

**UNIVERSITY CITY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9, 2013 MEETING (Draft)**

Present: Barry Bernstein, President; Terry Jones, Vice President; Ginny Charvat, Treasurer; Bonnie Hornbeck, Secretary; Beth Crawford, Membership; Merle Berman, Beautification & Garden Club; Darlene Ventimiglia, Historian; Sandy Lippe, Newsletter Oversight; Carole Pietras, UCPG Rep.; Andy Freeburn, Standley Park Rec. Ctr.; Mack Langston, UCCF; Don Hotz, Website Mgr.

Excused: Barbara Gellman

Absent: Valerie O'Neill; Hugh Pates; George Odero

Guests: Toni Atkins, CA State Assemblywoman; Mel Millstein, Sherri Lightner's Ofc.; Allison Don, Marty Block's Ofc, Officer Hesselgesser, SDPD; Rachael Gregg, Toni Atkins' Ofc; Randy Fillat; Diane Ahern; Robert Russakoff; Sharon Russakoff; Jim Heleniak; Bob Traitler; Gerri & Ernie Mares; Chuck Marin; Valerie Pulido; Michele Hagstron; Susan Revak; Russ & Alexi Haag; Marcus Harmann; Ruth DeSantis; Ellen Freedman; Hilary Krause; Jack Crittenden; Lois Cross; Jennifer Mares; Donald Mullin; Chris Yusunas; William Powell; Hallie Burch; Betty & Greg Pardue; Diane Sheehan; Marie Carson

Barry Bernstein, President, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. He then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance after which he welcomed guests and members.

Agenda: Carole Pietras made a motion to approve the October meeting agenda. Ginny Charvat seconded the motion and the agenda was unanimously approved.

Sept. Minutes: Terry Jones made a motion to approve the Sept. 11th minutes. Sandy Lippe seconded the motion and the September minutes were unanimously approved.

SDPD Report: Officer Hesselgesser explained his role as Community Relations officer for SDPD Northern Division. He announced that there would be an unused prescription drug Take Back Day on Oct. 26th and stated that he would be at Belmont Park between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to assist. He left flyers at the meeting that listed all locations for the Take Back event. Barry asked about robberies of homes that are tented for termites. Officer Hesselgesser said that there have been some robberies of tented homes and asked people to alert the police if their home was going to be tented. He closed by cautioning people not to leave valuables visible in their cars as there have been a rash of car break-ins.

Introduction of Legislative Representatives:

Mel Millstein - Sherri Lightner's Office reported that the city is about to repair water lines in the unpaved area of Regent's Road. When the repairs are finished, that section of Regent's Road will be repaved. He also reported that there will be Vcalm ? signs placed on Lippman St. The trees on the median of Genesee Ave by UCHS will be trimmed. He had no new information regarding the ban on grocery store plastic bags, but said that he will inform Barry whether the proposed ban would include small bags for fruits, etc. as well as carry-out bags.

Allison Don - Marty Block's Office reported that their office maintains an open door policy and encouraged people to communicate with the office regarding their concerns. She also said that she was remaining at the meeting so that she could listen to Toni Atkins' responses to the community's concerns about the clustering of drug rehab houses. She confirmed that Block's office works with Toni Atkins' office to resolve community concerns brought to their attention.

Toni Atkins - CA State Assemblywoman reported that the Legislative session for 2013 is finished and bills passed by the Legislature are on the Governor's desk. For the 2014 session, the biggest issues that will be debated are those that are state budget related and getting an affordable water plan for the state. She cited that as a result of voters' approval of several issues, such as getting the state budget passed on time with an agreement of the majority of the Legislature, as well as voter approval of Prop. 30, the state has acquired significant savings that has allowed it to reimburse schools and universities the money that was withheld during recession as well as targeting CSU and UC universities with additional funds.

She addressed the issue of redevelopment agencies in cities and said that after lengthy debate, all redevelopment agencies are being dissolved. This should result in significant savings that will go to counties, schools, and communities across the state.

Toni gave an update on the mandate for reducing the population in overcrowded state prisons. This has been a complex issue for the state, but said that the Governor and Legislature are looking at sentencing reforms, among other things to be able to meet the mandate.

The update on the High Speed Rail issue is that it is still pending in the legislature due to current financial concerns as well as community concerns as to how the train could impact communities along the route.

Toni gave an overview of the issues that concerned citizens will face when trying to ameliorate where residential drug rehab houses are located. She said that the legal issues in dealing with this problem are very complex and that they address both Federal and State laws and involve Constitutional rights. She said that Sacramento legal council will address these issues, but only when community groups/citizens have adequate documentation of problems surrounding the rehab facilities along with suggestions for solutions and communications with other state cities/communities that are having similar problems. Newport Beach is a community with significant problems in this area and communication with that city was encouraged. In answer to some questions from the floor about whether zoning could prohibit the clustering of these facilities, the answer was that zoning is local and any Federal or State regulation would trump local zoning laws. She reiterated that citizens were to document any activities that were offensive or illegal and to call police. She closed by saying that she would welcome any and all documentation from communities, but cautioned that the issue would probably not be addressed until the 2014 legislative session and only if her office had appropriate documentation to bring the issue to the floor. In response to some questions from the floor, Toni promised to give regular 3 to 5 month updates on the progress of dealing with this issue.

Public Forum: Jennifer Mares addressed the group on behalf of the Protect UC group which has recently been formed to address the problem of clusters of drug rehab facilities in residential communities. She passed out a sign-up sheet and encouraged concerned people to join the group. She said any and all suggestions would be considered and invited people to come to strategy sessions. Allison Don also commented Marty Block's office would continue to closely cooperate with Toni Atkins office and also encouraged people to communicate with their office.

President's Announcements: Barry announced that Ginny Charvat has put together a slate of candidates for the 2014 UCCA Board. He said that the elections will be held at the November meeting and that UCCA would accept nominations from the floor (write-in candidates) at that time.

Regarding September requests from UCHS Boosters, Curie Elementary, and EdUCate for funding, Barry indicated that all requests were funded upon agreement to do so from elected Board members. Barry then suggested that because UCCA meets only once per month, that requests for funding or other important issues be decided upon between monthly meetings by a unanimous approval of elected Board members. He said that he will bring an amendment to the UCCA By-Laws to that effect to the Nov. meeting for discussion.

Barry addressed the impending improvements/repairs to I-5, I-805, Voight Dr. and the Trolley extension, all of which will have significant traffic impacts on the UC community. All of these road improvements will take place over the next 6 to 8 years.

Elections: Ginny presented the slate of candidates for the November election to the 2014 UCCA Board. They are:

Barry Bernstein – President, Barbara Henshaw – Vice President, Ginny Charvat – Treasurer, & Bonnie Hornbeck – Secretary

Ginny indicated that Beth Crawford would prepare the ballots and Don Hotz would provide the ballot box and would count the ballots. After a short discussion, Mack made a motion that the slate of candidates be approved and Terry seconded the motion. The slate of candidates was unanimously approved.

Membership: Beth reported that there are now 532 household memberships. There have been 566 donations to UCCA and 16 new memberships from the beginning of October. Beth also announced that Hallie Burch (based on Board approval) would be the new chairwoman of the Membership Committee starting in 2014.

Correspondence: Barbara reported that she has sent a "Get Well" card from UCCA to Jane Reilly at Postal Annex who is recovering from a stroke. Barry & Sandy suggested that we also send a card to Sharon Thomerson, our librarian, who has had surgery recently.

Treasurer's Report: Ginny distributed the Treasurer's Report and reported that UCCA is in line with budget. She also suggested that she email the Treasurer's Report to the Board members prior to the monthly meeting so that they could examine it and pose questions either via email or at the meeting. Barbara made a motion that this concept be accepted and Bonnie seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

Old Business:

Landscaping Contracts (Merle): Merle gave an update on cleaning and maintaining the medians in UC. She indicated that she had four proposals plus a one-time cleaning of all 24 medians. She gave details on all four proposals, but indicated that the first proposal from Ponderosa Landscaping was the one she recommends for funding. This proposal would include all medians, including the Genesee Rd. pine tree median maintenance, but **not** repairs, parts, or plant replacements on any of the medians. Option A would cost \$3,888 per year averaging out to approximately \$30 per median. Merle said that trimming trees requires an arborist and is much more costly and could range from a few hundred per tree to over \$1,000 per tree. After discussion of all the alternatives, two motions were recommended; 1) to approve the first option of \$3,888, but with the understanding that UCCA would ask the owner, Mr. Angelucci, to help by contributing to the cost since it is partially his responsibility to maintain the Genesee median. The second motion was recommended to approve the one-time clean up for \$1,065 all medians. Barbara Henshaw made the motion for Option A (\$3,888/yr. with contact to the owner); Terry Jones seconded the motion. That motion was unanimously passed. The second motion which involved the one-time clean-up was made by Carole Pietras and seconded by Terry Jones. That motion was unanimously passed. Barry will go forward and contact Mr. Angelucci regarding contributing to the cost of maintaining the Genesee medians.

Editor's Bonus (Sandy) : Sandy recommended that UCCA give the newsletter editor (Sue) a bonus totaling \$600 - \$300 for computer repair/replacement and \$300 as an outright bonus. Lengthy discussion followed, including Barry's concerns related to a 10% raise might set a precedent for future bonuses. Barry suggested we take into consideration the job Terri Day does in arranging all the advertisements for the newsletter and find a way to provide her with some sort of bonus. It was by consensus to discuss this at our November meeting. Sandy then made a motion to give Sue two checks; one for \$300 for computer use and \$300 for bonus. Beth seconded the motion. The motion to give Sue two checks was passed unanimously.

Garden Club: Ginny reported that the bank account for the Garden Club has been closed because of certain concerns that had arisen previously. Barry announced that Merle Berman is willing to be the representative to UCCA from the Garden Club. The new procedure is that if the Club needs funds from UCCA, they will send a written request via Merle to UCCA. Merle suggested that the Garden Club continue to operate as they have

been except for requesting funding. Don Hotz made a motion that the Club continue to function as they have been, albeit with wine served. Carole seconded the motion. The motion passed with one vote against.

Tree Lighting Ceremony: Darlene reported that her group is combining the tree lighting ceremony with Standley Rec. Center's Santa's Dinner to make a Holiday Party. She estimated that the funds needed from UCCA are \$1,500, which is the same amount needed from the previous year. A motion was made by Andy Freeburn to fund the \$1,500 and seconded by Terry Jones. The motion to fund was unanimously approved.

Peter Burch Memorial Fountain: Sandy thanked all who attended the memorial service at Marcy Park. She requested an additional \$100 for photos that were taken at the event by James Floyd. She also asked for ads in the UC Newsletter for RemCon and James Floyd amounting to \$200 as a reward for their contributions and services at the memorial.

A motion to fund was made by Sandy and seconded by Merle. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

The next UCCA meeting will be on Wednesday, November 13, 2013.