

BANKERS HILL COMMUNITY GROUP MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 20, 2023
Bankers Hill Clubhouse, 3030 Front Street

BHCG Co-Chair Pete Politzer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The following Steering Committee members were present at that time: Politzer, Co-Chair John Percy, Treasurer Jeanne Rawlings, Secretary John Lamb, Michael Reyes, Aaron Reyes, and Michael Meacham. Approximately 57 people were in attendance.

Politzer welcomed attendees and announced that: new t-shirts are available for BHCG volunteers; the city has finally broken ground on Olive Street Park; and Uptown Planners will soon hold an election.

BHCG Committee Reports

Project Review Committee: Percy said the committee is keeping an eye on several projects, including a city plan to add parking spaces on Balboa Drive on Balboa Park's West Mesa. The PRC prefers an alternative proposal to add a two-way cycle track, Percy said. He said the committee hopes the Balboa Park Committee, which earlier rejected the cycle-track proposal, will reconsider its vote.

Featured Business — Postal Annex

Karl Domond, a former aerospace engineer and the new proprietor of the Postal Annex at Fourth Avenue and Laurel Street, introduced himself to attendees and described the improved services available, including a new notary on staff during business hours and a full business center. He said Amazon returns are also now accepted there via UPS.

Non-Agenda Public Comment

No public comments.

Local Government Representatives

Cesar Solis, head of constituent services for U.S. Rep. Scott Peters, Bankers Hill's newest congressman, introduced himself and discussed how his office can help residents, including how to obtain passports in a timely fashion.

January Roundtable Follow-Up: Community Relations Officer Larry Turner

San Diego Police Department Officer Turner addressed questions he had received while hosting the law-enforcement table during the January "roundtable" general meeting, including how to report crimes effectively. He also said police responses to "Get It Done" app requests are "getting better." He noted that the city is short 31 "call takers" because other cities that offer better pay are "poaching" employees. As far as officers go, Turner said even with the current crop of newly sworn officers, "it's half what the city should have."

Forever Balboa Park Presentation

Elizabeth Babcock, president and CEO of Forever Balboa Park, talked about plans for the non-profit and city's "crown jewel." Forever Balboa Park, she said, resulted from the merger of the Balboa Park Conservancy and Friends of Balboa Park. Now in its second year, Babcock said the non-profit has a \$6 million operating budget, 14 full-time employees and boasts more than 350 volunteers. Its mission, she said, is to sustain and enhance Balboa Park. One challenge, she said, is the "severe" labor shortage within the city's Park and Recreation Department.

Maple Canyon Restoration Project Update

Daniel Yelsits, project manager for the city, brought attendees up to date on the massive project to replace 16 storm drains and run a 48-inch outflow pipe under West Maple Street at the west end of the canyon. Pedestrian bridges will also be installed as well as new landscaping. He said canyon trails will be kept open on the weekends but will likely face closures on weekdays.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Lamb, Secretary.