

BANKERS HILL COMMUNITY GROUP MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 16, 2022

Bankers Hill Clubhouse, 3030 Front St.

BHCG Steering Committee member Ben Baltic called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The following Steering Committee members were present: Baltic, Pete Politzer, Vice Chair Becky Veen, Treasurer Jeanne Rawlings, Secretary John Lamb, John Percy and Bruce Dammann. There were approximately 63 people in attendance.

Baltic welcomed attendees to the meeting and proceeded to read a written communication from Kohta Zaiser, deputy director of community engagement for Mayor Todd Gloria about the recent end to a zero-bail policy for certain misdemeanor offenses that took effect during the COVID pandemic to reduce jail overcrowding.

Treasury Report

Rawlings reported \$4,035.87 in the bank.

SDPD Liaison Report

Veen said she participated via Zoom in the recent Captain's Advisory meeting, during which COVID challenges were discussed, including short staffing and a court system backlogged two years. She encouraged attendees to continue submitting Get It Done reports to get more attention for Bankers Hill.

Safe Play Zone Update

Sarah Hernholm updated attendees on the latest efforts to secure a safe environment for children in the playground area south of Upas near Sixth Avenue in Balboa Park. She said the new bathrooms have produced challenges, from overdoses to fires to stalls occupied at night by the unsheltered. Hernholm said she was grateful for the city's custodial staff, who she said face constant challenges, and Community Relations Officer Larry Turner, who has offered "great support." She said there's been television coverage, a petition with 550 signatures, and plans for a May 21 cleanup with Forever Balboa Park pitching in to help. Hernholm said she has written numerous emails to Mayor Gloria and Councilmember Stephen Whitburn seeking assistance, including the possibility of closing the restrooms at night.

Non-Agenda Public Comment

No comments.

Government Representatives

Ryan Darsey, director of community engagement for Councilmember Whitburn, said only the mayor can decide to limit public restroom hours. He said suggestions include closing the restrooms from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m. daily or adding a port-a-potty that would be available 24/7. Darsey said he would be discussing the issue with the mayor's office and city Park and Recreation leaders.

Stopher Vallejo, representing state Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, provided updates on legislation affecting first-time homebuyers, investigations of county jail deaths, road repairs and mental-health issues.

2022 San Diego Pride Festival

Bob Leyh, programs manager, Jen LaBarbera, director of education and advocacy, and Mark Maddox, director of programs, brought attendees up to speed on plans for this year's local Pride celebrations. LaBarbera said little will change from 2019, including encouraging the use of public

transportation, ride-sharing services, and scooters. The theme will be “justice with joy,” Leyh said. Baltic noted how important the Pride event is, given current anti-LGBTQ sentiment in some corners of the country.

San Diego Complete Communities Program Presentation

Tom Mullaney, former chair of Uptown Planners, provided his interpretation of the city’s Complete Communities program, arguing “the community will not benefit.” He suggested that the city encourages developers to tear down neighborhoods and build density. He encouraged attendees to sign up with his organization, Uptown United, and added that the proposed 301 Spruce Street project will be reviewed by Uptown Planners in June.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Lamb, Secretary.