

**UNIVERSITY CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2014 MEETING**

Present: Barry Bernstein, President; Barbara Henshaw, Vice President; Ginny Charvat, Treasurer; Bonnie Hornbeck, Secretary; Sandy Lippe, Newsletter Oversight; Merle Berman, Beautification & Garden Club; Hallie Burch, Membership; Barbara Gellman, Neighborhood Watch/Beautification; Darlene Ventimiglia, Historian & Tree Lighting Coordinator; Mark Powell, UCPG Rep.; Diane Ahern, Publicity & Promotion; Mack Langston, UCCF Rep.; Jack Crittenden, Publicity & Promotion.

Excused: Valerie O'Neill, Don Hotz.

Guests: Verena Fisher, John Barr, Terry Brandes, Andy Freeburn, Betsy Pelling, Jane Hoey, Randy Fillat, Faye Duggan, Joan Devine, Michele Hagstrom, Jack Porath, Julio DeGuzman, Homa Pafii? (Couldn't read the name), Terry Web? (again..couldn't read the name), Allison Don, Marty Block's Office, Mel Milstein, Sherri Lightner's Office, Lena Lewis, Interim Mayor Todd Gloria's Office.

Barry Bernstein, President, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Barry then welcomed guests and members. He also welcomed new UCCA Board members Mark Powell, Hallie Burch, Diane Ahern & Jack Crittenden.

Agenda: Bonnie Hornbeck made a motion to approve the January agenda. Terry Jones seconded the motion and the January agenda was unanimously approved.

December (2013) Minutes: Barbara Gellman made a motion to approve the December minutes. Terry Jones seconded the motion and the December minutes were unanimously approved.

Legislative Reports:

Allison Don - Marty Block's Office: Allison reported that the 2014 State Legislature's session has just resumed for the new year. She said that Sen. Block has two important bills submitted; one that allows targeted junior colleges to grant BA degrees in subjects that are overcrowded in other colleges. The other bill provides a plan to get all interested parties together to develop new teacher evaluation policies.

Mel Milstein - Sherri Lightner's Office: Mel reminded everyone that the upcoming mayoral election is Tue. Feb. 11th. He gave an update on the approaching intersection improvement at Genesee and Governor and said that he would give specific details of the construction at our February meeting. Barry asked why he had been requested to contact Julio DeGuzman and Mel answered that Mr. DeGuzman was the City of San Diego Director Community Relations for City Attorney Jan Goldsmith.

Lena Lewis - Interim Mayor Todd Gloria's Office: Lena announced that the State of the City address would be given by Todd Gloria Wednesday, January 15th. at the Balboa Theater in downtown San Diego and that all were welcome to attend.

SDPD - Lt. Cedrun/Officer Hesselgesser: Lt. Cedrun first introduced Officer Hesselgesser as the Public Relations Officer for the Northern Division and also Detective Christopher Velovich, who is in charge of the recent hit and run accident in west UC. Lt. Cedrun then reported that the Holiday crime rate in the No. Div. was significantly low, due to UTC's security team, which she described as extremely competent. She also lauded our community's Neighborhood Watch program as also contributing to the lower crime rate over the Holidays. She then announced that Jerry Hera will be the new captain of the No. Div. and will be reporting in soon.

At that time, Det. Velovich, who is a detective with the city traffic division, reported in detail what has been done to date to investigate the hit and run that occurred Dec. 27th. in west UC. He said that since there were no witnesses to the accident other than the victims, hard evidence to find the driver or vehicle is scant. The victims described a red Toyota pickup truck. He said that there was no vehicle debris at the scene. Because of the relative lower speed of the truck, there was probably no front-end damage making it hard to track. He also reported that there is no evidence as yet to determine whether or not it was a hit and run or a felony assault

with a vehicle. West end neighborhoods have been canvassed by Det. Velovich regarding the red Toyota truck that was described by the victims, but there have been no sightings or information leading to identifying the truck or its owner.

At this time, the investigation is still open and the detective encouraged continued vigilance by the community and urged people to call him or the No. Div. PD with any information they may have. Sandy Lippe indicated that she has distributed flyers with information about the truck and phone numbers to call at SDPD if a red Toyota truck is seen that doesn't belong in the neighborhood. She also asked whether or not SDPD had asked the contractors who are operating at the end of Governor Dr. if any of their employees had red pickups.

At that time, there was some discussion regarding safety tips for pedestrians walking in the early morning or early evening hours. Lt. Cedrun said that the PD would gladly provide written tips for residents who walk or run, particularly in the streets. Det. Velovich said he would provide an accident report recap regarding the hit and run for the next UC newsletter. Also, there was a question from the floor regarding the proper procedure for reporting an older female resident that wanders in a neighborhood without family interaction or protection. Lt. Cedrun said to call 911 and ask for welfare assistance and details and an officer and a doctor would be sent to the scene.

At this time Lt. Cedrun introduced Jack Porath, a member of the RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Patrol) organization. Jack provided information as to what specifically RSVP services can provide to the community. These services include vacation house watch, license plate checks, among other things. He described RSVP as a program that is "the eyes and ears" of the police force and that they patrol the same areas that the SDPD patrol. They are equipped with radios, but are not armed, they are not an enforcement group, and that they cannot issue tickets except for handicapped parking areas. Jack reported that anyone over the age of 50 can volunteer for RSVP and that no previous experience is necessary. There is an academy and training is provided before one can be a volunteer. He provided the RSVP phone number (858-552-1737) to call if anyone is interested in volunteering. The same phone number should be used if any resident needs a neighborhood patrol or vacation house check.

Treasurer's Report: Barry reminded all that the report had previously been sent to all board members. Terry Jones made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Hallie Burch seconded the motion and the Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

Public Forum: Barry recognized Julio DeGuzman and introduced him to the Board. Julio described his role with City Attorney's Office and San Diego communities. He described his function as the Neighborhood Prosecution Unit and that this unit has an involvement with low level infractions such as graffiti, public offences, noise abatement, etc. He then explained how his unit works with communities and distributed his business card for further questions.

John Barr, a resident on Edmonton St., brought the issue of UCHS band noise. He has documented many instances of the band practicing on non-event nights, sometimes until 10 p.m. and the field lights were also on late after the band was not on the field. He said that many residents have complained to the principal of UCHS and the response was that they would try to fix the problem after the school year ends. This was because the schedule was in the 'master plan' of the school and they couldn't change it at this time. John did say that the band practice was ending earlier, but that the field lights were on until late at night. John has documented each instance that there was noise and/or lights from the high school until late at night and that he has approached the President of the School Board and various people at UCHS with little result. Mark Powell suggested that John look at the City school regulations regarding extracurricular activities on school property, (particularly as they regard to school bands). John said that he had done that and that there were no specific regulations about school bands. Terry Jones then indicated she would contact him with some additional contact names. At that time, Barry requested that John do further communication and research with the appropriate groups and report back at the February meeting.

President's Remarks: On behalf of the OCCA Board, Barry expressed thanks to Darlene Ventimiglia, Barbara Henshaw, and Sandy Lippe for their efforts in making the 2013 Tree Lighting event successful. He also expressed thanks for their help in the clearing and storage of all the decorations until next year's event.

Barry also expressed many thanks to Barbara Gellman for her accomplishments in making the Neighborhood Watch program succeed in University City.

Barry then called for a motion to approve new Board members Mark Powell (UCPG Rep.), Diane Ahern (Newsletter & Co-Publicity/Promotion.), Jack Crittenden (Newsletter & Co-Publicity/Promotion.), Hallie Burch (Membership), and Terry Jones as the 2014 Corresponding Sec'y. Barbara Henshaw made the motion to approve the new Board members and the motion was seconded by Terry Jones. The motion passed unanimously.

UCHS P.A.L.S. Request for Funding: Barry gave a recap of the P.A.L.S. request for \$1,000 and how the money was going to be spent (t-shirts, literature, tutoring). He asked if there was a motion to approve the funding. After a short discussion, Ginny Charvat made a motion to fund \$1,000 to P.A.L.S. The motion was seconded by Sandy Lippe and the motion was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Beautification – Merle/Barbara Gellman: Merle reported that the first major "sweep up" has been completed and the areas are looking good. She also said that Barry is working with Carl's Jr. re: the median across from the restaurant on Governor Drive to provide a plan for Carl's Jr.'s continued maintenance of the median. Merle announced that the next median planting will take place in February.

UCCF – Mack: Mack reported that at a recent meeting Michelle Huffaker was announced as the UCCF logo contest winner. He also said that John Walsh, who attended that meeting, suggested that the word "Foundation" appear in the logo. He also said that planning for a permanent stage at Standley Rec. Center is moving forward and is now at the appropriate city office for sign-off. Mark said that the total cost for the construction would probably exceed \$200,000. He then said that the next UCCF meeting will be on Jan. 28th.

Newsletter – Sandy: Sandy welcomed new Board members Diane Ahern and Jack Crittenden to assist with the UC Newsletter.

Regarding the Peter Burch fountain, Sandy indicated that the brass plaque that has been installed near the fountain omitted the name of a major contributor to the fountain. She said that the omission can be resolved by putting a small plaque containing the donors' names directly on the fountain at a cost of \$35. After discussion, Barbara Henshaw made a motion to spend \$35 for the additional plaque. The motion was seconded by Terry Jones and then was unanimously approved.

With regard to the Scripps Health \$3,500 funds for the summer concerts, Sandy said she signed a formal proposal outlining Scripps' contribution to the concerts. After discussion, Sandy made a motion to approve the \$3,500 Scripps contribution. The motion was seconded by Barbara Henshaw and then unanimously approved.

Membership – Hallie: Hallie thanked the Board for approving her membership and for their sympathy at the death of her brother Peter in December. She reported that there are 178 new household members for a total of \$12,405, including one anonymous donation of \$500. Hallie also suggested an idea for promoting UCCA by introducing the idea of the board game UC-Opoly for sale. She showed the Ocean Beach-Opoly game that the OB community developed and said that it was a successful fund raiser for the community. All board members thought this was a good idea and Barry encouraged Hallie to pursue development of the game.

Barry then suggested that the membership thermometer be again published in the UC Newsletter to raise awareness in the community of UCCA organization and to promote membership. Barry also said that he would present strategies and goals for increasing membership at the February meeting.

Other: Barbara Henshaw reported that she had a conversation with Dr. Irwin (Jake) Jacoby, a UC resident and physician on national disaster response teams. She said that Dr. Jacoby has volunteered to present a disaster response program at a future UCCA meeting. Barry said that he will contact Dr. Jacoby for a future date.

Barbara Henshaw also reported that she has been contacted by Del Mar Fair officials regarding developing banners for the 2014 Fair. She was told that the theme for this year's Fair is "Fab Fair", which suggests a Beatles (also known as "Fab Four"). Jack and Diane will assist with creative ideas for the banners.

Mark Powell, UCPG representative, indicated that he will attend the next UCPG meeting and bring his report to the UCCA board at our February meeting.

Ginny...Darlene? announced that the UCCA Tree Lighting budget is \$700 ahead due to Raphael's not appearing at this year's event.

Mack Langston made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terry Jones seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

The next UCCA meeting will be on Wednesday, February 12, 2014