

Kensington-Talmadge Planning Group



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

www.ktpg.org

Regular Meeting Minutes

2013-02-13

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PARLIAMENTARY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

[Secretary’s note: KTPG minutes are not an exact transcript of the meeting. They are meant to capture votes taken as well as a general sense of what discussion occurred on various items.]

A regular meeting of the Kensington Talmadge Planning Group (KTPG) was called to order by acting KTPG chair David Moty on February 13th, 2013 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 beginning about 20 minutes into the meeting because the secretary was late.

Members present at the start of the meeting: Bob Coffin, Frank Doft, Kevin Kelly, Sean Harrison, Sherry Hopwood, Ken Horsley, Daniele Laman, Richard Lesser, Fred Lindahl, David Moty, Ann Pease, Keith Roudebush, Elvia Sandoval

Members absent at the start of the meeting: John M. Garrison, who arrived by 6:50pm, and Guy Hanford

Also present: Chris Pearson from City Council Member Marti Emerald’s staff, Rachel Gregg from Toni Atkins (State Assembly) office, and approximately 25 members of the public.

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

David Moty asked if there were any modifications to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING(S)

David Moty asked if anyone had any questions to the January, 2013 minutes. After some discussion a vote was called to approve the minutes from that meeting and they were approved unanimously.



TREASURER'S REPORT – REPORT FROM PRIOR MONTH

Fred Lindahl, the KTPG Treasurer gave a report:

Ending Balance: \$340.94 – January 2013

COMMUNITY FORUM / NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Joyce Temporal – representative from Marti Block's office – our chief of staff was supposed to be here tonight to introduce himself, but he is at 3 other planning group meetings tonight. So I am happy to represent. We just moved our office to downtown.

NON-SUBCOMMITTEE ITEMS

ACTION ITEM: POSSIBLE KTPG DONATION TO FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

David Moty – made a motion that we make a \$100 donation to the school; the motion was seconded by Fred Lindahl.

The motion passed 14-1 with Kevin Kelly opposed.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS

ACTION ITEM: EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS TO REPAIR A-FRAME SIGN AND FOR TEMPORARY SIGNAGE TO PROMOTE THE ELECTION.

Subcommittee chair John M. Garrison – asked for up to \$65 to repair one of the damaged signs and also to possibly pay for any special promotional materials printed for the 2013 KTPG Election. David Moty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ELECTIONS

INFORMATION ITEM: 2013 KTPG ELECTIONS

Richard Lesser – Chair of the elections subcommittee - tayser@cox.net Richard Lesser, chair of the elections subcommittee, reminded people that the elections are in March.

The Elections Subcommittee will be sending out notices in the next couple of weeks to people who are eligible based upon the KTPG attendance sheets.

[Secretary's note: more information is at <http://www.ktpg.org/subcommittees/elections/2013/index.htm>]



UNDERGROUNDING

Bob Coffin – undergrounding – gave a synopsis of the community’s efforts to ensure that Undergrounding is done in a quality manner. We are still where we were 4 years ago. The utilities are still not listening to the community, and the community has no voice in the matter.

Bob Coffin reminded Chris Pearson, our new council rep, of Marti Emerald’s commitment to support a better process and asked for her to support a utility task force on this issue.

Chris Pearson said that Todd Gloria is still working on a task force and that Marti wants to defer to him for another month, and if something doesn’t happen, that their office will champion something.

ACTION ITEM: SEEK A 4-YEAR EXTENSION WITH THE CITY FOR THE MORATORIUM ON THE FORMATION OF UTILITY UNDERGROUNDING DISTRICTS 3CC, 3CC-1, 3CC-2 IN KENSINGTON

Bob Coffin explained the subcommittees vote on extending the existing moratorium on undergrounding by an additional 4 years.

Don Taylor – We know all too well from our experience in Talmadge what happens if a utility district gets formed. At that point the City turns it over to the utilities and they do what they want with regards to their plans, the location of boxes, etc. At that point we have no negotiating power. During the existing moratorium, we have been able to continue to negotiate and we have actually gotten their attention because we have the moratorium. If in the happy circumstance, that there is a task formed in a year or two, we can certainly go them and ask for the moratorium to be removed. This takes it where the City knows we are serious and we will not end up with a utility district formed.

Darlene Love – I just have a question. I would think that as the chairperson of the subcommittee, when the subcommittee voted 4-2 in favor of the matter, why we only heard the argument against the moratorium.

Kate Miller – supports the moratorium

Jan Bart – We can say thank you to Talmadge for opening our eyes. We don’t want to end up with something like what Talmadge or Normal Heights have. We have been working on this for 3 years and we have very little of substance to show for it. The utilities have even said at one point they would refuse to join a task force. We have a new mayor and new City Council and I believe they need time to work. Maybe 1 year, maybe 3 or 4. If we realize they need less time than we asked for, I’m sure they will agree to shorten it. But once a utility district is formed, there will be no turning back.

Gretchen Pattengill – support the moratorium

Dixie Blake – I’m in favor of a moratorium. 4 years kind of scares me. I remember sitting in Toni Atkins’ office and this has been going on for a long time.

Don Rosenkrantz – I totally agree with what Don Taylor said.

Keith – I’d just like to clarify something about the subcommittee vote. It started out as a 5 year recommendation. Bob and I voted against it. I think 5 years is kicking the can down the road and giving our politicians no real



deadline to take action. I'd like to give a short timeline to them. But I don't want to do a short term moratorium and then have to do another one. We wanted to look at where the impetus is.

Ken Horsley - Question for Chris Pearson. - Do you think creating this moratorium puts us at the end of the line? Do you think having no moratorium would let utilities go forward?

Richard Lesser – 4 years was chosen because that is a term length of Marti. So it would not go past her term. Nothing about this moratorium causes us any problem. Not even the length – because we can change it.

Bob Coffin – I want to make clear I am not against a moratorium. I am against a moratorium of 4 years because I think it is the wrong message. I don't think Marti will go down and let a utility district get formed without our say-so.

John M. Garrison – What was the wording of the motion? Is the vote seeking a 4 year extension from the date of the vote, or from the end of the current moratorium?

Bob Coffin – clarified it meant 4 years from the date of the end of the existing moratorium.

John M. Garrison – I believe we should approve this extension of the moratorium. I think it is important to take the time to get it right. I also think if we are ready within 4 years that it won't be a problem to shorten the moratorium. And I am not worried about this being seen as a sign we don't care or that we are willing to just sit back. It isn't like we are going to forget about it for 3 years and six months. We will be pushing the issue continuously during this period.

Sean Harrison – for the record, my street will not get undergrounding. I do know that a lot of people care about it. I don't think the community is going to stop pushing it. I am OK with this moratorium being 4 years or even 10 years.

Fred Lindahl –Islenair – Euclid and Thorn – they are having their undergrounding done right now. There is some historic significance in that neighborhood, and so you can see what is happening in that type of neighborhood. You can see if any improvement has been made or not.

Audience member - supports moratorium. I think what interests me, being that I am in the private sector, what I see missing is clear deadlines or targets. Something like, "Marti, by ___ we want to accomplish ___." When Chris says they are going to meet with us in a month, that is a month that we have lost. I'd like to see some short term targets and requests.

Approval/Disapproval of committee recommendation to seek a 4-year extension with the City for the moratorium on the formation of utility undergrounding districts 3CC, 3CC-1, 3CC-2 in Kensington.

The motion passed 11-3, with Coffin, Laman, Roudebush opposed.

[More information on Undergrounding is at <http://www.ktpg.org/projects/undergrounding/index.htm>]

PROJECT REVIEW



ACTION ITEM: STREET VACATION LOCATED ON THE 4600 BLOCK OF 52ND STREET IN TALMADGE

Applicants are seeking approval from the City for the vacation of a paper street located between 4601-03 52nd Street and 4595-97 52nd Street where it intersects with Contour Boulevard.

Ann Pease – We spent some time trying to investigate why the street even exists. Spent some time looking for whether it could be made parkland, but that didn't seem practical.

There was some discussion about what would happen to the land.

Deborah Sharpe – attended the meeting as a private citizen, but works for the City. She said most of the time the City streets are on private land that already belongs to someone, so if the paper street is vacated it is usually obvious that the land is still owned by the original owner.

The motion passed 13-1, with Doft opposed.

TRANSPORTATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITIES

ACTION ITEM: REMOVAL OF DISEASED FRUITLESS PEAR TREES ON ADAMS AVENUE

Scott Kessler - Adams Avenue Business Association –asked that we withdraw the action item and turn it into an information item.

Sean Harrison – this is about replacing the blighted trees on Adams Avenue. The Adams Avenue Business Association would be footing the bill. There was discussion for/against palm trees, some new pear trees. We ended up not focusing on the tree type, but simply letting them know we would like them replaced with something.

Sherry Hopwood – the trees look lovely right now. My only complaint is that it is hard to see what is playing at the Ken right now because the marquee is blocked.

Deborah Sharpe – I unfortunately missed the meeting. I came that night but I got the wrong time. I work for the City. Many years ago we worked for a grant to supply those trees. They are lovely trees when they are maintained properly. The contractors have made a mess of them. On Terrace Drive, they are gorgeous. The fire blight, there is hardly anything on it. Each cut needs to be sterilized in between or the blight is spread. They have a lot of growth to them already. I'm concerned they don't get enough water since there is no irrigation.

Sean Harrison – there is an irrigation system but it is in shambles. –

Scott Kessler - AABA – for about 16 years we have had a contract under supervision of the City's lead arborist. We spent \$4,500 a year to maintain those trees. Yes, there are other trees in the neighborhood that don't have the blight, but ours always have. We were told originally that they would outgrow the blight. We believe trees should enhance the aesthetics of the district. We've gotten a lot of complaints that the trees aren't enhancing the district. This is considered a Heritage Tree because it is a uniform tree in a district, so we actually need your vote if we are going to remove them. And we need to get buy-in from the businesses since they are paying for maintenance.



Deborah Sharpe – I respectfully disagree. The person who owns one of the businesses along Adams Avenue went out and cut the trees in front of his business himself, which resulted in a poor result. The pear tree that was recommended was the Bradford Pear.

Richard Lesser – I think we need tall trees because they need to be taller than delivery trucks.

Bob Coffin – who owns the trees?

Scott Kessler - I don't know.

John M. Garrison – this is clearly important to a lot of people. It would be great if the subcommittee would give me some minutes to post on the website, or a proposal, or some possible trees.

Sean Harrison – I will send you the pictures I have.

ACTION ITEM: KTPG APPLICATION THROUGH THE CITY FOR A CALTRANS COMMUNITY BASED TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT

Joan FitzSimons– Mr. Moty and I are leaving at 8:30 to go to the College group. For 30 years I've said I'd like to improve Fairmont Avenue. I went to the subcommittee and said I'd like to be in charge of that, and Sean put me in charge. That was hugely important since I am on my own and get to do what I want to do. I am uniquely qualified. I sat on the oversight committee for I-15, so I know everything there is to know about freeway development. After that, I was in high-end land-use planning for 5 years. We said we wanted the highway interchange at Fairmont and Montezuma rebuilt.

The Motion passed unanimously.

BYLAWS

ACTION ITEM: REVISIONS TO THE KTPG BYLAWS

Subcommittee chair Frank Doft – In addition to the changes voted last month, we had some minor wording changes to the Bylaws. Probably the most significant was changing the groups we are involved with by dropping the City Heights Redevelopment Pac, KTCA, and KTBA, and adding the AABA and ECB BIA.

The Motion passed unanimously.

LIAISON REPORTS

CPC – David Moty – they are going to have a prioritization of other communities and where they fall in the community plan update process, by June. So we will know how many years away we are. The oversize vehicle pilot program – where it is illegal to park RVs on the street beyond 72 hours, but the only way to cite them is to chalk them and then come and chalk them again. Now they will have a permit process where permits are sold online (David thinks in the \$5 range). Third item is a utility street repair item. If you create a cut in the street, you have decreased the life of the street. We want the utilities to bear that cost. We hope this will cause better coordination between the uses.



Fred Lindahl – Talmadge had 2 meetings – regularly scheduled meeting where we put together subcommittees, and a second special meeting where we worked with Any Field and his team with respect to the budget. We added an additional sweeping of our alleys. We devoted some money to infrastructure, to the restoration of our historic gates.

David Moty – next meeting is elections – please come vote. We may have a condominium project up for review.

ADJOURNMENT

David Moty adjourned the meeting at 8:28 pm.