

**BANKERS HILL COMMUNITY GROUP
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, April 15, 2019
Bankers Hill Clubhouse, 3030 Front St.

BHCG Vice Chair Nancy Moors called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The following Steering Committee members were present: Moors, Ann Garwood, John Lamb, John Percy, Becky Veen and Ben Baltic. There were approximately 40 people in attendance.

Announcements

Moors welcomed attendees and urged them to continue to bring a neighbor to future meetings. She also announced that the BHCG meeting in May will feature Mike Kelly, chairman of the Committee of 100, an organization focused on preserving the Spanish Colonial architecture in Balboa Park. Kelly will talk about proposed improvements to the Palisades area of the park, north of the San Diego Air & Space Museum and currently dominated by a large parking lot. She added that the September and October meetings will feature candidate forums for the 2020 election of San Diego mayor and District 3 City Council member, respectively. The League of Women Voters will moderate the forums.

Non-Agenda Public Comment

Bob Leyh, programs manager for San Diego Pride, gave an update on preparations for this year's San Diego Pride festivities taking place in Bankers Hill, including the culminating parade and Pride Festival on the west side of Balboa Park. Leyh thanked attendees for "letting us use your neighborhood" and said organizers try hard to be good neighbors. He said about 45,000 people will be drawn to the community over a two-day weekend period and acknowledged that can be frustrating at times. He talked about free shuttles that will be available from the spacious old Navy Hospital parking lot off of Park Boulevard from 8 a.m. until midnight. Designated Uber and Lyft drop-off spots will be available on 6th Avenue near Kalmia. He also said 40 additional temporary trash bins will be distributed from Hawthorn north toward Upas and west to First Avenue. Pride volunteers will also help on Saturday and Sunday in maintaining the neighborhood trash boxes. Recycling bins will also be made available. He also introduced Paul Johnson, the new volunteer neighborhood liaison for San Diego Pride, who will be available at 760-891-6330 for complaints about noise, illegal parking or other issues. Leyh concluded by saying San Diego Pride last year gave \$170,000 back to a variety of local community organizations, including BHCG, which assists annually in Pride cleanup activities. Moors noted that the outreach from Pride organizers over the last few years has greatly improved, and she thanked Leyh for those efforts.

One attendee complained about increased traffic on First Avenue. He said he lives near First and Spruce and observes motorists rolling through that intersection, speeding at 45 mph in a 25-mph zone. He said he contacted police several times but nothing has been done. Moors suggested having Community Police Officer Marlo Woods, in attendance, address that issue in his remarks.

Peter Raymond, from the local parking district, announced that "Walk the Walk" directional signs will come before Uptown Planners in May, and everything seems in order. He said the hope is to get the signs installed within the next couple months.

Moors also appealed to attendees to become a BHCG Steering Committee member. Meetings occur on the Thursday following the BHCG monthly meetings and take place at Merrill Gardens at Second Avenue and Laurel Street. The meeting is open to anyone interested in getting more involved in Bankers Hill community matters.

BHCG Director John Percy asked for volunteers to help serve lunch on April 28 at the Bankers Hill Clubhouse. He also said voting will take place at the May BHCG meeting to select from nominations for the annual Community Improvement Awards. Deadline for nominations, he added, is April 31.

Treasurer's Report

Moors reported that the BHCG has \$3,591 in the bank. She said ideas are still being accepted for ways to spend those funds in the community.

Government Representatives

Maria Bojorquez-Gomez, staff assistant for Congresswoman Susan Davis, updated attendees on the work of the local representative. One attendee asked if Davis "can do anything to stop the chemtrails."

Toni Duran, representing Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins, updated the audience on state legislative matters, including recent funding updates for community plan updates and housing. She also reminded attendees that U.S. Census count begins soon and urged everyone to participate. Funding for services depends on an accurate count, she said.

Javier Gomez, spokesman for Assemblymember Todd Gloria, discussed upcoming events, including an Easter Basket Drive for children and a California Latino Legislative Caucus Foundation scholarship offering.

San Diego Police Community Relations Officer Marlo Woods reported that planning is under way for this year's National Night Out festivities, which will take place Aug. 6. He said the community should let him know if it wants to participate. He also asked for input in setting up a "Coffee with a Cop" event for Bankers Hill, which would be the first such gathering for the community. Woods also encouraged audience members to attend Captain's Advisory Board meetings, which are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at Central Division. Residents can take their issues and concerns straight to the captain and expect monthly updates on addressing those concerns, he said. Moors said she would make sure that information gets out to the community.

Woods also said he has received "a ton" of complaints about people who park in the community and then ride-share to the airport. The problem is, those complaints are usually filed after the fact. He suggested contacting police when the person initially parks. After three days, police can mark the car. Three days after that, the car can be towed, Woods said, adding that may be the only way these folks will learn not to do that. Regarding speeding at First and Spruce, Woods said motorcycle officers have been particularly busy ticketing speeders on Sixth Avenue. He said he would assign those officers to patrol First Avenue to find the right spot to stop speeders. He added he would bring the speed-tracker device that was stationed on Laurel Street back to Bankers Hill, but it was vandalized while in another community. Ben Baltic, an avid bicyclist, said during the nearly 1,800 times he has ridden along the Fifth Avenue bike lane to Robinson, he has never done so without some interference from motorists or illegally parked cars and trucks. He'd like to see some enforcement by police. Woods said he'd look into it but warned that police officers are stretched thin.

Spotlight on Business: Rock 'n' Roll Marathon

Lee Collenberg provided an update on the upcoming 22nd Annual Rock 'n' Roll Marathon that kicks off in Bankers Hill along 6th Avenue. Originally the only Rock 'n' Roll Marathon, it is an event now found in 22 U.S. cities and 10 other countries. Occurring the weekend after Memorial Day weekend, the marathon is preceded the day before by a 5K run that takes place mostly inside Balboa Park, although 6th Avenue between Pennsylvania and Hawthorn will be affected, Collenberg said. Parking will be restricted but the roads should be closed only from 6 until 9 a.m. Pennsylvania will remain open, she added. On Sunday, June 2, the race will begin at 6:15 a.m. Plans are to reopen roadways by 9:30 a.m. at the latest, she said. Collenberg recommended using Robinson and Pennsylvania to travel to parts east, and southbound 163 will remain open.

The northbound portion of 163 will remain closed until about 1:30 p.m. Collenberg said she understands the impact on the community and reiterated the organizer's commitment to being good stewards. She urged residents to report any issues related to noise and trash.

Moors told the audience that the marathon organizers were seeking a letter of support for the June event to send to city officials stating that the BHCG supports the event and appreciates the outreach demonstrated by marathon representatives. Moors made a motion to that effect that was seconded and approved unanimously by attendees.

Olive Street Park Update

Moors provided an update on the proposed 0.60-acre neighborhood park at Third Avenue and Olive Street, which had come before Uptown Planners the prior week. Mayor Kevin Faulconer's office has pushed to add an AIDS Memorial to the pocket park. Moors noted that the BHCG has taken a previous position supporting an AIDS Memorial but in a more appropriate place for significant gatherings of people. Uptown Planners did approve the design for the park presented by the city and its consultants, KTUA. But the planning group was not presented design details nor asked to comment on an AIDS Memorial. That portion of the plan would be presented to the city's Park and Recreation Board in May for final approval. "That's how much the mayor likes our neighborhood," Moors said. Meanwhile, a neighbor to the proposed park site has filed a lawsuit against the city challenging the boundaries of the park, Moors added.

Featured Speaker: Brendan Reed, San Diego Airport Authority

Reed, director of Airport Planning and Environmental Affairs, offered attendees an update on upcoming plans for San Diego International Airport. He focused on efforts to replace Terminal 1 ("If you've ever flown through Terminal 1 on Southwest, I'm sorry," he said) and ongoing noise initiatives and programs. He said 24 million passengers traveled through the airport last year. Following worldwide trends, San Diego has experienced tremendous growth in air travel due to an improved economy and lower fares. In San Diego, Southwest and Alaska airlines have engaged in a price war, to the benefit of travelers' pocketbooks.

Reed said Terminal 1, built in 1967, is outdated for modern travelers. Plans include taking airport traffic off Harbor Drive, separation of departures and arrivals, as many as 30 new gates and another parking structure. All of the surface parking alongside Harbor Drive will be replaced with an airline support building and a shuttle lot. Positioning of the new terminal will reduce delays and idling planes. He said conversations continue on transit options connecting to the airport. Based on subsequent feedback, the proposed parking structure has been reduced in size, allowing room for a designated transit-station area close to the terminal. He said airport officials are "agnostic" on what specific type of transit that would be. A new shuttle service from the Old Town Transit Center to the airport will launch in late 2019. Airport officials are hoping for an opening of the first phase of the new Terminal 1 in 2024.

Reed then discussed a variety of noise programs administered by the Airport Authority. The Airport Noise Advisory Committee meets every other month where the public and local planning members can interact with airline and FAA officials. The airport promotes a Quieter Home Program, which provides no-cost residential sound insulation and new windows and doors for affected homes. He also mentioned a website where residents can review results from 23 noise monitors stationed throughout the city. Reed said the Airport Authority is also developing a Noise Compatibility Program where communities like Bankers Hill will have an opportunity to provide recommendations to the FAA to reduce noise. Reed also provided two website addresses for more information on the Terminal 1 proposal (www.san.org/plan) and the noise programs (www.san.org/airport-noise).

Reed also talked about the 14-acre nesting area for the endangered least tern located within the 661-acre airport. April to Sept. 15 is the nesting season, and Reed said airport employees go to great extents to protect the birds. No birds have yet been sighted there this year, Reed said. Tours are available, he said.

The Terminal 1 plan is currently undergoing environmental review, Reed said. Construction could start as soon as 2021. The project cost is about \$3 billion. No taxpayer dollars are used. The airport, Reed explained, must generate its own revenue.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Lamb, interim Secretary.