

MINUTES OF UCCA MEETING March 8, 2023

HELD VIA ZOOM

Present: Diane Ahern, Mack Langston, James Beshears, Barry Bernstein, Barbara Gellman, Bill Beck, Merle Langston, Katie Rodolico

Absent: Jemma Samala, Julie Nydam

Call to Order: The Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by President Diane Ahern.

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

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Jan. 11, 2023, and Feb. 8, 2023 Meetings of the Board were unanimously approved after Motion by Barry Bernstein and second by Merle Langston.

Sara Bowles and Clem Wassenberg of the City of San Diego Pure Water Project reported: (1) The City has two crews working Monday through Friday from 8-5, with occasional Saturdays. (2) One crew is working on Town Center Dr. and Executive Dr., and then southbound towards Judicial Dr. It is expected to take about 4 months to reach La Village Dr. (3) Tunnelling under the 805 Frwy. is about to begin after OSHA has a safety inspection. It is expected to take until September to finish the tunnel. (4) Another crew is working on Genesee Ave. from Clairmont to 52 Hwy. That section is almost complete but tunnelling under San Clemente Creek is delayed by rainwater in the tunnel that has to be pumped out after permits are acquired. (5) The next part from Hwy. 52 to Governor Dr. is expected to start on March 18th with traffic control equipment going up on March 21st. (6) Numerous pictures of work currently done and underway are on the City's website. (7) Information previously provided to the working group of the CPUS are now sent directly to the UCPG and the UCCA.

Diane Ahern, on behalf of Spreckels Elementary School, reported on the status of the renovation of the school buildings. The new building will include a two-story building for classrooms. It is expected to be completed in about two months.

Officer Anderson Brown, of the SDPD, reported various crime statistics for the UC area for 2022 compared to 2021 as follows: Traffic Collisions are down 12.5%. Most collisions are at intersections, with many at shopping centers. Rapes were down 66%. Armed robberies were down 50%. Aggravated assaults were down 20%. Violent crimes were down 14%. Residential burglaries were down 7% and non-residential burglaries were down 2%. Car thefts were down 2% and car prowls were down 32%. Calls to dispatch were down 1.5%. Statistics on the effect of homeless and trolley riders are not kept separately for the categories of crimes. On other matters, he said the SDPD was recruiting officers and cadets for the youth program. A "Streets Lights" program will be on March 10th at 615 Prospect St., La Jolla. Lastly, he said the SDPD was making progress on finding a person who has been assaulting or harassing women in the UC area. In discussions about homeless people in UC, he said one of the reasons for them coming to UC was feeling safer compared to downtown.

Legislative Leaders Representatives

Dustin Nguyen, aide to City Council Member (CM) Kent Lee, reported: (1) The CM was serving on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, and it was working on a plan for setting priorities for repairs and construction of roads and City facilities. (2) The Committee was working on a Smart Street Lights Program that will automate lighting of roads and public places. If problems with lighting and roads, he encouraged people to report it on the City's Get it Done app. (3) To find out if one's black trash can was eligible to be replaced, he said people should go to the City's website and provide the registration number on the can. (4) CM Lee will be at Standley Park Rec Center on March 18th at 10:00 am to discuss the improvements to be done to the center and the library on Governor Dr. along with other City matters. (5) The CM is looking into the issue of reducing Governor Dr. between Genesee and Regents to one lane in each direction.

Rachel Dugan, aide to Congress member Scott Peters, reported: (1) nominations to the service academies have been announced. (2) He is working on legislation to have the Navy develop affordable housing on and around its bases, including Pt. Loma Naval Base. (3) He is working on legislation to prohibit non-disclosure agreements. (4) April 1st is the deadline to apply for internships. (5) The Congress member will in our district on April 13th and 14th to check out new district borders.

Rachel Beck, aide to County Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, reported (1) The County Board of Supervisors ("Board") is working on an more sustainable and affordable plan for land use and home construction. Higher density will be implemented to avoid urban sprawl and avoid litigation for development projects. (2) The County has commenced the Mobile Crises Response Team (MCRT) to handle mental health issues. Mental health professionals can be reached at number 988 and teams can be dispatched where appropriate. If MCRT determines it is not the right place, it may refer call to 911. (3) The County has a fund to help seniors struggling to pay rent with a subsidy of up to \$500 per month.

Marc Schaefer, aide to St. Senator Brian Jones, reported: (1) At the request of the Senator, and others, the IRS has approved an exemption from income taxes for the State of California Middle Class Tax Refund distributed in 2022. (2) The Senator sent a letter to the Governor requesting a delay on switching to "summer blend" of gasoline that is more expensive, and to delay an increase in the gas tax scheduled for July 1st. He also requested an extension of the diesel gas tax suspension. (3) Three pending state senate bills were described. SB 44 will increase penalties for fentanyl dealers. SB 67 will provide for better tracking of overdoses. SB 237 will increase penalties for importing fentanyl. (4) An Assembly bill will expand regulation of sex offenders, including the placement of violent sex offenders. (5) The State will increase tax exemptions for military retirees.

President's Remarks: Diane Ahern announced: (1) March 11th is "Shred Fest" sponsored by Kate Upham. More details to be provided by Ms. Upham. (2) Council Member Lee will be at Standley Park Rec Center on March 18th at 10:00 am to discuss issues concerning the Rec Center and the library on Governor Dr., along with other issues. (3) The UC Fire Safe Council is meeting on March 18th and will be giving out carbon monoxide detectors at the North UC library in the afternoon.

Community Leaders

Chris Nielsen, Chair of the University City Planning Group (UCPG), reported: (1) UCPG must have live and online (Zoom) meetings. Committee members must attend in person. The Community Plan Update Subcommittee (“CPUS”) may have meetings live or online. (2) The election of some new members will be on March 14, 2023, at the UCPG meeting. Ballots are available online at the UCPG website and may be dropped off at the Library on Governor Dr. Voting is from March 9-13th. (3) A “Discussion Draft” of the CPU (Community Plan Update) will be presented to the UCPG at the next meeting on April 11th. (4) The (non-discussion) draft will be released in June and then open to public comment for 30-45 days. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be based on the non-discussion draft.

Katie Rodolico, liaison from the UCCA to the UCPG stated that it is important to be polite, civil and avoid interrupting speakers and yelling when attending UCPG and UCPUS meetings.

Kendra Cole, of Educate, explained the Taste of the Triangle fundraiser set for May 12th from 7-10pm at the Farmer in the Sea restaurant. It is \$85 per person until May 1st and \$100 thereafter. There will be food from local restaurants, drinks, and dancing, plus a live auction. More information is at UCEduCate.org. The sum of \$1,500 was requested and unanimously approved on motion by James Beshears and second by Merle Langston.

Centurion Foundation, through Anne Cass, requested \$500 for new jerseys for the track team that are not funded by the school. It was unanimously approved on motion by Bill Beck and second by Barbara Gellman.

Katie Dunahoo, of Coldwell Banker, reported “shred fest” would be on March 11th behind the Coldwell Banker offices from 9-11:30 am.

Bonnie Kutch, of “Save UC”, said there was a rally to protest the UC Plan Update on March 11 at 10:00 am at the intersection of Governor and Genesee.

Azalea Ebay, of San Diego Public Library, reported \$1.4 million has been received from various grants for capital improvements to libraries throughout San Diego. Plans on how the money is to be spent are underway.

James Beshears reported a neighbor’s small dog was taken and killed by a coyote at 9:00 pm in his front yard on Agee Street when the dog was only about 5 feet away from him. Pictures of a coyote with a dead dog in its mouth was recently taken during the day. A report was filed with the State Department of Fish and Game. Anyone who have encountered coyotes in your area should report it to the City and State.

Barbara Gellman reported she has found a contractor to paint addresses on the curbs. There will be a white background with black lettering. Names of interested people will be collected and turned over to the contractor. The cost is \$15.00 per residence. This was unanimously approved on motion by Barbara Gellman and second by Mack Langston.

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

Diane Ahern, on behalf of Julie Nydam, reported that total membership is 491.

Adele Tarantino, of Cal Coast Credit Union, has offered space for the UCCA to use for meetings. (In the Sprouts Shopping Center by Starbucks). The next meeting will be live.

The Next meeting will be on April 12 at 6:00 pm at Cal Coast Credit Union located at 3202 Governor Dr., Suite 102 (Sprouts Shopping Center).

The Meeting was adjourned on unanimous consent after a motion by James Beshears and seconded by Merle Langston.