

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

Monday, May 17, 2021  
Via Zoom videoconference

BHCG Treasurer Jeanne Rawlings called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The following Steering Committee members were present virtually: Rawlings, acting Chair Nancy Moors, Secretary John Lamb, Becky Veen, Ann Garwood, John Percy, Bruce Dammann and Peter Raymond. Approximately 38 people participated in the virtual meeting.

### **Non-Agenda Public Comments**

Raymond, representing the Bankers Hill Neighborhood Parking Committee, said the “Walk the Walk” pedestrian-navigation signs have been installed throughout Bankers Hill, and landscaping along the bikeways on 4th and 5th avenues continues. The project is moving along well, he said.

Rawlings informed attendees that the Bankers Hill neighborhood no longer has a representative on Uptown Planners who lives in the community. She urged anyone who would be interested in filling that void to consider running for a position on the community planning group in a future election. To be eligible, you must live or own a business in the Uptown planning area and attend three meetings prior to the election, Rawlings noted.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

Rawlings reported that as of April 30, there was \$3,836.21 in the bank. She thanked San Diego Pride officials in attendance for their contribution to BHCG fundraising over the years.

### **Project Review Committee**

Percy announced to attendees the establishment of the Project Review Committee. The purpose of the panel, Percy explained, is to look over new developments and city projects that will have an impact on the Bankers Hill community and provide feedback to the appropriate city officials.

### **San Diego Police Department Liaison Update**

Veen reported she’s seen some positive results from new Community Relations Officer Larry Turner as well as responses to the city’s Get It Done app along 5th Avenue from Date to Hawthorn streets. Veen also discussed efforts to limit alcohol sales at City Liquor, which is planning to move to a new location nearby. She said concerned residents can contact state Alcohol Beverage Control officials directly to provide personal impact statements regarding safety and reducing crime in the area. Moors also updated attendees on a particular individual who has proven to be quite a challenge for law enforcement in the neighborhood.

### **Adopt-A-Plot Update**

Percy brought attendees up to speed on efforts to re-landscape the west-side planter beds at the Redwood Bridge Club in Balboa Park. A neighborhood landscape architect volunteered to design a layout, which the city has approved, Percy said. The BHCG is now trying to raise \$2,000 in donations to pay for the plants. Moors said a donation page is in the works, and requests for donations will also be sent out via Constant Contact. Bob Leyh from San Diego Pride said his organization would love to be a partner in the planting effort. BHCG members expressed their gratitude.

### **Government Representatives**

Stopher Vallejo, representing state Sen. Toni Atkins, introduced himself and said he’d be taking over for Chevelle Tate. The state’s budget will be finalized in June, he said.

Kohta Zaiser, Mayor Todd Gloria representative for Council District 3, could not attend the meeting but sent an email that was read into the record regarding the mayor's establishment of a Housing Stability Assistance Program to help working families that are struggling during the pandemic. More than \$83 million is available for qualifying low-income renters to help pay past-due rent and cover costs of utilities and internet service. He also discussed the mayor's proposed fiscal-year 2022 city budget, now under review by the San Diego City Council.

#### **Featured Organization — San Diego Pride**

Bob Leyh, programs manager for San Diego Pride, gave attendees a glimpse into plans for this year's festivities, much of which will be conducted virtually. Leyh said the signature events — the Pride Parade and Pride Festivals — will not be held in person this year due to the pandemic. He lamented that meant another year off for BHCG, a long-time Pride partner in clean-up efforts in the Bankers Hill community. He said some smaller events will be held, but those have yet to be officially announced.

Events being planned include: an "Art of Pride" show at Pride's North Park headquarters; a She Fest celebrating women; an in-person lighting of St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral with 300 people in attendance; a Spirit of Stonewall Rally at the Pride Flag; a virtual Pride 5K; and other events still in the works, Leyh said.

Despite the pandemic, Leyh said the organization has worked hard to continue its mission and even provided two COVID vaccine clinics that focused on the trans community and people of color.

#### **UCSD Health Hillcrest Campus Development**

David Mier, director of community affairs for UC San Diego Health, introduced Robert Clossin, director of campus planning, who provided attendees with an update on the long-range development plans for the roughly 60-acre Hillcrest campus. Clossin said the pandemic had slowed progress on those plans, but the target date of replacing the aging hospital with one that meets seismic codes by 2030 remains the same. Clossin detailed plans for various uses of the land — including 1,000 new workforce housing units.

#### **Save Starlight Bowl Presentation**

Steve Stopper provided his enthusiastic vision for a renovated and reactivated Starlight Bowl in Balboa Park. He sees its potential as a "culturally diverse performance space." Work on the front area is nearly completion, Stopper said. He described what he said could become "the world's largest outdoor TV studio." Stopper played a video titled "Put A Little Love In Your Park" and described more plans to show movies, laser-light shows and comedy events. Stopper said he could use contributions and more volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Lamb, Secretary.