



Community Meeting

January 12, 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 6:35.

Daniel shared new information about changes to the Board of Directors. Jae Mohr's resignation has been previously noted. Giovanni Santos has moved beyond the HTC's borders, and his resignation has also been accepted.

Mary McKenzie has been appointed to fill the empty seat that was left after last's year annual meeting (by Daniel and Giovanni). Byron Ross has been appointed to serve out Jae Mohr's term (by Daniel and Mary). These seats will be up for election in 2022.

Per bylaws, HTC must have a minimum of five Board members. We will hold elections for three Board seats at the HTC annual meeting. If anyone is interested in serving on the Board, please contact Daniel or other Board member.

II. ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

*State Senator Toni Atkins. Barbara Cosio Moreno reported that their office is focusing on providing relief to constituents and local small businesses. Ms. Cosio Moreno's email: barbara.cosiomoreno@sen.ca.gov.

*Assemblymember Chris Ward. Ansermio Jake Estrada serves with Adriana Martinez as District Director for Assemblymember Ward. He, too, emphasized relief for constituents and small business. Ansermio.Estrada@asm.ca.gov.

*Mayor Todd Gloria. Kohta Zaiser is the D3 rep for the Mayor. One of the new mayor's first initiatives was to promote stronger enforcement of COVID violations.

*Supervisor Nathan Fletcher. Makana Rowen is the Supervisors' Director of Community Engagement.

*David Mier from UCSD Medical Center, Hillcrest. David spoke of the surge of COVID cases, the creation of a Vaccine Superstation at Petco Park. ICUs are overburdened. David urged everyone to observe public health regulations, and he offered to give a presentation on COVID and the hospital.

"Councilmember Stephen Whitburn. Benny Cartwright is the Uptown rep for the newly-elected president pro-tempore of the City Council. CM Whitburn will attend our February meeting. Benny Cartwright emphasized that homelessness is one of the CM's priorities.



*Jawad Albaghdadi is the new rep for Sara Jacobs who will join the meeting later.

*Officer David Surwilo. Officer Surwilo is the Community Relations Office with the San Diego Police Department, Western Division.

*Luke Terpstra, San Diego Pride Board of Directors. Luke reported that Pride is actively planning for a weekend in July.

*Roy Dahl/Miah Sperling from the Uptown Parking District. Report was that the parking meters have been shut off again by the City. Parking meters supply funding for the Parking Boards. Unclear for how long.

III. Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, President of the County Board of Supervisors

The Supervisors have declared that racism is a public health crisis. Intentional systemic racism affects access to clean air/water/education/health care.

He also emphasized transparency in providing health care, especially. Mental health and drug rehabilitation services. We made a step toward fixing fiscal policies today.

The Supervisor explained that the Board of Supervisors has a completely new composition, so there will be more close votes. Fletcher emphasized that dissent in a body is not necessarily a bad thing!

IV. U.S. Congresswoman Sara Jacobs

In discussing the new Congress, Jacobs stated. "The times have found us."

The Congresswoman described her experience during the January 6 siege on the United States Capitol.

Congresswoman Jacobs serves on the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee as the Freshman Representative; the House Committee on Foreign Affairs; and the House Armed Services Committee.

Congresswoman Jacobs promised that someone from her team will try to be at our meetings every month. If not, they encouraged us to contact her office for help.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary M. McKenzie, acting secretary
3/25/2021