

**UNIVERSITY CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2013 MEETING**

**Present:** Barry Bernstein, President; Terry Jones, Vice President; Ginny Charvat, Treasurer; Bonnie Hornbeck, Secretary; Valerie O'Neill, Newsletter; Beth Crawford, Membership; Merle Berman, Beautification; Barbara Gellman, Neighborhood Watch & Beautification; Darlene Ventimiglia, Historian; Sandy Lippe, Newsletter Oversight; Carole Pietras, UCPG Rep.; Andy Freeburn, Standley Park Rec. Ctr.; Mack Langston, UCCF Rep; Hugh Pates, Election Procedures/By-Laws; George Odero, Publicity & Promotion; Don Hotz, Website Mgr.

**Excused:** Barbara Henshaw

**Absent:** Tanya Aeria

**Guests:** Sherri Lightner, (SD City Council), Lt. Cedren (SDPD), Officer Hesselgesser (SDPD), Rachel Gregg, Hugo Carmona, Jason Thompson, Barb Mauro, Jennifer Mares, Richard & Sue Boas, Stan Betts, Jack Crittenden, Michele Hagstrom, Meagan Beale, Sandi Vettriano, Don & Barb Keyltra, Nancy Groves, David Stewart, Michael Bledsoe, Carrie Reichert, Ed & Ginny Beal, Ines Murphy, Hallie Burch, Diane Ahern, Dick & Marles Hamand, Christopher Mason, Catherine & Michael Hedlin, Jesse Rubin, Chris Yusunas, Jill McDermott, C.B. Jetton, Morgan Presfield, Ruth DeSantis, Debbie Anderson, Hama Rafit, Tasha Abri, Irv Gellman, Dr. Tom Horvath

Barry Bernstein, President called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. He then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance after which he led all in a moment of silence to honor all of the victims of the 9/11 attacks, including all first responders and fire fighters who lost their lives. He then welcomed guests and members followed by an announcement that the Miramar Air Show will be held in October, but will be non-military. He also announced that the UC Newsletter erroneously reported that there would be an August UCCA meeting (there is no August meeting) and apologized for any inconvenience caused by that notice.

**Agenda:** Carole Pietras made a motion to approve the Sept. meeting agenda. Valerie O'Neill seconded the motion and the agenda was unanimously approved.

**Introduction of Legislative Representatives:**

**Councilwoman Sherri Lightner** reported that Todd Gloria is now acting Mayor of San Diego until the special election occurs on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. There are now 31 candidates on the slate. In the event of a run-off, that election would be held sometime mid-January, 2014. She announced that she is on the Rules & Economic Development Committee and that they were addressing the impact of plastic bags on the environment and on the city budget (\$160K yearly cost for landfills). The city will conduct a hearing on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> due to the pending water rate increases. Residents will be able to have input at that hearing. Also, slurry sealing on UC streets is almost completed.

**Rachel Gregg – Toni Atkins' Office** reported that the legislature is in the final days of session. One of the issues being discussed is the Affordable Care Act. Residents can pose questions at a Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> meeting at 8 p.m. Rachel can be reached via email @ [Rachel.gregg@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Rachel.gregg@asm.ca.gov) for further details. She also encouraged people to join Toni on a 5K walk starting in Balboa Park and said that Toni will walk in the Nov. 11 Veteran's Day parade. Rachel left copies of Toni's newsletter at the meeting.

**Hugo Carmona – Scott Peters' Office** reported that there was a Town Hall meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be further town hall meetings at UCSD as Rep. Peters continues outreach to the community. Issues for discussion will be the Affordable Care Act, US involvement in Syria, and budget and education issues.

**Introduction of San Diego Police:** Officer Hesselgesser reported that there were 60 home burglaries in the Northern Div. during the summer months. He encouraged all to contact the police if any suspicious activities are observed. Both Off. Hesselgesser and Lt. Cedren emphasized preventative ways to avert home robberies

(locking windows and doors when not at home, and not to open doors to strangers). They reported that there have been several vehicle break-ins and vehicle thefts. They recommended not putting valuables in plain sight in cars and to always check to see that the car is locked.

#### **Public Forum:**

**EdUCate:** Jesse Rubin, President of EdUCate, provided information about how EdUCate's budget is distributed and that all monies go to various school projects/needs. Jesse requested that UCCA support EdUCate again with a donation. Barry asked Jesse to request a specific amount in writing.

**UCHS Football Boosters:** Jason Thompson, President of the UCHS Football Boosters, submitted a written request for the purchase of safety helmets for the football teams. He said that they were committed to providing the best equipment for the team to help prevent any serious injuries.

**Curie Elementary School:** Jill McDermot, Curie PTA Vice President, submitted a written request for funds to help pay for various consultants that the school uses during the year.

**Others:** Ruth DeSantis, a resident of west UC, spoke of great concerns that the Practical Recovery drug rehab houses were about to expand in west UC. She read a part of a letter she had received from Dr. Tom Horvath, who is leasing the houses for drug rehab patients, quoting the assurance from Dr. Horvath that there would be only two rehab houses in west UC and that he would expand in another location other than west UC. A large group of people attending the meeting also voiced their strong opposition to any rehab expansion in the area, citing problems with the rehab house on Bloch St. Dr. Horvath arrived at the meeting and responded to questions/concerns voiced by the more than 30 concerned residents. He said that there would be no additional beds in the new house. At the end of the lengthy discussion, Ruth said that she will meet with the large group of residents and that they would document their complaints both to Sherri Lightner's office and to the appropriate State offices. Jennifer Mares and Ruth DeSantis met with the concerned families in the library area following the meeting intermission. Barry offered to help find a location for an additional meeting location for that group.

**Approval of July Minutes:** Ginny made a motion to approve the July minutes. Terry seconded the motion and the July 10, 2013 minutes were unanimously approved.

**Correspondence:** Since Barbara Henshaw was not able to attend the meeting, there was no new information.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ginny reported that we are well within our operating budget. The Newsletter had only one delinquent account, but she expected to receive that check soon. She also reported that the bank was now charging a \$10 fee for the Garden Club account that had not been charged in the past. Ginny then made a motion that the Garden Club account be closed and Barbara Gellman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

**President's Announcements:** Barry reported that Merle Berman was willing to take temporary charge of the Garden Club until a new person was elected to lead it. Sandy made a motion to approve Merle as the temporary head of the Garden Club. Terry seconded the motion and after a vote, Merle was unanimously approved as the temporary Garden Club representative, replacing Tanya Aeria.

Barry announced that the UCCA Vice President's duties would be published in the next newsletter. He also said that our By-Laws should be amended to reflect that the Vice President would act as Parliamentarian in the event that the position is unfilled or absent. Ginny made a motion to amend the By-Laws accordingly and Bonnie seconded the motion. After a vote, the amendment was unanimously approved.

Barry announced that Ginny Charvat has agreed to chair the elections committee and said that the committee must consist of three people. Ginny said that Beth Crawford had already volunteered and Don

Hotz volunteered at the meeting. Beth made a motion that the committee membership be approved and Darlene seconded the motion. The Elections Committee membership was unanimously approved.

Barry said that the membership decals for 2014 are at the printer. Don suggested that Barry ask what the cost would be if the decals could be placed on the inside of the car window instead of the outside where they come off easily. Barry will follow up on Don's suggestion.

Barry also announced that Toni Atkins, CA State Assemblywoman, will be a special guest at our October meeting.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Beth reported that our total membership is now 527 households and that the income from memberships is \$23,035.

**UCCF:** Mack reported that there will be meetings of the Foundation on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> at Our Mother of Confidence Church and another on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Baptist Church.

**UCPG:** Carole reported that Sandy Lippe had asked for support for a bus bench. She also reported that UCSD's parking director is working with UCPG to find better routes to transport students to campus. There will be a meeting on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> at the Nobel Rec. Center to receive public comments on the proposed coastal bike rail trail. Also, the vacant lot behind Our Mother of Confidence Catholic Church is being bought by a developer who wants to build up to 10 or 12 homes on the site. The developer is still working with the City regarding the cost and placement of a road into the site.

**Peter Burch Memorial Fountain:** Sandy announced that she felt that due to a lack of time, that she'll contact board members with information related to the Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> Peter Burch Fountain dedication.

**Newsletter:** Sandy reported that the Newsletter Editor has requested a Costco card. Terry made a motion to table discussion on that issue until the October meeting. Bonnie seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Beautification:** Merle reported that she received a bid from Ponderosa Landscape (UC Library's maintenance company) which was significantly lower than the other two bids. Ponderosa recommends a one-time clean up of ALL 23 medians (including the trees north of Governor on Genesee) at a cost of \$1,085, then 6 times per year regularly-scheduled maintenance of all 23 medians at a cost of \$648 each time. This averages about \$30 per visit per median, and Merle thought that this bid is very reasonably priced. The intent is to provide on-going, regularly-scheduled maintenance by a landscaper rather than using volunteers on a need-only basis which is dangerous and only temporarily effective at best.

**Standley Park Rec. Ctr.:** Andy reported that the Summer Concerts were very successful and enjoyed by all attendants. He will decide whether or not to hold the first concert at night at a later date as it is more costly to keep the park lights on until the park is completely vacated and the stage removed.

**Celebration Report/Pancake Breakfast Revenue:** George reported that he will not have information on the fiscal success of the Celebration until next week's Rec. Ctr. Meeting. Hugh suggested that the funding for the Pancake Breakfast be transferred from the UCCA budget to the Rec. Center permanently. Terry made the motion to transfer the funds and Hugh seconded the motion. After a vote, the transfer of the funds was unanimously approved.

**Holiday Tree Lighting:** Darlene indicated there will be another planning meeting this month and Barry asked Terry Jones to join her committee.

Sandy Lippe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Valerie O'Neill seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

The next UCCA meeting is Wednesday, October 9, 2013.