

**UNIVERSITY CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2015 MEETING**

Present: Barry Bernstein, President; Barbara Henshaw, Vice President; Vince Reardon, Secretary; Merle Langston, Beautification; Terry Jones, Correspondence; Mack Langston, UCCF Rep; Valerie O'Neill, Newsletter; Diane Ahern, Publicity & Promotion; and Hallie Burch, Membership,
Excused: Barbara Gellman, Ginny Charvat and Darlene Ventimiglia
Absent:
Guests: Nancy Groves

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

Agenda: Valerie O'Neill made a motion to approve the October Agenda. Terry Jones seconded the motion and the agenda was unanimously approved.

Minutes: Diane Ahern made a motion to approve the September minutes. Barbara Henshaw seconded the motion and the September minutes were unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

U.S. Congressman Scott Peters News: 1) Field Representative Hugo Carmona said that on Oct. 13th Rep. Scott Peters spoke at Doyle Elementary School and called for legislation requiring universal background checks on people purchasing guns. 2) He also said Rep. Peters introduced the Federal Student Loan Refinancing Act which directs the Secretary of Education to automatically lower all federal student loans to 4 percent – which is near the current 30-year mortgage rate.

Office of the City Attorney's News: Representative Julio DeGuzman, Community Relations Representative, asked for attendees' cooperation in reporting crime to his office, especially minor crimes. In response to a question about illegal dumping in the community, DeGuzman said residents could contact him with dumping complaints. (deguzmanj@sandiego.gov)

San Diego Councilwoman Sherri Lightner News: Council Representative Kyle Heiskala gave three brief updates to community issues: 1) There is a proposed water rate increase and San Diego residents have recently received notification of the increase through the mail. If you have any questions, contact him. 2) Railroad construction in Rose Canyon, a Caltrans project, is currently underway. Heiskala said there have been some resident complaints about nighttime noise. He reminded attendees that this is a federal project. When construction workers

are working on tracks, trains are required by federal regulation to sound their train whistles, night or day. If you have complaints, contact Caltrans, not Lightner's office. Friends of the Rose Canyon are monitoring the situation. 3) Councilwoman Lightner attended the 7th Annual University City Oktoberfest on October 10 at Standley Park. She also participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony commemorating the beautification project at two medians on Governor Drive undertaken by the UCCA.

San Diego Police Department News: SDPD Office Holly Tafoya mentioned that she recently sent out a blast email to the media regarding several burglaries in Clairemont. She asked attendees that if they know anyone who has been burglarized recently to contact her. She said the SDPD has recovered recently stolen items.

San Diego Fire Department News: Station 35 Battalion Chief Kinnamon introduced himself and reminded attendees that October is Fire Prevention Month. He urged attendees to be careful not to start a fire accidentally during this time of extreme drought.

Regency Center News: Amy Freiburger, manager of public affairs for Southwest Strategies, said a plan has been submitted to the City for development upgrades to the Costa Verde mall. She said a community forum will be held at Costa Verde Center, 8650 Genesee Ave., San Diego, CA 92122 (next door to the Boxing Club) on November 12th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Freiburger urged attendees to come to the forum and share ideas. There will be free pizza, ice cream and more.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Treasury & Budget Reports: Prior to the board meeting Barry Bernstein sent a report to board members containing revenue and disbursement information. The report noted that the current checking account balance stands at \$31,500. Terry Jones made a motion to approve the reports. Barbara Henshaw seconded the motion. All approved the motion unanimously.

Membership Report: Hallie Burch reported that the 2016 UCCA membership drive has gotten off to a good start. In September UCCA attracted 33 new members and brought in \$1,380 in new membership dues.

Correspondence: Terry Jones read a letter she received from Suzanne Mendelson of Curie Elementary School PTA thanking UCCA for a donation.

PUBLIC FORUM

Brush Removal from Hillside Property at Regents Road & Pennant Way

UCCA provided an open forum to address a community concern related to the brush control work on the east hillside opposite Pennant along Regents Road. The owners of the property (said to have been purchased in a city auction in March) were present, along with representatives from the city's fire department/brush management and city Council President Sherri Lightner's office.

After much discussion and explanation/questions, it was explained that if the city determines there has been a permit or code violation, the owner will be cited by the city. The owners, once obtaining the required permits, said they will be continuing with the next phase of surveying the property hillside. The young couple owning the property (3.07 acres), said they do not have plans to develop the property beyond one residence; and stated that they will not sell the property to inquisitive developers/speculators.

They said they feel certain that University City residents will be very pleased with the added fire safety being provided by the brush and trash removal as part of the project's preparation, the elimination of large portions of poison oak, and the added ultimate aesthetic enhancement to the surrounding community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2015-2016 Board Nominations & the Election Ballot (Mack Langton): 1)

Mack said that Karen Martinez was interested in becoming Secretary and Don Hotz was interested in becoming Treasurer. 2) The Board discussed if it needed to amend its bylaws, which stipulates that prospective board members must attend two board meetings for eligibility on the November election ballot. It was suggested that if the Board counted Karen Martinez's attendance at the November 2015 meeting as one of two meetings attended during 2015 along with her attendance at the October meeting, then she would have fulfilled the attendance requirements to be a legitimate candidate on the November ballot. By taking this action, the bylaws would not have to be amended. Barbara Henshaw made a motion to make Martinez's October and November attendances suitable for eligibility on the November ballot. Val O'Neill seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mack presented and submitted the new slate of UCCA Board members for 2016. They are:

- Barry Bernstein – President
- Diane Ahern – Vice President
- Karen Martinez – Secretary
- Don Hotz – Treasurer

Imagine UC 2020 (Barry Bernstein): Barry said that John Lee Evans will meet with Mayor Falconer's committee on the Pavilion project. He said the City, which needs to give final approval for the comprehensive community project, could approve it in the Spring.

Neighborhood Watch: Diane Ahern said that Barbara Gellman had been asked by the Police Department to do what she could to increase the number of Neighborhood Watch Block Captains in northern University City. Diane said that she and Barbara followed up by having a Neighborhood Watch meeting at the North University Community Branch Library.

Monthly UCCA Newsletter (Val O'Neill): Val said the 20-page November newsletter will include a membership envelope to promote a new membership drive.

Light Pole Banners (Barbara Henshaw): Barbara said she is working with SANDAG to pay UCCA for using our banners to promote itself.

President's Comments (Barry Bernstein): 1) Barry thanked Merle Langston and Barbara Gellman for all their hard work in managing and completing the project of beautifying two medians on Governor Dr. 2) Barry reminded attendees that the UCCA's next meeting will be on Wednesday, Nov. 18 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. At this meeting new Board Members will be elected.

Adjournment: Barbara Henshaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Val O'Neill seconded the motion. All approved unanimously the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: The UCCA Board will meet on Wednesday, November 18 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.