



Community Meeting

August 10, 2021

Minutes

Board Members Present: Daniel Merk-Benitez, chair; Byron Ross, Vice Chair; Mary M. McKenzie, secretary; Miah Earn, BOD member at large. Absent: David Mier, Treasurer

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

In September we will host a presenter from PATH.

In October, Toni Atkins. In November, Nathan Fletcher. And in December, Sara Jacobs has informed us she wants to come to our December meeting.

II. ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

*State Senator Toni Atkins. Barbara Cosio Moreno, District Communications manager. Over the next few weeks, Sen. Atkins will be in town, breaking ground for the Pure Water Project, and also a ribbon cutting for the new International Cottages at Balboa Park. Summer legislative recess is over. Ms. Cosio Moreno's email: barbara.cosiomoreno@sen.ca.gov.

California Earned Income Tax credit: <https://www.ftb.ca.gov/about-ftb/newsroom/golden-state-stimulus/index.html>

August 1 newsletter. <https://sd39.senate.ca.gov/news/20210801-toni-times-august-2021>

*Assemblymember Chris Ward. Christopher Gris is the District rep for Assemblymember Ward. Discussed the budget passing, and what it included for San Diego. Christopher.Gris@asm.ca.gov

*Mayor Todd Gloria. Kohta Zaiser, the D3 rep for the Mayor. On November 9, the first Director, Hafsa Kaka, took charge of the new Department of Homeless Strategies and Solutions. The Neighborhood Policing Division introduced Progressive Enforcement. A homeless person has four "contacts" with the police before the police make an arrest. Contact "Get it Done" if it's not an emergency. "Homes for All of Us" includes Blueprint San Diego, basically a City EIR for affordable and middle-income housing. There will be opportunities for public comment. ZaiserK@sandiego.gov

*Officer Hayes, SDPD. Kohta covered a lot. But please use "Get it Done." Police must respond to your call and you can check on the status of your request. Vehicle Habitation. SDPD can't impound their cars. Please interact with officers if you see them to alert them to your concerns.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary McKenzie discussed the importance of voting on the recall ballot.

John Hartley on homelessness. Wonders if we can have an outreach program to the homeless.



IV. STEPHEN RUSSELL, San Diego Housing Federation

Presented a brief slide show. The SDHF, for 32 years, has focused on affordable housing.

Why are we in a housing crisis? Only three of the fastest growing occupations can afford to live in SD. Seven occupations cannot. We have not constructed enough housing which drives up housing costs. sandiegohousing.org

V. DEREK CASADY, San Diego Climate Mobilization Coalition

“There is nothing more dangerous to us than climate change.”

Derek’s brother, Cort, is a film maker and is making a documentary film about Mark Jacobson, professor of Atmospheric Science at Stanford University. Derek showed his sizzle reel, “100% possible: The Battle for America’s Energy Future.” Mark Ruffalo is also part of this project.

Derek Casady encouraged us to ask our legislators to support a declaration of national emergency because of climate change especially Preident Biden.

Dear Mr. President, Please declare a national emergency to deal with the climate crisis.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary M. McKenzie, Secretary
8/11/2021