

MINUTES OF UCCA MEETING February 8, 2023

HELD VIA ZOOM

Present: Diane Ahern, Mack Langston, James Beshears, Barry Bernstein, Barbara Gellman, Bill Beck, Julie Nydam

Absent: Jemma Samala (excused), Katie Rodolico (excused)

Call to Order: The Meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by President Diane Ahern

Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was unanimously approved after a motion by Bill Beck and second by Barry Bernstein.

Government Representatives and Community Leaders

Kent Lee, City Council Member for District 6, commented as follows: (1) There are approximately 155,000 residents in Dist. 6. (2) The new community representative for UC is Sheldon Zemen, who is a resident of UC. (3) Councilmember Lee is the chair of the transportation and infrastructure committee, and a member of the government efficiency committee. (4) The City is focusing on a comprehensive plan to fix potholes and replace/install streetlights on streets and public places. (5) The City is working on a budgeting process with priorities to be determined. Housing and homelessness are big issues. (6) Making sure infrastructure needs are met on an equitable basis will be stressed. (7) The City is monitoring Pure Water construction to make sure all work is on schedule, budget, and done to plans. (8) An area West of HWY. 5 but east of Gilman Dr. will become part of Dist. 6, rather than staying in Dist. 1. (9) The new way of calculating a "Transit Priority Area" ("TPA") at one mile walking distance rather than a ½ mile radius, will be better for determining true distances for people to walk to public transit. (10) Zoning for housing at the Vons and Sprouts shopping centers on Governor Dr. will not harm the center's retail businesses.

Michaela Valk, district representative for Mayor Gloria, responded to questions as to why residents were not notified of military helicopters flying over UC at low altitudes last week. She said the City was not notified in advance and will work with the military on providing notice in advance of such flights. She also reported: (1) The City was coordinating with the Federal Government to help military families and to provide early detection of cancer. (2) The City has refocused about 100 transportation workers to fix potholes. (3) The City was adopting more strict laws against fentanyl.

Lt. Dan Brinkerhoff, of SDPD, reported on changes in crimes citywide from 2021 to 2022. Property crimes (including burglary, larceny, auto theft) are collectively down 7.5%. Violent crimes are up 2% but overall calls to the police are down 5%. Officer calls to sites of reported crimes are down 12.9%. UC only statistics will be reported next month.

President's Remarks: Diane Ahern announced: (1) Pure Water project construction was currently on Executive Dr. and 805 Frwy. Tunnelling under the 805 is expected to start shortly. Tunnelling under San Clemente Creek on Genesee is continuing after water is removed from the tunnel. Additional work on Genesee will not commence until a traffic control plan is established. (2) An open house meeting will be held at the Atkinson Pavilion at UCSD on Feb. 27th at 5:30-6:30 pm.

Shelden Zemen, representative of District 6 Council member Trent Lee, reported: (1) He explained the new City program of classifying, planning, and overseeing large City projects. Strategic Capital Projects ("SCP") will have resident engineers onsite. The Public Utilities Department (PUD) will also have oversight. (2) Details on how people are to comply with the new food waste disposal will be coming out in April or May. New green waste bins are expected to be provided by June. (3) The City will host low-income children from different schools at Balboa Park next month. (4) Sarah Bowles will be the liaison from the City to meet with UC groups regarding Pure Water. (5) Costa Verde Center is in the process of obtaining permits required because of major changes to the original development plan.

Rachel Beck, representative of County Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, introduced herself and reported the Supervisor was working on various issues in 2023 including: (1) working on a program to expand housing for low-income seniors, and expand transitional housing for foster youth are over 18 but still in school. (2) Seizing ghost guns have reduced them by 30%, but still more guns than a few years ago. (3) Legislation will also require safe storage of firearms.

Mark A. Schaefer, District Representative for State Sen. Brian Jones (40th Dist.) reported the Senators priorities were reducing homelessness, cutting government costs, investing in students, cutting crime, increasing water storage, and expanding fire prevention. He is the vice-chair of the committee overseeing insurance.

Rachel Dugan, representative for U.S. Rep. Scott Peters, reported he was serving on the Energy Committee and was working on protection of employees from non-disclosure agreements demanded by employers. On February 27th, he is hosting a webinar on obtaining federal grants, with a focus on fine arts grants.

Suleyma Bilderas, aide to Assembly member Tasha Boerner-Horvath, 77th District reported: (1) she serves on the Joint Audit Committee and the Health Veterans Committee. She is an author of AB 45 which deals with issuing building permits to reduce carbon for coastal areas. (2) Assembly member Boerner-Horvath is also sponsoring AB 47 to have physical therapy for post-partum issues included in health insurance. (3) Their office is looking for students to be part of their internship program.

Chris Nielsen, Chair of the University City Planning Group (UCPG), reported: (1) Election of members is coming up. On Feb. 14th at 6:00 pm there will be a zoom meeting where candidates will make statements. An in-person meeting will be held on March 14th at 10300 Campus Pt. Dr., San Diego, CA. Elections will be at 6:00 pm. Ballots are on the UCPD agenda page or can be picked up and dropped off at either library in UC. (2) Information on the Community Plan Update is available in the UCCA newsletter. A meeting of the CPUS is on Feb. 21st from 6:00-8:00 pm and will be held at UC High School Media Center.

Azalea Ebbay, the Head Librarian at North UC Library, reported: (1) federal tax forms are delayed. State forms only are available. No tax assistance will be available this year. Assistance is available at the Serra Mesa and Kearny Mesa branches. (2) Instruction on Hands Only CPR is available on February 23rd. Details are posted on the library's website/ (3) The sum of \$1.4 million has been received from several grants to fund numerous capital improvement projects throughout San Diego going back several years. Plans for how the money is to be spent are underway.

Julie Nydam, Membership Chair, reported that current membership is 428. She had ideas for encouraging more people to join, including a promotion during the National Night out of Neighborhood Watch in August 2023.

Merle Langston, Chair of the Beautification Committee, reported that she is looking into a grant application to refresh and renovate medians on Governor Dr.

Mack Langston reported the Network of Town Councils has been restarted and he will attend meeting on behalf of the UCCA.

Barbara Gellman, Chair of Neighborhood Watch, reported she had contacted another contractor to paint addresses on curbs for a good price. She is still working out the details of how checks from people for payment will be handled.

A motion to adopt a budget for 2023 is tabled until next month. A motion by Diane Ahern, and second by Barry Bernstein, for authorization to submit an application, or applications for a grant from the County of San Diego is unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned on unanimous consent after a motion by Merle Langston and second by Diane Ahern.

The next meeting is March 8, 2023, at 6:00 pm via Zoom.