

# Kensington-Talmadge Planning Group



P.O. Box 16391, San Diego, CA 92176

[www.ktpg.org](http://www.ktpg.org)

## Regular Meeting Minutes – Final (Approved 2012 Jan. Meeting)

2011-12-14

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**PARLIAMENTARY ITEMS**

**CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

A regular meeting of the Kensington Talmadge Planning Group (KTPG) was called to order by KTPG chair David Moty on December 14, 2011 at 6:30pm in the Franklin Elementary Auditorium (4481 Copeland Ave., San Diego, CA, 92116). The minutes were recorded by KTPG Secretary John M. Garrison.

**Members present at the start of the meeting:** Bob Coffin, Frank Doft, Daniele Laman, Fred Lindahl, Gail Greer, Guy Hanford, John M. Garrison, Kevin Kelly, Sean Harrison, Sherry Hopwood, Pam Hubbell, David Moty, Keith Roudebush Elvia Sandoval

**Members absent at the start of the meeting:** Ann Pease

**Also present:** Daniel Hazard (Senior Community Representative for Susan A. Davis, Member of Congress, 53<sup>rd</sup> District, California), Dion Akers (from the office of City Council Member Todd Gloria) and approximately 20 members of the public

**MODIFICATIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA (ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA)**

There were no proposed modifications to the agenda so the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING(S)**

David Moty explained that the October 2011 minutes have an omission in that it was not recorded who made the motion pertaining to Franklin Elementary. No one could recall who made the motion. David Moty proposed that we approve the minutes with the gap. There were no objections so the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

David Moty asked if anyone had any objections to approval of the November 2011 minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**TREASURER’S REPORT – REPORT FROM PRIOR MONTH**

**Starting Balance:** November 1, 2011 - \$333.13



**Income:** \$0

**Expenditures:** \$0

**Ending Balance:** \$333.13

## COMMUNITY FORUM / NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Hazard – Congresswoman Davis’ office

Dion Akers – Councilmember Gloria’s office

## NON-SUBCOMMITTEE ITEMS

### ADAMS AVENUE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Scott Kessler – Staff with the Adams Avenue Business Association Q&A on the expansion of the 2012 Roots Festival into Kensington. We are seeking permission to have some acoustic music in Kensington this April 21, 22, 2012. This would be in the park. Hours for the fair would be 10:00am to 6:00pm. There would be no street closures. Scott Kessler said the Business Association is seeking our support. Permits have been requested from The City

It is not clear whether the KTPG approval is required for a permit. Since parking is a potential concern, we referred this item to the Transportation & Safety subcommittee.

### ACTION ITEM: FORMATION OF ELECTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Gail Greer has volunteered to chair the subcommittee, since she has decided she will not run for reelection. Fred Lindahl volunteered to serve as the second board member. Paul Desrochers will be the public member. Sean Harrison made a motion to constitute the committee with these three members; John M. Garrison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### MONTEZUMA TRUNK SEWER & SEWER GROUP 703A PROJECTS

Mathew DeBeliso - Information Item: Presentation on sewer line project along Montezuma and Fairmount Avenues, October 2012 to December 2013. Project could entail road closures and night work.

This is to replace a 40-year old sewer trunk line. Most of the work will be done between 9pm and 6am. It is a trunk sewer with not a lot of inputs, so the work should go fast. Work is to start in autumn 2012 and go about 180 working days and cost \$3.5Million. It is a 12 inch clay pipe now and it will go up to 15 inch PVC. It will also move it out of the canyons and get it into the road where it can be better maintained.

Link to more information: <http://www.ktpg.org/projects/water-and-sewer/index.htm>



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## ACTION ITEM - DEDICATION OF OPEN SPACE IN KENSINGTON AND TALMADGE

Eric Bowlby: Presentation by San Diego Canyonlands on proposed state law to dedicate open space in San Diego including 11.81 acres in Kensington and Talmadge. They request a letter of support from KTPG.

Link to description of size of proposed dedication:

[http://www.sdcanyonlands.org/images/pdfs/DedicationInfo/kensingtontalmadge\\_091311.pdf](http://www.sdcanyonlands.org/images/pdfs/DedicationInfo/kensingtontalmadge_091311.pdf)

Link to map of proposed dedication:

[http://www.sdcanyonlands.org/images/pdfs/DedicationInfo/allcity\\_summarypackage\\_091311.pdf](http://www.sdcanyonlands.org/images/pdfs/DedicationInfo/allcity_summarypackage_091311.pdf)

Bob Coffin – are we being asked to take action on this tonight?

Eric Bowlby – I would love it if you could take action tonight but if you need to take it to subcommittee I understand that.

Daniele Laman – how would we find the tabular information for other planning groups?

Eric Bowlby – you can find that on our website.

Ken Horsley – A concern to me is the language I have seen, which maybe is the mother of all typographical errors, but I see this called parkland. I have heard you say that you can get a trail into any land by hook or crook, but I feel like if we approve designating it as parkland then it will come back to haunt us that we approved it to be parkland. It is expected to have a trail in parkland.

Eric Bowlby – Canyonlands is not proposing to go in it. We are not proposing to put trails in pristine land. If you want nothing to happen to it over the decades, then you would support dedicating it. Because otherwise The City could sell it or decide it is too fragmented to be used.

Emile Barrios – Live near 605RU. This is being spearheaded by someone who does not live in Talmadge, does not care what happens to the land, and who will want to turn this into recreation area. Not now, and not tomorrow, but turning canyonlands into recreation areas is the stated goal of this group. We as a community need to make our message clear that we don't support the zoning change. We encourage KTPG to reject the proposal.

David Moty – Dion Akers, would you comment on the mention of proposed zoning?

Dion Akers – It is my understanding that this does not change the zoning.

Eric Bowlby – This does not change the zoning. Our number one goal is to preserve and restore pristine open spaces.

Erik Judson – I am surrounded by that same parcel. I understand the complexity of the issue. I applaud the perspective that it is a lot to take in. I think it was a good presentation but I still don't understand the right answer. I am troubled about the idea of encouraging more people to use this space. I am also concerned about fire safety. I think the complexity of the issue is great and I know that the people in your group have the best interests of a broad community at heart. I think that the parkland designation might make it more dangerous for people who live nearby.



Eric Bowlby – The terminology is unfortunate. If I could correctly call it Open Space I would do that, but it is correctly called Parkland. Any of the types of things that you are worried about could happen as designated parkland.

Sean Harrison – moved to extend the time on this item and the meeting by 15 minutes. Keith Roudebush seconded. The motion passed.

Bob Coffin – You brought us a 500 pound wedding cake and we don't have time to digest it.

Mikes Hughes – I back up to one of the canyons we are talking about. One time when they cleaned the canyon they scraped off all the vegetation that was there. We take care of our canyons. At night, especially in the summer we see the lights down there, just occasionally because it is hard to get down there, which is a good thing. We are all on the lookout for a fire danger to occur there. The canyon we live on is the reason we bought the lot. I think you should just leave us alone.

Michael O'Brian – I am just curious what the urgency is, why it is necessary to push this down our throat and make us decide on this tonight.

Eric Bowlby – what I would like to hear tonight if possible is your conceptual support if we have it.

Michael O'Brian – what happens if you don't get that support.

Eric Bowlby – I would take that information back to the City Council. They would weigh that information, I assume.

Audience member – my family has lived there for 56 years. When they put the condos down on Fairmont they were supposed to dedicate it as open space. We don't need people coming in to tell us how to landscape the area or how to take care of it.

Audience member –years ago we were called the Talmadge Park pioneers. We fought putting condos in there. We were told there would be 67 acres of open space never to be harassed again. This is ridiculous.

Audience member – regarding that same space, I was looking on The City's website and The City's website is calling it OR, which means someone other than the City owns it.

Audience member – I was wondering if you could clarify something you said about the change not requiring something?

Eric Bowlby – I was saying that just because something is dedicated parkland, that neither requires nor promotes any particular usage of the land. It doesn't make it any more likely that it would be used for recreational purposes. Dedicated parkland does not preclude recreational use, but designated use does not preclude it either. Designated land can be sold with a majority vote of City Council; dedicated land takes a vote of the electorate to enable a sale.

Audience member – what would be our guarantee that there would never be trails or parks.

Eric Bowlby – You don't have that guarantee now.

Audience member – what is the green area?

Eric Bowlby – those are lands that are already dedicated parkland.



Audience member – I think the procedure is wrong because we have a proposal here and the group does not have a land-use expert here. There must be land usage experts that the committee can bring in to give us input on this.

Elvia Sandoval – what I'm concerned about is not so much parkland, but a main road going down into the canyon. Are we more likely to have that as designated land or dedicated land?

Eric Bowlby – It doesn't change it either way. Neither way protects you from a road.

Sherry Hopwood – what is the main perk to having it dedicated as opposed to designated?

Eric Bowlby – The main benefit is that the City Council cannot decide by majority vote to sell the land.

Gail Greet – I agree with Bob it should go to subcommittee.

Bob Coffin – I would like to see it go to subcommittee.

Keith Roudebush – you mention it several times. What power does canyonlands have as a group?

Eric Bowlby – We are a non-profit group. What got us started is that The City wanted to build paved access roads to maintain sewers. We are a nonprofit to preserve this resource.

Keith Roudebush – my question really is what power does your group have to get The City to make a change?

Eric Bowlby – I think we probably carry some weight because we have been working with the open space administration for years and helping to keep canyon lands preserved. So yes, as a credible organization that has the same goals the City has for preserving space, we hope to have some influence. But we don't have any special powers. Any community member or group can ask

John M. Garrison – moved to extend this item 15 minutes and the meeting to 9:00pm. Sean Harrison seconded.

In favor: Daniele Laman, Fred Lindahl, Gail Greer, Guy Hanford, John M. Garrison, Kevin Kelly, Sean Harrison, Sherry Hopwood, Pam Hubbell, David Moty, Keith Roudebush Elvia Sandoval

Opposed: Frank Doft and Bob Coffin

The motion passed 12-2

Sean Harrison – how do we create truly protected open space?

Eric Bowlby – The City Charter does not provide a way to do that.

Sean Harrison – Does this affect property values or usage? Are there edge effects that would change?

Eric Bowlby – Dedication does not affect any edge effects

Sean Harrison – I agree with Bob that this needs to go to a subcommittee to hear more discussion. I think there may be a lot of things that come into play with dedication where people lose their property rights. I think we don't understand it yet. I think people need to understand where the money comes for restoration. I don't think anyone on this board wants to railroad anything.



John M. Garrison – in case anyone does not understand our process, we can list things as Information Items or Action Items. If we list them as an Information Item we \*cannot\* take action on it. However, if we list it as an Action Item we are allowed to take action but we don't have to do so. Listing it as an Action Item preserves our flexibility in case it is non-controversial and/or if there is a short time deadline. Last month we had to vote on something that was just as complex, it was an urban agriculture initiative that had a lot of documents associated. We had to vote on it or else we would miss the deadline for providing our input at all. So we had to do the best we could in the time we had available. It doesn't sound like the timeline is that short, and there are questions that need to be addressed, so I support referring it to subcommittee.

David Moty – When does this need to be determined?

Eric Bowlby – The rules committee is considering the sponsorship January 11.

David Moty – when does the final list need to be finalized?

Eric Bowlby – December 2012

David Moty – I am sure it has to be finalized before then if that is when the legislature needs to take action on it.

Pam Hubble – I want to thank you for making the distinction between support for dedicating space in general, and supporting these three parcels in particular. I hope we will continue to keep in mind those distinctions.

Frank Doft – who owns these parcels?

Eric Bowlby – all these pieces of land proposed for dedication are owned by The City.

Kevin Kelly – I think it is a complicated matter. Dedicating the land may make it harder to sell, but it takes it closer to making a park for recreation use.

Eric Bowlby – to the first point yes, to the second point no. It doesn't make it any more likely to develop the land for recreation.

John M. Garrison – moved to send it to Project Review subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Daniele Laman and approved unanimously.

David Moty – it will be heard at the January Project Review subcommittee.

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## HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL FIELD LIGHTS

R. Anderson (7:50 – 15 min)

Possible Action Item: Request by Taxpayers For Accountable School Bond Spending for the KTPG to formally endorse the goals and/or the lawsuit of the group regarding the field lights at Hoover High School and to be added as an official supporter on the group's website.

More information available at: <http://www.tfasbs.org>

KTPG took a position on this in 2009, and I would like to list the KTPG on our website as a supporter.



There was a discussion among the board members about the pros and cons. Some people were in favor of supporting the lawsuit specifically. Some people were in favor of supporting the groups' aims in general. Other people felt we had no input on such a decision.

John M. Garrison – moved we send it to Project Review subcommittee. There was no second.

Sean Harrison – I move we allow the KTPG be listed as a supporter of the group on the group's website. Elvia seconded the motion.

John Garrison – can we ask for the group's website language to be re-read, please?

In favor: Bob Coffin, Elvia Sandoval, Sherry Hopwood, Keith Roudebush, Sean Harrison, David Moty, Fred Lindahl, Daniele Laman

Opposed: Gail Greer, Pam Hubbell, Frank Doft, Guy Hanford, Kevin Kelly

Abstaining; John M. Garrison – on the grounds that it should be sent to subcommittee and not decided in less than 10 minutes time.

The motion passed 8-4-1

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

### MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION

Report was skipped in the interest of time.

### TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

Bob Coffin – spoke on the need to do anti-graffiti coating on the retaining wall. The City says it is not in scope.

Meeting adjourned at that point because it was 9:00pm and we had to clear the building.

### PROJECT REVIEW

Notes

### UNDERGROUNDING

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## KTPG LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS

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## AGENDA FOR THE NEXT KTPG MEETING



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## ADJOURNMENT

David Moty adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm.