



## Community Meeting

February 9, 2021

Minutes

Board Members Present: Daniel Merk-Benitez, acting chair; Mary M. McKenzie, acting vice chair and secretary; Byron Ross, Treasurer.

### I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daniel Merk-Benitez called the meeting to order at 6:32.

Next month will be our annual meeting for Board elections and Bylaw changes. Our very special guest will be Mayor Todd Gloria.

Mary McKenzie announced proposed bylaw changes that will be voted on next month. The changes will allow annual elections to be held on online platforms. Mary then explained Board election procedures and requirements as they are outlined in the Bylaws. In March, three Board members will be elected.

### II. ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

\*Congresswoman Sara Jacobs. David Vance is her new community representative. Jacobs' first bill was to censure Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor-Greene. Jacobs is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, and the House Armed Services Committee.

\*State Senator Toni Atkins. Barbara Cosio Moreno reported that COVID is the major issue facing the Legislature. Big news is that SB 91 extends rental moratorium until June 30. Sen. Atkins' office wants to help you if you are facing issues with any issues in dealing with matters such as unemployment benefits or other government-related issues. Ms. Cosio Moreno's email: [barbara.cosiomoreno@sen.ca.gov](mailto:barbara.cosiomoreno@sen.ca.gov).

\*Assemblymember Chris Ward. Christopher Gris is the District rep for Assemblymember Ward. Gris reiterated the rental moratorium. Assemblymember Ward is currently focused on AB 311, Ghost gun kits. AB 11 which would establish regional authorities to deal with climate change. Benjamin Nicholls asked about future development of the DMV.

\*Mayor Todd Gloria. Kohta Zaiser, the D3 rep for the Mayor, sent some updates on what the Mayor has accomplished: more funds for rental assistance, eviction moratorium has been extended, and the Mayor's executive order capping third-party food delivery fees.

\*Supervisor Nathan Fletcher. Makana Rowen is the Supervisor's Director of Community Engagement. Eight Board letters and resolutions have been passed already. Has released \$52 million for rental assistance. Passed resolution in which the County commits to 0% Carbon emissions by 2035.

\*David Mier from UCSD Medical Center, Hillcrest. UCSD Health will present at April meeting.

### III. CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Councilmember Stephen Whitburn first presented commendations to Jae Mohr, David Vance, and Giovanni Santos for their previous service to the Hillcrest Town Council.



Emphasized that we should feel free to reach out to his District Rep, Benny Cartwright, with any questions.

Councilmember Whitburn spoke about the recent vandalism in Hillcrest and the strong response of local officials to these crimes.

Stephen has been appointed Chair of the Land Use & Housing Committee (homelessness, adding affordable housing); Vice Chair of Budget Committee; Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee; and the Rules Committee. Stephen is also a Board member of MTS and Air Pollution Control District.

Homelessness remains a top priority and linking the services available to them. Housing, too. And we need to think outside the box: tiny homes, modular homes, etc... The Councilmember also discussed the implementation of Measure B.

Councilmember remained to answer questions about COVID-19, the eviction moratorium, third party delivery fees (to the restaurants—it was up to 30%).

#### **IV. HILLCREST BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Ben Nicholls, executive director, announces a new event in Mural Alley, between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, just south of University. The HBA will host an Art Market on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in the month. Farmers Markets and Art Markets are allowed under current permitting schemes.

Ben requested a letter of support from the HTC. The Board agreed.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Debra Storch invited HTC members to the February 22 meeting of the Uptown Democratic Club, where we will feature Steph Johnson and the Voices of Our City Choir.

Miah Sperling was encouraged by chat comments that suggested events such as a treasure hunt, or scavenger hunt....The idea is to include the community in our events!

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary M. McKenzie, acting secretary  
3/27/2021