

BANKERS HILL COMMUNITY GROUP MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 18, 2021

Via Zoom videoconference

BHCG Treasurer Jeanne Rawlings called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. The following Steering Committee members were present virtually: Chair Amie Hayes, Vice Chair Nancy Moors, Secretary John Lamb, Treasurer Rawlings, Ann Garwood, John Percy, Becky Veen, Char Lou Benedict, Jim Frost, Ben Baltic, Qamar Bradford and Bruce Dammann. Approximately 22 people participated in the virtual meeting.

Rawlings welcomed attendees to the BHCG's annual Roundtable meeting, the first being held virtually. There were no announcements.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rawlings reported that there was \$3,856.21 in the bank.

Government Representatives

Deputy City Attorney Natasha Robertson introduced herself and talked about her work with communities in finding innovative ways to address quality-of-life issues.

Non-Agenda Public Comments

Rene Smith of the Parks and Recreation Coalition (PARC) discussed his organization's work to bring sensible design-review procedures back to the city's park system. The current system, he said, is confusing.

Roundtable Discussions

SAN DIEGO PRIDE — Bob Leyh, program manager for San Diego Pride, provided an update on plans for a scaled-down but exciting calendar of Pride events coming in July. He told attendees that “we miss you” — a nod to Pride's long-time association with BHCG. Leyh said the past year has been a challenge but noted that Pride was able to keep its full-time staff employed and year-round youth programs rolling by dipping into organization reserves. As for the coming year, Leyh said plans for dual tracks are in the works, one focused on planned live events and another for virtual offerings. Leyh said permits are being sought and county officials are in discussions. Leyh assured attendees with a pledge that Pride live gatherings will only occur if they can be done safely.

QUALITY OF LIFE — San Diego Police Dept. Community Relations Officer Marlo Woods provided attendees with an update on a number of quality-of-life issues pertinent to the Bankers Hill community. During his five years in the neighborhood-relations position, Woods said the top complaints he has heard are 1) vehicular noise and 2) homeless-related matters. Woods was asked if there is a plan to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to the homeless. He said he didn't have an answer for that but added that not all police officers are yet vaccinated. Veen asked about an increase in street racing in the community. Woods said the problem is worse in the city's Northern Division, but he noted that some racers are known to meet in Balboa Park. He said racers are hard to catch and prosecute because police have to witness them.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS — Gerrie Trussell, executive director of the Uptown Parking Advisory Board, provided an update on a slew of construction projects occurring in Bankers Hill, most notably the bike-lane improvements along Fourth and Fifth avenues, which she said is “moving quite quickly.” Trussell urged attendees to visit gobankershill.com to get updates on projects. She said new trash receptacles will be added at some point, along with rock medians and pedestrian platforms. “Walk the Walk” signs — to help people navigate the area — will be

posted soon as well, she said. Landscaping added to the new streetscape will be maintained by the city's Park and Recreation Department for the first year, she said. A proposed Maintenance Assessment District would take over care in the future, Trussell added. She also discussed how vehicular speeding has become a growing problem in Bankers Hill. The good news, she said, is that 140 new parking spaces will be added to the neighborhood's inventory after work is completed on the bike-lane improvements. Some attendees raised concerns about the new "head-in" parking design narrowing side streets, particularly when large trucks use the spaces. Copies of the plans were requested by several attendees. Trussell agreed to post plans on the gobankershill.com website.

WEST MESA BALBOA PARK — BHCG Steering Committee member Bruce Dammann provided an overview of projects in the works on the West Mesa of Balboa Park, considered by the city as one of Banker Hill's neighborhood parks. He talked about the two comfort stations being installed near Nutmeg and Thorn streets. Dammann said the city expects work to be completed by spring. Dammann lamented the design process for the restroom facilities, which he said lacked public input. He said a coalition he is associated with is pushing to bring back a design-review process for park projects. Dammann also discussed fencing proposed for the perimeter of the Lawn Bowling Club. Some discussion ensued about the BHCG forming its own "Project Review Committee." Moors said the Steering Committee will consider the idea.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Lamb, Secretary.