

## **BANKERS HILL COMMUNITY GROUP MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, April 17, 2023

Bankers Hill Clubhouse, 3030 Front Street

BHCG Co-Chair Pete Politzer called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. The following Steering Committee members were present at that time: Politzer, Co-Chair John Percy, Secretary John Lamb, Aaron Reyes, Michael Reyes, Michael Meacham and Ann Kilrain. (Treasurer Jeanne Rawlings arrived later.) Approximately 32 people were in attendance.

Politzer welcomed attendees and announced that volunteers are needed for the upcoming Pride cleanup in July. He said newly designed BHCG t-shirts will be available for volunteers. Politzer noted that volunteers are also still needed for the May luncheon at the Bankers Hill Clubhouse.

### **BHCG Committee Reports**

No reports.

### **Featured Business — Jimmy Carter’s Mexican Cafe**

Restaurant proprietor Jimmy Carter reminisced about growing up in Bankers Hill and running an eatery that’s become a local institution. Carter said he bought the restaurant back in 1991 and has observed the neighborhood change four times — from residential to doctor’s offices to businesses and now back to residential, but this time a lot denser. He boasted about his cafe’s *chile rellenos* and using authentic Oaxacan cheese. Carter was asked about rumors that he was moving the restaurant. He said it looked that way three years ago when his lease was running out. But with interest rates up, a deal to redevelop the property fell through, Carter said, adding he thinks he’s “safe” for another year. He offered attendees 10 percent discount coupons.

### **Non-Agenda Public Comment**

Bonnie Hartmeyer from the San Diego Floral Association announced its upcoming garden tour in Bankers Hill, including a rare opening of the iconic Long-Waterman Queen Anne mansion at First Avenue and Kalmia Street. “Hidden Riches: Gardens of Historic Bankers Hill” will take place May 20 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tickets are available at [sdfloral.org](http://sdfloral.org), she said, or on the day of the tour in the Bankers Hill Clubhouse parking lot at 3030 Front Street. She also said volunteers and docents are needed.

### **Local Government Representatives**

Emily Bonner, representing Councilmember Stephen Whitburn, said the San Diego City Council’s Land Use & Housing Committee voted 3-1 without recommendation to forward a homeless encampment ban proposal to the full council. No date for that hearing as of yet, she said. She added that city budget season is also upon us, with budget hearings beginning May 3. Bonner said the transportation budget will grow to \$108 million for road repairs, sidewalk improvements, traffic signals and bridges.

Peter Raymond, Bankers Hill parking district member, said new lights are being installed on the Cabrillo Bridge.

### **Bankers Hill Maintenance Assessment District Formation Update**

Marco Li Mandri, president of New Cities America, provided an update on a proposal to form a maintenance assessment district within a significant portion of the Bankers Hill neighborhood. One idea under consideration, Li Mandri said, is creation of a “Balboa Park Paseo,” which he described as a five-foot-wide pathway of decomposed granite that would run along the West Mesa from Upas Street to Elm Street. A vote by affected property owners will likely take place in October or November, with the goal of starting assessments in January.

### **Green Bins**

Julie Sands, recycling program manager for the city's Environmental Services Department, provided attendees with an overview of the new organic-waste collection program, which is intended to keep as much methane-producing food waste out of the Miramar landfill, which currently accepts approximately 900,000 tons of trash annually. State law now requires residents to separate organic waste from other trash and place it in new green bins that the city is currently distributing citywide through the summer. Bankers Hill residents received bins in recent months. The organic waste is processed by the city and sold back to the public as nutrient-rich compost, Sands said. City residents are offered two cubic yards for free, she added. She acknowledged it's a behavioral change for residents but a necessary one to fight climate change and lessen the landfill impact. Some attendees noted the new bins, if not emptied regularly, can "stink." Sands said additional pickups can be requested.

### **The Green Infrastructure Consortium**

Vicki Estrada, San Diego landscape architect, and Laurie Broedling shared their vision as co-founders of the consortium, which aims to find nature-based solutions to shape San Diego County into a sustainable and resilient region. Estrada said the consortium hopes to make the region a better place, but it's a race against time. Local leaders aren't doing enough to go after the grant money available to move forward. Some ideas include more green roofs, removal of impervious surfaces, and more bioswales that naturally treat stormwater runoff. More information may be found at [greeninfrastructureconsortium.org](http://greeninfrastructureconsortium.org).

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Lamb, Secretary.