



University City Community Association  
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### Telephonic Meeting via Zoom

## University City Community Association Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2021

**Present:** Barry Bernstein, President; Mack Langston, Vice President and Parliamentarian; Don Hotz, Treasurer; James Beshears, Secretary; Barbara Gellman, Neighborhood Watch/Beautification; Diane Ahern, Publicity and Promotions; Merle Langston, Beautification;; Deanna Ratnikova, liaison to UCSD and CPUS alternate

**Absent:** Hallie Burch, Barbara Henshaw

**Guests:** Ramon Ruelas, Mid-Coast Corridor Director of SANDAG for the trolley project; Georgia Kayser, new UCPG representative for South UC

**Call to Order:** President Barry Bernstein called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

**Approval of minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes for the April 14, 2021 regular meeting was made by Barbara Gellman, seconded by Merle Langston, and unanimously approved by the Board.

**Approval of the Agenda:** The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

### GUESTS

**GEORGIA KAYSER**, the new UCPG member, reported she is concerned about safety issues around schools in the UC area, including access, air quality and water quality. She is an assistant professor at UCSD School of Public Health with two kids attending Spreckels Elementary.

**RAMON RUELAS**, of SANDAG, gave a detailed presentation on the status of construction for the Mid-Coast Corridor trolley project. It involves 11 miles of track from Old Town to UTC Mall with a cost of \$2.1 billion. There will be 36 new cars for the area and the estimated time from Old Town to UTC is 22 minutes. The construction is on budget and on schedule for completion by late this year. It is 90% complete. MTS will start test runs within the next 2 months. He also reported on the status of related trolley projects such the Morena Double Track along Hwy. 5, the Tocolate Road Trolley Station, the Clairmont Dr. Trolley Station, and the Balboa Ave. Transit Center. All, plus various other stops, are under construction and nearing completion in the next few months.

Barbara Gellman inquired about security on the trolley. Mr. Ruelas said that MTS was increasing staffing by 20% for security.

**OFFICER M. BOGNUDA**, of the SDPD was unable to attend and President Bernstein provided the information. It was reported the SDPD recently arrested a person with 23 charges for theft of cars and property. Everyone was reminded to keep cars locked and to not leave property laying around. It was also reported the SDPD was aware of a homeless person seen on Genesee.

### COMMUNITY AND LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

**JEFF DOSICK** reported that a bike lane on Genesee south of Nobel had been eliminated during construction and should be reinstated. Chris Nielsen (President of the UCPG) said he was not aware of any plans for bike lanes on Nobel and would investigate it. He reported the Rose Creek Bike Path is expected to be completed in a few weeks. That will allow bikers to go from UC to Pacific Beach. He also reported his group was trying to get the City to install “Share the Road” signs and speed bumps to slow traffic on Ariba and Cargill streets in the Nobel area.

**BILL BECK** said graffiti will be a problem and inquired if there were plans to prevent it. Mr. Ruelas said it has already happened. He said he will work with the City of San Diego and the North County Transit to develop a plan to prevent it.

**DIANE AHERN**, President of the UC Fire Safety Council, reported: The state budgeted \$500 million for wildfire prevention and management. The amount to San Diego County is not yet known. The Council was working on the final draft of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Also, they were looking for grant funding for fire prevention programs, possibly through a county foundation and SDG&E.

Barry Bernstein inquired if the plans included reinstating a fast response team for west UC but that was unknown.

Melissa Martin, of the UC Library, said that a fire safety guide called “Ready Set Go” was available in both adult and children’s versions.

**JOHN LEE EVANS**, of Imagine 2020, reported the City and the school district were coordinating through City Councilman Joe LaCava and School Board Trustee Sabrina Bazzo on plans for completion of the project by Standley Park including reducing speed on Governor. One of the proposals is to reduce the lanes to one in each direction between Radcliff to Stadium Street.

**CHRIS NELSON**, President of the UCPG reported development of the old Sears site at the UTC Mall had no new developments; the Biomed building site on Town Center Road was getting closed to construction, and the lot split proposed for the property on Robbins Way was going slowly.

**JESSICA BROWN**, aide to Congressman Scott Peters, reported that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. She reported the Congressman was working on bills to assist schools to prevent mental health crisis and suicide though no legislation has been submitted yet. She also said there is an app portal for small businesses to request emergency assistance due to covid-19.

**KAITLYN WILLOUGHBY**, aide to Council member Joe LaCava, reported he has been spending a lot of time to address budget issues, approval of the franchise agreement with SDG&E, and long-range development plans for UCSD.

**SABRINA BAZZO**, a San Diego School Board trustee, reported:

- (1) Since Cindy Martin, the School superintendent, was approved as the Deputy Secretary of Education, Lamont Jackson was appointed as acting superintendent.
- (2) Schools have opened for in class instruction for 4 days a week. No Covid-19 outbreaks have been reported.
- (3) Thanks to John Lee Evans were expressed for his services as President of the San Diego School Board.
- (4) Summer school was opening to more student with academic subjects in the morning and “enrichment” programs in the afternoons.

**SPENCER KATZ**, legislative aide to Supervisor Tarra Remer-Lawson, reported:

- (1) the County was working on first in the country legislation to raise funds to hire lawyers for immigrants being denied due process rights.
- (2) Creating more sustainable workplace environments for employees.
- (3) Plant more native plants to create more biodiversity and more sustainable landscaping on County land and encourage it on private land.
- (4) The County was opening all its vaccination centers to walk ins without appointments, including those who are 12-15 years old not previously covered.
- (5) The County will launch an evidence-based policy program to evaluate if certain programs are successful or should be discontinued.

**DIANE AHERN** reported she was still waiting to hear when Standley Park was opening. The State still has no guidelines for “festival events” so the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event and summer concert series is still on hold.

Barry Bernstein commented the west side of the pool area looked like it was finished but there were delays in related construction.

**BARBARA GELLMAN**, of Neighborhood Watch (NW), requested \$400 to paint/decorate the electrical boxes by Stanley Park Middle School. On Motion by Barbara Gellman and second by Don Hotz, the Board unanimously approved the request. She also reported NW was starting neighborhood meetings with SDPD Officer Bognuda. NW is also working on replacing older signs that have weathered.

**TREASURERS REPORT** for April 2021 prepared by Don Hotz was unanimously approved by the Board on Motion by Dianne Ahern and second by Merle Langston.

**MEMBERSHIP STATUS** prepared by Hallie Burch was reported to be 654 members, or which 519 are family memberships.

**MERLE LANGSTON** reported she was still waiting for a quote from the landscaping Co. for weed removal on the medians. She requested authorization for approval not to exceed \$2,000 so she could quickly respond when a bid was received. On motion by Merle Langston and second by Don Hotz, it was unanimously approved.

**MACK LANGSTON** of SD Coalition reported they were having quarterly meetings with the next meeting next week. Safety issues would be discussed.

**Next Board Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be held on June 9, 2021 via zoom at 6:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by Barbara Gellman and seconded by Merle Langston with unanimous approval.

\*Recorded and submitted by James Beshears

\*\* Please note that various dates of future events referred to herein may be cancelled or continued because of COVID-19 restrictions.