in February and another 3 on the agenda for March.

**UCPG – Mark Powell:** Mark outlined the plans for the upcoming UTC expansion. There will be a 33,000 square foot expansion of the shopping center. The plans are to eliminate the various levels at the center and make it all one level. This will require expansion to Genesee Drive in order to include the shops currently in the center. That will eliminate surface parking in some areas so there is an underground parking structure planned. There also may be some residential condos/apartments added as well. UTC expansion is planned to start in the spring. Upgrades to the Governor/Genesee Dr. intersection will also begin soon. Mark announced that the next UCPG meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>.

Sandy Lippe made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Bonnie Hornbeck. The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

The next UCCA meeting will be on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 6 p.m. at the UC Library.