

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

Monday, July 18, 2022

Bankers Hill Clubhouse, 3030 Front Street

BHCG Steering Committee member Aaron Reyes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Reyes introduced the following Steering Committee members who were present: Co-Chairs Pete Politzer and John Percy, Treasurer Jeanne Rawlings, Secretary John Lamb and co-facilitator Michael Reyes. Approximately 42 people attended the meeting.

Reyes welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Megan Hughes from Club Pilates for serving as the Featured Business for the meeting.

### **Treasury Report**

Rawlings reported \$4,035.87 in the bank.

### **Project Review Committee**

No update.

### **Safe Play Zone Update**

Aaron Reyes said the pizza party to thank park maintenance workers was a success. He said enough money was left over from fundraising to hold another pizza party during the summer. He said the bathrooms on the West Mesa of Balboa Park are now closed at 8 p.m. and patrolled by armed security. He reported that some bathroom stalls still cannot lock because the locks remain broken. He added that there are fewer encampments around the restrooms. Reyes thanked a representative from PATH San Diego (People Assisting the Homeless) for attending the meeting.

### **Featured Business — Club Pilates**

Megan Hughes, owner of Club Pilates, thanked the BHCG for the opportunity to be the featured business and gave a brief overview of the low-impact workout establishment on Fifth Avenue just south of Olive Street.

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

Roy McMakin said the city's unsheltered population deserves more empathy.

Tom Mullaney, head of Uptown United, spoke in opposition to the residential project proposed at 301 Spruce Street.

### **Government Representatives**

Kohta Zaiser, deputy director of community engagement for Mayor Todd Gloria, told attendees about paid internships available in all city departments for individuals aged 16 to 30. He also said he will be meeting with individuals to determine if any problems with the Fifth Avenue bike lane can be remedied. Regarding the proposed 101 Ash Street settlement proposal, Zaiser insisted that there will be no delays nor funding gaps for two long-awaited Bankers Hill projects, Olive Street Park and the Maple Canyon restoration project.

### **Proposed Community Benefit District Update**

Marco Li Mandri, president of New City America, provided an update on a proposal to establish a type of maintenance-assessment district in Bankers Hill to provide community services beyond what the city can be expected to provide. He talked about what the establishment of such a district did to revitalize Little Italy. He said his organization recently started its 91st district in Santa Barbara. He said Bankers Hill needs more trash cans and street lighting. He said the trash receptacles recently added in the neighborhood won't be maintained by the Parking District

forever, and that's where the district would play a role through an annual assessment fee paid by land owners.

The hope, he said, is to have more than a dozen full-time workers in Bankers Hill working 365 days a year. He said he hopes to have enough support to go through city review by the end of September, Li Mandri said, with ballots going out for the final vote late in the year.

**“Heart of the Zoo” Presentation**

Attendees were provided a trip down San Diego Zoo memory lane as Chuck Bieler, the zoo's executive director emeritus (and a Bankers Hill resident), shared insights into the zoo's early days and promoted a new book about his time leading the zoo.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Lamb, Secretary.