

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

Monday, September 18, 2023  
At BH Clubhouse

Michael Reyes began the meeting at 6:30pm and welcomed the approximately 45 people in attendance.

**Featured Business** – Mnemonic Coffee officially opens this weekend at 2604 Fifth Ave, at the corner of Fifth and Maple Streets. Co-owners Gia Giambalvo and wife Sarah Girdzius have worked in coffee for a combined 20 years and have aspired to own a coffee shop since their time working together at James Coffee Co. Mnemonic offers coffees, teas, zero proof “mocktails” and small bites. They expect to have food popups from time to time.

### **Public Comments**

District 3 City Council candidate Coleen Cusack introduced herself; Susan White of Uptown Planners urged community support for the Planning Commission to support 2 appeals to the 301 Spruce project.

### **Committee Reports**

- PRIDE – The successful 2023 partnership between BHCG and San Diego PRIDE was recognized with the presentation of a \$2000 donation by Sarafina Scapicchio, PRIDE Deputy Executive Director to BHCG Treasurer Jeanne Rawlings.
- Project Review Committee - John Percy reported efforts continuing to urge the city to develop a precise plan for the West Mesa of Balboa Park.
- 301 Spruce - Pete Politzer reported on the upcoming Planning Commission Hearing 9/28 at 9am, urging attendees to check the SD Planning Commission website for info on how to participate in person or by zoom.
- Neighborhood Advocacy – Ann Kilrain announced the October 7<sup>th</sup> Pick and Stroll at 9am, and October 9th Mingle at Hob Nob Hill beginning at 5pm.
- Adopt A Plot – Mary Lu Gultekin made a plea for garden volunteers to help on Wednesday mornings at the BHCG Community Garden at the Redwood Bridge Club on 3111 Sixth Ave.

### **Government Representatives**

- Emily Bonner (Councilmember Steven Whitburn’s office) shared that email links will be sent out to complete a survey on budget priorities.
- Stopher Vallejo (State Senate Pro Tem Toni Akins) announced that the legislative session has concluded, 3 of the Senator’s bills have either passed or are before the Governor for signature.
- Michael Bravo (State Assembly Member Chris Ward) announced that with the current legislative session ending, ideas for new bills are being considered.

### **Featured Speakers**

Rebecca Louie CEO of and a 19 year tenure with Wakeland Housing, presented and fielded questions on dedicated affordable housing developments explaining affordable versus supportive housing, target populations, services and community partnerships and challenges. Community members inquired about the process of initiating a project, competitors to Wakeland, permanent versus temporary housing arrangements, how rents are paid and what could be changed at the city level to make more affordable housing available. Rebecca believes consistent funding, more certainty in funding and project priorities would facilitate the availability of dedicated affordable housing developments to the community. Wakeland does not currently offer housing in BH.

Meeting concluded at 7:30 pm.