

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GREATER GOLDEN HILL PLANNING COMMITTEE

April 2018 – March 2019

Section I. Introduction.

The Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee (GGHPC) is the recognized Community Planning group for the neighborhoods of Greater Golden Hill, including “South Park.”

Officers during this period were David Swarens, Chair, Kathy Vandenheuvel, Vice-Chair, and Sabrina DiMinico, Recording Secretary.

Each was elected at the April 2018 meeting, following March board elections, for one-year terms. In September Ms. DiMinico resigned from her office, and was replaced by Michael Nazarinia as Secretary. She continues as an active board member.

Susan Bugbee served as membership and elections representative

Mr. Swarens also served as representative to the CPC (Community Planners’ Committee) and to ANAC (Airport Noise Advisory Committee), and member Cheryl Brierton was the designated alternate for both of these. Vice Chair Kathy Vandenheuvel was designated to serve on the Airport Authority’s CAC (Citizens Advisory Committee) to review ANAC recommendations.

New officers will be elected at the April meeting, and will be reflected on the updated roster.

The planning group has a number of ad hoc subcommittees, as specified in our by laws, as well as one “standing” subcommittee, Historic Preservation. That sub committee, chaired by Susan Bugbee, has not met actively due to lack of specific issues to review during this period.

A new Ad Hoc subcommittee, formed to review CIP (Capital Improvement Program) prioritization, has yet to meet. Its term was specified as until June 2019, the end of this next fiscal year, and it was created to be able to respond in an appropriate manner when the GGHPC receives requests for input in this area with less notice than would normally be required.

A Bicycle route subcommittee, chaired by member Victoria Curran, met and reported to the board in March, reviewing safety issues in the 30th/Fern Street bike corridor. Their recommendations, which focused on connectivity and safety, and the retention of all existing and planned bike infrastructure, were adopted unanimously. Included in their report was the recommendation to relocate the class II bike lane specified in the plan to 30th Street (rather than Dale). This preferred route is closer to the core route for better connectivity, and has the unique additional virtue of having had about half (four of ten

blocks) of this route already implemented (apparently in error, when previous plans were used by the City)

Earlier in the period, member Timothy Briggs met with well-known independent planner Howard Blackson to review a City request for input on a CIP project “Wayfinding” program. Their recommendations were developed with the GGHPC, first in a workshop format, in November, and then presented as a report, which was further honed. The Board endorsed the recommendations at its January meeting, and directed that they be forwarded to appropriate City Staff with a recommendation to implement.

Section II. Administrative Matters. During this period the GGHPC held eleven meetings. The planning group was able to take a Winter Holiday break, and did not meet in December, 2018.

The GGHPC does not have special categories of membership.

Section III. Members Summary

The GCHPC has sixteen members, as specified in bylaws.

Regular annual March elections fill two-year terms for half of the board.

In March 2019 there were 9 candidates and nine open positions on the board. Two of those on this ballot (Brierton and Swarens) were beyond the limit of four consecutive terms and were included to ensure there would be a full board, and were required to achieve a two thirds or greater vote in addition to that finding, per City policy and GGHPC bylaws.

The ninth opening was created when Mary Sparks’ seat was declared open due to excessive absences.

John Kroll was the non-incumbent on the ballot.

Updated rosters were filed with the City following any change in membership (this period only the election, and the change in secretary), and as the City implemented the new template for these, and will be filed again following the April meeting, when the new board elects its officers.

The GGHPC was one of the first “early adopters” to use the City’s new roster template (April 2018), and the chair has worked with CPC to suggest further improvements on this useful document.

Section III. Community Plan Preparation, Plan Amendments, and Implementation

The Golden Hill Community Plan CPU (Community Plan Update) was adopted in October of 2016, and there have been no proposed amendments to this recently adopted community plan.

Section VI. Special Projects.

The GGHPC established a new web page, with Oscar Media as web master.

The Golf Course Drive Improvement project, while in Balboa Park rather than Golden Hill, is a program that has been a long-term goal of our community. GGHPC representatives saw this through initiation of the approval process at the Balboa Park Committee and the City Golf Course Committee, and are looking forward to the promised design phase, groundbreaking, and of course opening day.

This multi modal route along Golf Course Drive is based on a feasibility study funded by Golden Hill IFS/ DIF (Impact Fee Study/ Development Impact Fees), and connects two areas of our GH community, and well as linking with the bike plans, such as the Pershing Bikeway, and other mobility elements of the community plans for Golden Hill and adjacent areas of North Park, Downtown, and Balboa Park (Central and East Mesa).

During this period the planning group also exercised its prerogative under the “alternative process” to request new all way stops at 22nd and E Streets, and on 28th at Ash and Cedar streets. The first of these has been completed.

Section VII. Overall Summary of Project Review & Community Development.

GGHPC reviewed three discretionary projects during this period, as follow:

April 2018: “B Street Tentative Map[TM],” project #585184. This eleven-condo project had been previously reviewed by the planning group on 11/11/2015, and recommended for approval, and was under construction as presented at that time. The TM was supported with a vote of 9-3-1.

October 2018: “32nd & C.” 19 unit residential condos, project #595288. The GGHPC had earlier seen an informational presentation of this proposal. The planning group recommended support with a vote of 9-3-0, with a series of specific recommendations, consistent with the community plan and the project goals. Most of these were immediately agreeable to the developer.

February 2019. “Bancroft Street Residences.” Two single-family homes, to be addressed as 1336 and 1340 Bancroft. Project #458558, requiring a NDP (Neighborhood Development Permit), on sensitive land/hillside. The planning group recommended approval 9-3-1, with the stated expectation that any biological and related environmental issues would be addressed by requirements from City staff. In a related motion the group unanimously recommended the City address deficiencies in public infrastructure in the area of this development, including condition of paving on this short street, a failing retaining wall, and drainage outflow in the canyon. These are not in the scope of this project, but do provide a context for the development.

The GGHPC developed and updated planning group priorities for CIPs in and adjacent to the Golden Hill community. A number of our CIP priorities are for Balboa Park projects, which serve GH, as well as having the status of serving as formal “park equivalencies” in the Golden Hill Community Plan.

For details or specifics, for these and many more topics of business, please consult the GGHPC meeting minutes posted on the City of San Diego web page

Section VIII. Activities of Associated Community Organizations

The GGHPC does not have ongoing formal associations with other organizations.