

BANKERS HILL COMMUNITY GROUP MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 17, 2023
At BH Clubhouse

Michael Reyes began the meeting at 6:30pm and welcomed the approximately 55 people in attendance.

Featured Business – Business owner and chef Christian Gomez described the concept and background on Wet Stone Wine Bar and Cafe that he's operated for 16 years at 1927 Fourth Ave. He welcomes BHCG for our first self-hosted social "Neighborhood Mingle" on Wednesday July 19th at 5pm.

Public Comments

Peter Raymond shared that the Parking District is updating the annuals in planters; he noted the neighborhood clean-up was well done following PRIDE. A suggestion was offered to plant perennials that do not need to be replaced with same frequency.

Tim Darling said he was new to Bankers Hill having moved from East Village due to the quality of life impacts of relentless construction of high rises.

Janet Shanberge commented that parking issues might be lessened by instituting residential parking permits.

Committee Reports

Michael Reyes thanked PRIDE volunteers for their efforts to keep Bankers Hill clean throughout and following PRIDE festivities over the past weekend.

Government Representatives

None were present. Michael read a written report from Emily Bonner (Councilmember Steven Whitburn's office) informing us of the summer hiatus. No City Council or Committee Meetings will be held during the month of August.

Featured Speakers

Paul Kruger and Jeff Heuter introduced Neighbors for A Better San Diego which started 2.5 years ago. They explained what they view as significant issues with SB10 as currently proposed and their view that existing commercial areas across the city have capacity for growth and housing density. SB10 was written for cities unable to meet mandated minimum housing goals, unlike San Diego which builds 5000 new homes per year, 1000 of which are ADUs. Concerns with the bill include a lack of transparency, failure to address climate action goals, failure to address the city's missing middle housing gaps, and the fact that it can never be changed. No city Planning Commission members have expressed support for the bill, a follow up meeting is scheduled for August 3rd. Neighbors are encouraged to visit this link [NFABSD](#) for more information.

BHCG Secretary Ann Kilrain reported on the January Roundtable (RT) on Neighborhood Advocacy. The RT brainstormed opportunities for individuals and small groups to foster community spirit and enhance quality of life across BH. Of several ideas discussed, two that generated the most interest will move forward monthly for now: Neighborhood Mingles (self-hosted social get togethers at local businesses) and Pick and Strolls (litter clean up). The first Mingle will be at Wet Stone Wine Bar and Café on Wednesday July 19th; Pick and Strolls will begin in September; participants encouraged to wear your BHCG tee-shirts.

Vic Salazar and representatives from San Diego's Engineering and Capital Improvement Program updated us on Maple Canyon Restoration. Phase 1 will commence in August 2024 with KIT Construction, an experienced and well-regarded city contractor, with construction completion targeted for October 2025. Hiking trail is expected to remain open on weekends. Targeted communications will go out to all neighbors in the immediate area with contacts to direct questions or concerns. All are encouraged to register for email updates at this link [Capital Improvement Program](#); after entering your email address scroll down to select which project(s) you wish to receive updates on. You may also access the [Maple Canyon Restoration](#) project information directly.

Kevin LaChapelle CEO of San Diego American Indian Health Center shared latest expansion plans. The two-phased project (50,000 square foot, 6-story medical office building with urgent care facility in phase 1; affordable senior housing in phase 2) on First Avenue from Maple to Nutmeg is under city review, with planning and design expected to be completed by end of first quarter of 2024. Landscaping to replace the 10 Palm Trees that needed to be removed for utility upgrades is expected to start in a few weeks. The AIHC is a federally approved non-profit community health center dedicated to providing a broad range of health and wellness services for underserved populations of all types. Project is not yet fully funded.

BHCG President John Percy thanked all the PRIDE clean-up volunteers, recognizing Co-chairs Jeanne Rawlings (BHCG Treasurer) and Ben Baltic (BHCG Steering Committee Member) for their many hours of planning, organizing, communicating, monitoring, and closing out BHCG's extremely successful effort in support of our community and the SD PRIDE Organization.

Meeting concluded at 8:00 pm.