

BANKERS HILL COMMUNITY GROUP MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 15, 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: Chair Amie Hayes, Vice Chair Nancy Moors, Secretary John Lamb, Treasurer Rawlings, Ann Garwood, Becky Veen, Char Lou Benedict, Qamar Bradford and Bruce Dammann. Approximately 20 people participated in the virtual meeting.

Rawlings welcomed attendees and introduced Vice Chair Moors, who reminded attendees that all are welcome to the Feb. 18 Steering Committee meeting that will also be held virtually via Zoom.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rawlings reported that there was \$3,836.21 in the bank. She said the BHCG is still looking for worthwhile causes to support financially.

Non-Agenda Public Comments

No comments.

Government Representatives

No government representatives in attendance, due to holiday.

San Diego Police Department Community Relations Update

Community Relations Officer Larry Turner, new SDPD representative for Bankers Hill following the promotion of Marlo Woods, introduced himself to attendees. He noted Marlo's stellar relationship with this community but assured the audience that he too knows the neighborhood "really well" and its problem with certain known individuals. Turner said it has been challenging to get trespassing individuals booked into jail during the COVID pandemic. He said those restrictions should be relaxed by the end of the month, allowing for more jail bookings.

Turner was asked if officers are able to patrol neighborhood canyons and bridges with any frequency. He said he would make sure more attention was directed into those areas.

"Parks For All" Presentation

Susan Baldwin and Rene Smith made a presentation on behalf of the volunteer group Parks & Recreation Coalition (PARC), which recently formed to push for improvements to the city's proposed new Parks Master Plan, the only component of a Complete Communities plan not approved by the San Diego City Council in November. Baldwin said while the goals of the plan are excellent, the proposed process to determine how park needs are calculated and where park resources are spent is confusing, particularly a planned point system that emphasizes park amenities over park-acreage standards. Residents have also had little time to comment on the proposed changes, she said, adding community planning groups weren't even consulted on the park component.

The pandemic has illustrated, Baldwin said, how important parks are to the well-being of a city and its residents. Parks are vital, she said. To that end, PARC is proposing changes to the draft Parks Master Plan that ensures a land standard will be maintained, greater resident participation, equity in prioritizing use of a citywide park fee, a better understanding of the proposed point system as well as issues dealing with commercialization, design review and respect for historic resources.

On a motion to support the efforts of PARC to improve the proposed Parks Master Plan, 13 BHCG attendees voted in favor.

Balboa Park Projects Update

Christina Chadwick, the new assistant deputy director of the city's Parks and Recreation Department, provided an update on a variety of ongoing projects in Balboa Park. She said her main goal is to find ways to activate our parks. COVID has reactivated our parks, she added. Chadwick noted work nearing completion on the park's Municipal Gym building, Morley Field pool, Palisades complete, new concrete being poured along El Prado, and future renovation plans for the Botanical Building.

Regarding the proliferation of vendors in Balboa Park, Chadwick said Mayor Gloria will address that issue. City is also currently looking for locations for scooter corrals within the park. Should be implemented starting in March, she said.

Asked about the Comic Con museum, Chadwick said she's not heard a specific timeline yet but would report back. She also took questions regarding proposed fencing around the park's lawn-bowling facilities, the status of drinking fountains and restrooms.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Lamb, Secretary.