

BANKERS HILL COMMUNITY GROUP MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 21, 2020
Via Zoom videoconference

BHCG Chair Amie Hayes welcomed attendees to the informal December “ugly sweater” holiday meeting at 6:32 p.m. Steering Committee members in attendance included Chair Hayes, Vice Chair Nancy Moors, Treasurer Jeanne Rawlings, Secretary John Lamb, Char Lou Benedict, John Percy and Peter Raymond. Approximately 17 people participated in the virtual meeting. Hayes reminded attendees that January’s annual Roundtable meeting will be held virtually for the first time.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Rawlings reported that as of November 30, there was \$3,856.21 in the bank.

BHCG Project Updates

ADOPT-A-PLOT — Percy brought attendees up to speed on plans for BHCG to participate in the Friends of Balboa Park’s Adopt-A-Plot program. The plot in mind, Percy said, is a strip of land on the west side of the Redwood Bridge Club at 3111 Sixth Avenue and an adjacent patch to the north. A local landscape architect volunteered time to come up with a beautiful plan, Percy said, and the city has signed off on it. Nurseries will now be consulted to get cost estimates on plants, which should be known by February. The hope would be to get shovels in the ground by April, although COVID could alter those plans, he noted. Hayes thanked Percy for getting this proposal as far as he has.

AIRPORT NOISE — Benedict reported to attendees about her experience attending meetings of the Airport Noise Advisory Committee, which describes itself as “a forum for collaborative discussion of airport noise issues and other related matters.” The problem, Benedict said, is Bankers Hill residents don’t complain about airport noise despite the community’s proximity to San Diego International Airport. She shared a website where flights are tracked in real time and where to file a complaint if noise levels are exceeded. Air traffic, she said, is down 50 percent.

Government Representatives

Congresswoman-elect Sara Jacobs dropped in on the meeting. She said she will assume office on January 3. She said she appreciates the informative events that BHCG organizes and acknowledged that it has been a difficult year for everybody. Regarding the pandemic, Jacobs said ICU units are stretched to capacity but the news regarding vaccines is good. She said a vote on a COVID relief package should be occurring “any minute now” and should be helpful for families. She said she looks forward to her swearing-in ceremony but isn’t sure how that will look. She said 2021 should be a better year.

San Diego City Attorney Mara Elliott called in and said she appreciated being invited to attend. She wished everyone a wonderful 2021 and hopes to help neighborhoods in the coming year deal with nuisances and code-enforcement matters.

Kohta Zaiser, new community representative for Mayor Todd Gloria, said homelessness will be the mayor’s top priority. He said community engagement will be critical.

Vice Chair Moors noted that the BHCG’s relationship with the previous mayor was “spotty.” Moors said she hoped that a mayoral rep would be able to attend the group’s monthly meetings.

Newly elected District 3 Councilmember Stephen Whitburn spoke next. He said he is looking forward to working together with the BHCG. He said Emily Bonner will be Bankers Hill’s new

community representative. With his new committee appointments, Whitburn said he hopes to get a lot done.

Jessica Mier, district director for outgoing Congresswoman Susan Davis, discussed a COVID relief package that just passed in Congress. While \$600 is “not a lot for San Diegans,” she said she hopes the next Congress will provide more relief.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Lamb, Secretary.