

MINUTES OF UCCA MEETING October 11, 2023

Held on Zoom

Present: Diane Ahern, Mack Langston, Jemma Semala, James Beshears, Barry Bernstein, Merle Langston, Barbara Gellman, Katie Rodolico, Julie Nydam

Absent: Bill Beck

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 Mack Langston and a second by Barry Bernstein.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes for the meeting held on September 13, 2023, were unanimously approved after a motion by Bill Beck and second by Merle Langston.

President's Announcements: Diane Ahern reported: (1) The newsletter for October is exceptional, with lots of information important for people interested in UC. (2) The election of officers for the 2-year term starting December 1, 2023, will be held on November 8th at the library on Governor. Voting is from 5-7pm and the meeting is 6-7:30 pm. (3) The candidates are: Jemma Samala for president, James Beshears for vice-president, Phil Fowler for treasurer, and Katie Rodolico for Recording Secretary.

Candidate Backgrounds:

Jemma Samala- President has been a resident in the area since 1999. She has been the treasurer for the past 2 years and a board member for many years. She is also the editor of the newsletter, a member of the Fire Safe Council, and president of the UC Garden Club. She is also the former president of UC Little League and Educate! She currently works for the Vista Hill Foundation that treats people with mental health and substance abuse problems.

James Beshears- Vice-President has been a resident of UC since 1994. He has been the Recording Secretary for the past 4 years. He has also been a member of the July 4th Committee for 5 years. He is a retired lawyer.

Phil Fowler-Treasurer has been a resident of UC for 30 years. He is retired from banking and has served on non-profit boards and maintaining their books.

Katie Rodolico-Recording Secretary has been a resident of UC since she was four years old. She has served on the Pure Water Working Group and is the UCCA representative on the Community Plan Update Subcommittee. She has also been a volunteer at the library and involved in various school activities when her children were young.

Legislative and Community Reports

Marc Schaefer, aide to State Senator Scott Jones, reported: (1) Around 1300 people attended an open house at their new offices in Scripps Ranch. (2) Educate! was recognized as the non-profit of the year for

the 40th Senate District for supporting schools in UC. (3) The Caste Discrimination Bill aimed at the Hindu Community passed the Senate and Assembly but was vetoed by the Governor as such discrimination is already prohibited by other laws. (4) A bill to aide homeless people did not pass the Senate but San Diego City passed a law to assist homeless and regulate where they can camp. (5) An audit of Liberty Healthcare on how it determines where to place sexual predators who have served criminal sentences was approved. (6) SB 14 was approved, and sex trafficking is now part of the “three Strikes” law for sentencing. (7) AB 46 was approved which makes veteran pensions non-taxed as income.

Zach Burton, legislative aide to Council member Kent Lee, reported: (1) Mattress and Box Spring recycling has commenced at Miramar Landfill. It is open 7 am to 7pm, M-F: (2) Unused and expired prescriptions may be disposed of by dropping them off at the Council Member’s offices in Mira Mesa on Oct. 28th. (contact his office for location).

Michaela Valk, aide to Mayor Gloria, reported: (1) There will be a delay until early 2024 for the City’s next draft of the Community Plan Update (CPU) as the City Attorney’s Office is reviewing the current draft and the response by the Community Plan Update Subcommittee. (2) An ordinance to prohibit camping in parks, near schools and churches is pending with the City Council. Safe camping locations on City property at 20th and B Street (115 tents), and at the “O” lot by Balboa Hospital (400 tents) are either open or opening soon. There will be tents, toilets, showers, and storage for people staying on the lots. (3) SB 43 was approved by the Governor which expands who qualifies for conservatorships. In the spring, mental health facilities will be expanded across the state.

Robson Winter, aide to Assemblymember Tasha Boerner (District 77), presented an extensive report that discusses bills sent to the Governor for approval, bills that have been signed by the Governor, and Public Utilities Commission issues as follows:

Bills presented to the Governor (not approved as of Oct. 11th): (1) AB 265 postpones deadline to file property taxes; (2) AB 399 regulates San Diego Co. Water authority bill; (3) AB 548 regulates Code Enforcement Supplemental Inspections; (4) AB 719 regulates Medi-Cal Transportation Reimbursement.

Bills signed by the Governor: (1) AB 72 extends the deadline by one year (Jan. 1, 2026) for Scripps Institution of Oceanography to complete the warning system for bluff collapse research and report due to the legislature. (2) AB 548 allows code enforcement officers to inspect additional units when uncovering severely substandard conditions during a complaint-based inspection. (3) AB 559 extends the expiration date for California Senior Legislature Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund to remain on a tax return through 2030. (4) AB 716 prevents surprise billing for emergency ground ambulance transport and requires that plans and insurers pay locally set rates if out of network. (5) AB 812 authorizes local governments to set aside 10 percent of affordable housing units for artists if within one-half mile of a state or local designated cultural district. (6) AB 1294 creates a narrowly tailored advertising exception to the States tied-house restrictions for Surf Ranch in King’s County. (7) AB 1481 requires the Dept. of Health Care Services to ensure a pregnant person continues to receive temporary coverage for prenatal care until their full-scope Medi-Cal application is approved or denied.

Two-Year Bills: (1) AB 530 establishes licensing and training requirements for E-Bike riders, and it prohibits riders under 12. (2) AB 47 requires health insurers to cover pelvic floor physical therapy after pregnancy to help postpartum complications. (3) AB 768 establishes the Office of Broadband and Digital Equity within the Public Utilities Commission to centralize all broadband and digital equity related activities within state government.

Actions concerning Public Utilities Commission. The Assemblymember is pushing for more transparency in how rates are set and stronger oversight. An audit was performed which will assist in regulating how prices are set.

Chris Nielsen, Chair of the UCPG, provided a summary of the October planning group meeting and planning group reform as follows: (1) The City is developing a uniform policy across all departments for how their digital interfaces, such as the Get It Done app, are to interact with the public. (2) Rules governing Community Planning Groups are changing with more emphasis on all voices in the community based on demographics. The City want more families, with and without school-age children, and renters along with homeowners. (3) The UCPG must report revisions to the City by the end of the year. Mandatory changes needed include no meeting attendance required to run for a board seat, attending at least two thirds of board meetings in a year, a two-year gap in service after terming-out from the board, and appointed seats only being non-voting. (4) Since the City's revised rules disallow voting by appointed members, the UCCA will have to revise its rules as many of residents live on campus. The UCPG decided to add a 4th district comprised of residents who live on UCSD campus who would be able to vote.

Helen Lebowitz, of the Friends of the Library foundation, reported that the foundation will request a donation of \$500 from the UCCA at the meeting in November. Matching funds from the City will increase the amount to \$750. There is a book sale on November 4th in the Community Room. They will be selling books, records, and puzzles.

Melissa Martin, head of the library on Governor, reported that from Oct. 1st through Oct. 31st, the library was collecting donations for dog products such as food, toys, and leashes.

Barry Bernstein reported that the UC holiday celebration will be at Standley Recreation Center on December 8th, with dinner with Santa for kids, lighting the Christmas tree and Menorah, along with holiday carols by local singing groups.

Pure Water Status

Clem Wassenberg and Sarah Bowles provided an update on the construction of the pipelines. The three tunnels are still under construction. They are under 805 Freeway, Hwy. 52 and Genessee, and in Rose Canyon in front of UC High School. 8,265 linear feet of pipe has been laid. Work on the intersection of Governor and Genessee is at night from 8 pm to 5:30 am. Work on Towne Centre Dr. is from 9 pm to 6 am. Details are provided at purewaterSD.org. A City arborist will be inspecting the pine trees on Genessee to determine which are not safe and need to be removed. Islands and medians will be covered with temporary asphalt until the City develops a landscaping plan.

UCCA Status Reports

Jemma Samala submitted the Treasurer's Report for the month ending September 30th. There is \$11,208.57 in cash on hand, plus \$400.00 in the Socks Donations Account, and plus \$2,500 coming in from UTC Mall. The report was approved by acclimation.

Julie Nydam of Membership reported that there are 88 new members to join for 2024.

Barbara Gellman of Neighborhood Watch reported that it received \$475 in donations for 90 pairs of socks. She also reported there were three new street captains, and that Council Member Kent Lee was getting new Neighborhood Watch signs. She also reported that 425 homes have had their curbs painted with street numbers and the second round of painting was almost completed.

Merle Langston of Beautification reported that the application to the County for landscaping funds has been submitted. It is expected that \$7,000 will be used for median improvements and \$3,000 for various other projects.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent after a motion by James Beshears and second by Jemma Samala.

The next meeting will be held on November 8th, at 6:00 pm, live at the library on Governor Dr. Voting for new officers for the two years starting December 1, 2023 will commence at 5:00 pm.

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