

May 16, 2017 Land Use Committee Meeting

1. Call to Order- 7:14pm
2. Roll Call- PRESENT: Antonio Castillo, Boo Caban, Zacharias Gardea; LATE: Susanne Huerta, Steve Crouch, Tina Gulotta-Miller; ABSENT: Trish Gossett and Melanie Freeland
3. Public Comments- None
4. Chairs' Report- Lummis Day is the first weekend of June; HHPNC has been asked to hand out their annual program; recently approved ordinance passed by LA city council regarding unpermitted units, should be codified shortly, will possibly be very helpful for Highland Park; LUC and full neighborhood council board is looking forward to continuing our relationship with CD1

Action Items

1. Table March minutes until next month; Zacharias motions agenda, Boo seconds, agenda passes
2. Table minutes, Zacharias motions, Boo seconds, motion passes
3. Jorge Castaneda- part of Measure S campaign; As a result of that campaign, electives have come out for general plan and community plan updates; wants public officials on record in regards to plan updates; Jorge provided the board and the public with a draft letter to be distributed to city officials/organizations to put them on record; The campaign is still developing what the workshop will be and where, but the general idea is to provide the public will critical information regarding how to challenge an EIR, what is Zimas, etc; Personal phone number: (323) 617-1606 for any questions regarding the campaign and/or workshop updates

What city officials are doing is talking about using Measure M funds be the organizing principle for those community plan updates because of the Orange Line's transformation to fixed rail; would be fine but only if the community public were properly included in the conversation; Jorge believes that is not what is happening

Measure M funds have not been moved yet, but the plans are in discussion; the organizing principle would then be transit oriented developments rather than open green space for example

Regarding a specific example in the Valley, a community plan cluster for Valley communities (West Van Nuys, Canoga Park, Reseda, Tarzana) trying to organize it into one plan without, what Jorge says, proper community input; is part of the Coalition to Preserve LA;

Jorge wants to host community workshops to inform the public about this process of clustering

Antonio- City Council passed a resolution that would update the community plans every 6 years; Northeast LA community plan is in need of an update, last updated in 1999, since then the Gold Line has come into play; community

plans have to go through a large community process that includes public input

Jorge's coalition is looking into possibly holding workshops in June and July; coalition are meeting with alliances and various organizations to garner as much support

Tina- Survey LA is part of this clustering process; there should be public input at some point; Recode LA is something that will fit into a puzzle piece for this re-clustering; some questions worth asking: how they cluster these plans and for what? Whether it's for public transportation purposes or for CEQA purposes?

Proposed letter to the City Council should be short and sweet, heart of the letter should be about the process including public comment and input; community workshops should happen before the letter is sent to the Mayor's office

4. This item has already been approved by the HPOZ board; an appeal based on CEQA which reversed the approval; the project was resubmitted addressing the sound concerns given its close proximity to a residential neighborhood, and was approved by the HPOZ board unanimously; the item was already approved and the appeals period already passed

Tina motions to table indefinitely, Susanne seconds, motion passes

5. Alcohol restricted use districts- Two members part of COPALM addressing the LUC regarding the potential implementation of alcohol restricted use sub-district; these sub-districts would prohibit any new alcohol licenses within that area; the motion is asking for the Planning Department to do a feasibility study to see if the law has ground to stand on; wants LUC to support a letter to send to Councilman Huizar to support the motion to get a feasibility study conducted first

Process began through Councilman David Ryu's district and the conversation surrounding increased density

Antonio-this planning tool will provide the option to look into the overconcentration of alcohol licenses on a comprehensive scale; this tool will start the conversation of overconcentration in areas such as in Highland Park, and will provide the city with a way to address such concerns

Susanne- more concrete information regarding what will be studied in the feasibility would be helpful to understand the full scope of the process

Boo- the Land Use Committee and full Neighborhood Council board takes every proposed alcohol license very seriously and she doesn't believe Highland Park is flooded with them; if the conversation wasn't tied to development, this would be an easy process

Public Comment: Randy- where would the CUP appeals go if they were in one of these districts? Antonio: would be sent to City Council for final approval, which the decision would possibly be politicized because of the polarity of alcohol licenses

The motion has been sitting in PLUM for 4 months; COPALM's hope is that there is a motion before the PLUM committee by end of June; the committee can generally support the motion and recommend to the full board but we still want to know the transparency of the feasibility study to determine full support

THE MOTION: The Land Use Committee to support the motion and request additional information on the feasibility study before anything is submitted. Tina motions, Susanne seconds, motion passes

6. The EIR is out and the public comment period ends May 22nd; the HHPNC has the ability to comment on the EIR; the NC supported writing a letter for public comment; the renovations will remove character defining curbs, concrete along exits/entrances, installing large orange tubs for safety cushion; Caltrans is claiming that curbs are concerns because cars are driving faster these days and in some cases have flipped over into the Arroyo

The name is Safety Enhancement Project but doesn't address speed limit changes; Caltrans identified an 8 mile stretch that has the most traffic incidents as compared to other highways in the state, as a result Caltrans workers are constantly doing repairs which puts them in danger while on the job

They are removing character-defining features as part of the project, which means there's a cultural impact. The parkway has 3 national levels of significance; would the renovations degrade its national level of significance? One reason for its historic significance is when it was built

The mitigations wouldn't address the speed limits and entrances/exits; would remove trees but for every tree they remove, they will add 4 new trees

Tina- Caltrans is putting a Band-Aid on a large safety concern; worked very hard with the National Register of Historic Places on getting the Parkway's historical characteristics protected; will the renovations destroy the character and historical significance of the parkway?

Antonio- on the edges would be adding concrete rails and 4 feet chain link fence; making it more consistent with some of the improvements they made back in 2006; would remove 3.2 miles of curbs and gutters would alter the feel and setting (Which are two integrity factors of the parkway) but not alter the historic significance

Susanne- debatable if these enhancements will actually improve safety; wonders if seeing safety improvements will lead people to drive less cautiously

Steve- questions the project planners because they didn't address the Metro railroad bridge over the parkway and may have put barriers in places that was not needed

Public Comment: Randy- doesn't like the loss of historical features; there can be other more affected ways to do traffic calming without touching the character defining features; the two year study from 2011-2013 that detailed all the accidents and fatalities may have been impacted by the rise of ridesharing and unfamiliarity of drivers with the parkway

Susanne motions to draft a letter responding to the EIR identifying the concerns regarding character-defining features and concerns about no speed reductions, loss of trees, and didn't address safety concerns and alterations to the lanes for traffic calming, Tina seconds, motion passes

7. Table for next month's LUC meeting
8. Reports and Updates:
 - A. HPOZ- none
 - B. 710- SCAG is in DC this week and its national infrastructure week and asking for 170 million for southern California; want to make improvements for 57 to the 60 freeways and conversion 71 expressway to a freeway, as well as other projects
 - C. None
 - D. None
9. None
10. Adjournment: 9:24pm Tina motions to adjourn, Zacharias seconds, motion passes