

**BANKERS HILL COMMUNITY GROUP  
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, April 18, 2022  
Bankers Hill Clubhouse, 3030 Front St.

BHCG Steering Committee member Pete Politzer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The following Steering Committee members were present: Politzer, Vice Chair Becky Veen, John Percy, Secretary John Lamb and Bruce Dammann. There were approximately 47 people in attendance.

Politzer welcomed attendees to the meeting and reported there was \$4,035.87 in the bank.

**Non-Agenda Public Comment**

Don Liddell announced that he had self-nominated to become a Neighborhood Watch block captain in his area north of Maple Canyon. He said he would be holding an informational meeting in early May. SDPD Community Relations Officer Larry Turner will be in attendance, Liddell said.

Michael Meacham said he has gathered several hundred signatures supporting a stop sign on Fifth Avenue at Redwood Street. An informal show of hands from attendees demonstrated that about 20 people support the Fifth Avenue stop sign. Politzer said the Steering Committee would take up the matter at its meeting on Thursday.

**Government Representatives**

Abbey Reuter with county Supervisor Nathan Fletcher's office provided an update on county issues.

Kohta Zaiser, representing Mayor Todd Gloria, sent a written communication stating that the West Mesa area of Balboa Park has been flagged for consistent cleanups on a nearly daily basis.

**Kate Sessions "Lost" Garden Presentation**

Horticultural historian Nancy Carol Carter took attendees on a virtual tour of a "lost" Kate Sessions garden near 6th and Laurel known as the San Jose Hesper Palm Grove, which had been forgotten for nearly a century. A tree inventory several years ago determined that the 188 San Jose Hesper palms counted constituted the largest collection of the Baja California-native species. Carter said the palm is even rare in Mexico because it was cut down to use as a building material. She said the remedy to the years of forgetfulness is to recognize the palm grove formally within Balboa Park. The organization Forever Balboa Park already supports the concept. The original grove consisted of 325 palms, all grown from seeds brought back from Mexico.

**Safe and Clean West Mesa Children's Playground Presentation**

Sarah Hernholm and Aaron Reyes made a presentation about homeless encampments that are creating issues at the children's playground south of Upas and just north of the newly opened public restrooms on the West Mesa. Hernholm said it is hoped that parents and local homeowners will have a voice in preventing encampments from growing near city playgrounds. Children, she said, deserve a safe place to play and also go to the bathroom. She said she has filed numerous complaints about the activity, from indecent acts in the playground and open-flame grilling to general lack of upkeep. Reyes said the new restrooms are being destroyed and should be closed at night.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Lamb, Secretary.