

**UNIVERSITY CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2015 MEETING**

**Present:** Barry Bernstein, President; Barbara Henshaw, Vice President; Ginny Charvat, Treasurer; Vince Reardon, Secretary; Mack Langston, UCCF Rep.; Merle Langston, Beautification; Hallie Burch, Membership; Barbara Gellman, Neighborhood Watch/Beautification; and Darlene Ventimiglia, Historian.

**Excused:** Terry Jones and Diane Ahern

**Absent:**

**Guests:** Nancy Groves

President Barry Bernstein called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. He welcomed all attendees. Barry led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda:** Barbara Henshaw made a motion to approve the March Agenda. Hallie Burch seconded the motion and the March agenda was unanimously approved.

**Minutes:** Barbara Gellman made a motion to approve the February minutes. Barbara Henshaw seconded the motion and the February minutes were unanimously approved.

### LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

#### **Supervisor Dave Roberts Introduced**

Mel Millstein, Community Representative of San Diego County Supervisor Dave Roberts, introduced the Supervisor.

In his introductory remarks Supervisor Roberts mentioned he is the first new Supervisor in the County in 20 years. As the parent of five adopted children, Supervisor Roberts said he is passionate about three key issues: 1) enhancing services to children in foster care and streamlining the adoption process, 2) reducing energy consumption and costs through alternative energy use, especially solar power, and 3) enhancing mental health-care services to the poor and underserved.

Barry asked Supervisor Roberts about his support of a stadium for the Chargers. The Supervisor was non-committal about a stadium. He said the Board had enough issues to worry about. He said, however, that the Board would in no way support raising taxes on San Diegans for a stadium.

#### **New SDPD Community Representative Introduced**

San Diego Police Department Captain Jerry Hara introduced the new Northern Division community-relations officer (CRO) Holly Tafoya, who replaces outgoing CRO Larry Hesselgesser. Hara said the Tafoya had been a CRO in Eastern Division for the past five years.

Tafoya mentioned that the SD Police Academy had recently graduated a class of new officers and Northern Division had added eight new officers to its ranks. She encouraged UCCA attendees to register with Next Door, the online social network for neighborhoods, to read her informational updates. She said there have been two recent robberies in UC. An Hispanic male, posing as a pest control specialist from the City of San Diego, requests permission to spray bushes or trees in the back of the house. Afterwards, an accomplice enters and burglars the residence. She mentioned a house on 5800 block of Scripps was also burglarized.

#### **SDFD Battalion Chief Introduced**

Fire Chief Craig Newell introduced himself. A graduate in Biochemistry from San Diego State University, Chief Newell said his official office is located at Fire Station 35.

Barry asked Chief Newell how fire trucks would get to a fire in South UC if major freeways, like I-805, were blocked. Quoting from the Citygate Study commissioned by the SD City Council, Chief Newell said he was confident that the SDFD could respond in a timely fashion to potential fires in South UC by relying on numerous, alternative routes. He also mentioned that South UC was listed sixth on a priority list of proposed new fire stations. Chief Newell distributed handouts of the City's "Fast Response Squad Pilot Program Recommendations."

#### **Hilary Nemchik Introduced**

Hilary Nemchik, a Field Representative of State Senator Marty Block, gave a brief update of legislative business in Sacramento as of late February. She said Block introduced or co-authored legislation which would benefit veterans and

education as well as bill that would prevent human trafficking and elder abuse. She mentioned SB 290 (non-resident tuition exemption for veterans) and SB 352 (protect victims of elder abuse).

### ASSOCIATION REPORTS

**Treasury & Budget Reports:** Barry gave his allotted time to Ginny to give Treasurer and Budget Reports. As of February 28, 2015, UCCA had net income of \$7,934.53 and during the same period UCCA had a budget balance of \$43,724.59. Barbara Henshaw made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; Hallie Burch seconded the motion. All unanimously approved the motion. Valerie moved to approve the Budget Report; Merle Langston seconded the motion. All unanimously approved the motion.

**Membership Report:** Hallie reported that as of March 10, 2015, there are 617 UCCA members (comprising 425 memberships) and totaling \$21,830 in membership revenue. Ginny Charvat moved to approve the reports; Valerie seconded the motion. All unanimously approved the motion.

### SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Barry introduced Kara Kong of Caltrans of SHIFT SD. Kong said UC residents can visit [www.shiftsandiego.com](http://www.shiftsandiego.com) for news and information about the ongoing construction at the I-5 and Genesee Ave. interchange. The project, which began this February, is expected to be completed in approximately 3 years. Kong said the project will replace the existing six-lane Genesee Ave. overpass with a ten-lane bridge. Along with the replacement of the overcrossing, the project will also widen the freeway access ramps, add an auxiliary lane in the northbound direction on I-5 between Genesee Ave. and Roselle St., and build a new, separated bike path that connects the Sorrento Valley COASTER station to UCSD. Kong concluded her remarks by reminding everyone that May 15<sup>th</sup> is Bike-to-Work Day.

### PUBLIC FORUM

**Taste of Triangle:** Anne St. Louis, president of EDUCATE!, spoke about the organization's mission of providing funds in the form of grants to UC's five public schools. She mentioned that last year EDUCATE! provided 45 fall and winter teacher-grant requests for more than \$45,000. Ann mentioned that on Saturday, May 2, EDUCATE! will host its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual *Taste of the Triangle* at the UCSD Faculty Club, 9500 Gilman Dr. There will be a VIP Reception at 5:30 p.m. and at 7:00 p.m. the Main Event. Approximately 20 restaurants will participate in the culinary gala. In addition, there will be entertainment, dancing, and a silent auction. Cost is \$75 per person, \$50 for UC teachers. All donations are tax deductible.

Anne requested a \$1,000 donation from UCCA.

**UCHS Spirit Run:** UCHS Principal Jeff Olivero spoke about the UCHS's *Spirit Run*, which began last year with 300 runners. This year Jeff hopes to double the number of participants. He said the race primarily promotes health and fitness and secondarily fundraising for UCHS. Entrants pay \$25 and sponsors may donate funds to support their specific runner. Funds from the *Spirit Run* will pay for a school fitness trainer.

Jeff requested a \$1,000 donation from UCCA.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**President's Remarks:** Barry mentioned that ImagineUC 2020 will convene a follow-up meeting on Monday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. Standley Middle School The topics to be discussed will be: 1) drawings and renderings of the proposed project covering open land in and around Standley Park and Standley Middle School and 2) the probability that the SD Unified School District will support the ImagineUC 2020 committee's proposals to improve Standley Park and environs. Mark Langston will report on these developments.

**Beautification: (Merle Langton):** Merle gave an update in her continuing battle to get the City to pay for infrastructure improvements to the "road islands" at Radcliffe and Governor Ave. and Stresemann and Governor Dr. After submitting bids to contractors for road-island improvements, she realized the project would require more money. Merle and Barbara Gellman requested an additional \$4,500 (a total of \$12,000 so far) to get started on median improvements. Merle moved to add \$4,500 to the budget and retain the Urban Corps to perform work improvements. Barbara Henshaw seconded it. All members unanimously approved the motion.

**Newsletter: (Valerie O'Neill)** Valerie called for a newsletter meeting and scheduled one for March 11, 2015 at Starbucks. March 19th is the deadline for editorial copy for April's newsletter. April 2<sup>nd</sup> is the delivery date.

**ImagineUC 2020: (Mack Langston)** Mack mentioned that the first meeting of ImagineUC 2020 at Greg Zinser, president of ImagineUC, on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, is on hold until John Lee Evans meets with Major Faulconer on land use issues and discuss ImagineUC with him. He said that nobody wanted to raise funds until the group articulates where the money is coming from. Barry said he met with the Mayor's community affair representative Rich Reyes.

**Neighborhood Watch: (Barbara Gellman)** Barbara mentioned that there are a number of streets in UC without Street Captains. She mentioned there were forms in the back of the meeting room, if anyone is interested in volunteering or giving the form to someone who is.

**UCPG (Nancy Groves):** Nancy gave a brief report of neighborhood projects under construction in UC:

- 1) The Southeast UC Sewer Pipe Project will be under way between March 2016 and April 2017.
- 2) A second sewer pipe is being built along Genesee Ave. to accommodate two new proposed high-rise towers.
- 3) Double train tracks are planned to be built between Sorrento Valley and Miramar Rd.
- 4) Verizon is seeking to build two new telecommunication towers for placement in the Torrey Pines Hilton.
- 5) Owners/developers of Costa Verde Shopping Center want to expand the shopping center by adding 225,000 sq. ft., to the existing 178,000 sq. ft. mall. Lobbyist Chris Wahl of the public affairs firm Southwest Strategies is representing the owners in the proposed project. At a recent UCPG meeting Board Members voted nine (9) opposed and six (6) in favor. Nancy said the Board is concerned that the timing of the proposed expansion – during the building of the trolley – will strain the vehicular traffic in the area too much.
- 6) The West End Project on Regents Rd. was opposed by the UCPG. On April 14 the developer will once again present a modified plan for construction before UCPG. Nancy said the developer will likely reduce the number of units to 9 houses. Neighbors in the area, she said, are all opposed to the condo complex.

**New Business:** Ginny made a motion that UCCA should donate \$1,000 for the Annual *Taste of the Triangle* fundraiser. Valerie seconded it. All members unanimously voted in favor. Ginny also made a motion that UCCA should donate \$1,000 to the UCHS's Second Annual Spirit Run. Valerie seconded it. All members unanimously voted in favor.

**Old Business:** None.

**Adjournment:** Darlene made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mack seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** The UCCA Board will meet on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.