

# Kensington-Talmadge Planning Group



P.O. Box 16391, San Diego, CA 92176

[www.ktpg.org](http://www.ktpg.org)

## Regular Meeting Minutes

2010-05-12

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**PARLIAMENTARY ITEMS**

**CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

A regular meeting of the Kensington Talmadge Planning Group (KTPG) was called to order by KTPG Chair Tom Hebrank on May 12, 2010 at 6:34pm in the Kensington Community Church located at 4773 Marlborough Ave., San Diego, CA 92116. The minutes were recorded by KTPG Secretary John M. Garrison.

**Members present at the start of the meeting:** Bob Coffin, David Moty, Frank Doft, Fred Lindahl, Gail Greer, Guy Hanford, John M. Garrison, Kevin Kelly, Pam Hubbell, Sean Harrison, Sherry Hopwood, Tom Adam, Tom Hebrank, Tom Hoyt.

(Daniele Laman joined at 6:40)

**Members absent:** None

**Also present:** Dion Akers (from Council Member Todd Gloria’s office) and numerous members of the public

**MODIFICATIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A motion to approve the agenda with no changes was made by David Moty and seconded by Frank Doft. The motion was approved unanimously (14-0-0).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING(S)**

No minutes were ready to approve due to changeover in secretary position.

**TREASURER’S REPORT – REPORT FROM PRIOR MONTH**

**Starting Balance:** April - \$347.94

**Donations:** \$52

**Expenditures:** \$260.97 to Pam Hubbell to pay for the new signs used to announce meetings.

**Ending Balance:** \$138.97

## COMMUNITY FORUM / NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Dion Akers from Council Member Todd Gloria's office mentioned several items, including:

- Adam's Avenue Farmers Market
- Water and Sewer Group Job 3011

A community member asked Dion about some break-ins.

A community member asked Dion – "I live at 47<sup>th</sup> and Monroe – what type of options do I have if I am not in an assessment group but I do consider myself a Talmadge resident. I tried to participate in a community meeting but I was told that I was not a member of the community." Dion said the boundary of the TMAD was drawn several years ago. David Moty said that the boundaries for the maintenance assessment group is slightly different than that of the overall community and that her options would vary depending on what topic she wished to discuss. David said that she may not be able to participate in the TMAD meetings, but can bring planning items to KTPG.

A community member mentioned the Kensington Clean Energy Festival - an upcoming workshop / seminar on topics such as adding solar power to your home - Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> – 10:30am.

A community member asked about street repaving. Dion explained that the city has a moratorium on street repaving if significant road work is to be done on that street within 3 years. However, they should be doing some interim smoothing at least.

A community member asked about a stop sign that has now been hidden due to having to place a handicapped access ramp which caused a relocation of the stop sign. Dion said that the Transportation and Engineering people should be replying within 30 to 60 days.

Sean Harrison – Kensington preschool concerns about the adjacent alleyway. Dion said he understands there is a dangerous alley condition, in that children have to cross the alley. His office has asked Transportation and Engineering to do a traffic calming investigation (E.g. signage...)

A community member asked if there is a way to see specific budget items in the Diego City budget, for instance how much is being spent on police helicopters. Dion – in general yes, the mayor submits a detailed budget. Dion is not sure if helicopter costs are shown as a line item or not, but he can request that information if it is available.

Pat Rose Calloway – is the community representative from Price Charities, a group that is planning to develop the site previously occupied by Pearson Ford. She says she is a new neighbor. She said that she will now be regularly attending the monthly KTPG meetings and that the community will have her ear. She can be reached at 619-795-2018

Daniele joined at 6:40pm

## RATIFICATION OF CHAIR'S SELECTION OF SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

6:54pm – Assigning subcommittee chairs. Tom Hebrank explained the bylaws as pertaining to governing subcommittees. The subcommittee must include elected members of KTPG. The subcommittee may not include so many elected members that those members would constitute a quorum of the full KTPG. The number of elected members on the subcommittee must be more than the number of non-elected members of the community. The chair of the subcommittee must be an elected member of KTPG.

Tom Hebrank mentioned that we would have the same subcommittees as 2009-2010, including the special committee to consider the formation of a Kensington Maintenance Assessment District, except that so far no elected KTPG member had stepped forward with an interest to chair the Neighborhood Facilities and Historic Resources subcommittee. That subcommittee could be formed at a later date if necessary and desired.

Tom Hebrank nominated the chairs for each subcommittee and asked for a show of hands as to who was interested in participating in each subcommittee. The number of interested parties was such that everyone interested could participate without running afoul of the parameters in the bylaws. The interested parties were:

- Project Review
  - Chair: Tom Adam
  - Elected members: Daniel Laman, David Moty, John M. Garrison, Guy Hanford, Fred Lindahl
  - Public members: Jan Bart, John McKay, Maggie McCann, Suzanne Grant, Roger Utt
- Transportation and Safety
  - Chair: Bob Coffin
  - Elected members: Gail Greer, Guy Hanford, Kevin Kelly, Pam Hubbell, Tom Hoyt
  - Public members: Gretchen Pattengill, Art Mills, Roger Utt, Elvia Sandoval
- Membership and Communications
  - Chair: John M. Garrison
  - Elected members: Frank Doft, Gail Greer, Pam Hubbell
  - Public members: Jeanie Camp
- Kensington Maintenance Assessment District (KMAD)
  - Chair: Tom Hebrank
  - Elected members: Tom Adam, Bob Coffin, Guy Hanford, David Moty
  - Public members: Allan Frostrom, Louise Guarnotta, Maggie McCann, Jonathan Tibbitts

David Moty made a motion to approve the subcommittees as shown above; Frank Doft seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (15-0-0). (7:00pm)

Please Note:

- Information on KTPG subcommittees can be found at: <http://www.ktpg.org/subcommittees/subcommittees.htm>
- Information on the KMAD subcommittee may be found at: <http://www.ktpg.org/kmad/kmad.htm>

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

### TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY – BOB COFFIN

#### ACTION ITEM: ALDINE & MONROE TRAFFIC SITUATION

Bob Coffin explained that there were concerns about traffic at the Intersection at 47<sup>th</sup> Street, Monroe Avenue, and Aldine Drive. Bob passed out a letter that he had drafted asking the City of San Diego to modify the intersection.

Bob Coffin made a motion to approve the letter; Sherry Hopwood seconded the motion.

John M. Garrison said that no information had been presented about the problem, or about what studies had been done to show whether a problem exists or not. He said he could not support asking the City to make changes without such evidence/discussion, and without any sort of discussion about what changes the city should make. John asked Bob if he would accept a friendly motion to amend the letter to say “to study modifying this intersection”; Bob declined.

John then put forth a secondary motion to amend the main motion so that the letter would say “to study modifying this intersection” as opposed to “modifying this intersection”. David Moty seconded John’s motion.

Fred Lindahl– I would tend to support John’s motion except that I do believe that Traffic and Engineering have studied it in the more distant past already. Fred said he believes this information has been sitting in the city for 10 years, even though it has not come to this group in the recent past.

Sean Harrison – I believe that since a flashing street sign has been added, that this is a modification that has already been made.

Guy Hanford – I have heard recommendations and studies in the past, maybe we should bring those studies back to review them and make a tangible recommendation.

Sherry Hopwood - I would just mention that the traffic modifications that have been made have not been sufficient.

Kevin Kelly– I support the spirit of what John is doing but I think it is evident that some modification is needed.

John Royal – community member (who happens to be TMAD chair) – I believe that the problem cannot be resolved completely within the intersection. I believe the city should assign us an engineer to reduce the traffic flow by half, to the amount the road is designed for, and also to enforce the speed to the legal limit of 25 mph. The 15 mph sign around the curve is only advisory and not enforceable.

Elvia Sandoval – as a resident who lives on Aldine Drive, I have spoken with Bob Coffin and told him I think we need an immediate remedy to the problem. Residents are at immediate risk.

Bob Coffin – the purpose of the letter is to begin a dialog between the City Engineering department and the KTPG Transportation and Safety subcommittee. This letter will help get their attention. We haven't spoken about this before.

Guy Hanford - suggested that maybe we should give the city a deadline to report on "studying modifications".

John accepted this as a friendly amendment and modified the secondary motion to say "to study modifying this intersection and report back to KTPG within 60 days".

At that point, David Moty withdrew his second to John Garrison's motion.

Sherry Hopwood seconded John's motion to amend the letter to state "to study modifying this intersection and report back to KTPG within 60 days".

Tom Hebrank called for a vote on the amendment. John M. Garrison & Sherry Hopwood voted in favor, all others opposed (secondary motion failed 2-13-0)

Tom Hebrank said he thought the amendment might succeed if the 60 day limit were removed.

John M. Garrison made a motion to amend the letter to say "to study modifications to this intersection"; Sherry Hopwood seconded the motion. Another vote was taken but it had the same result: John M. Garrison & Sherry Hopwood voted in favor, all others opposed (secondary motion failed 2-13-0)

Daniele Laman noted that the date on the letter said May 11<sup>th</sup>, and that the date on the letter should not pre-date action to approve the letter. She asked that the date on the letter be

modified to the 12<sup>th</sup>. John M. Garrison noted that the letter as drafted stated that KTPG approved the letter unanimously, but that this could not be known until the vote on the letter was taken. John suggested that the letter be modified (if necessary) to include the actual vote taken. Bob Coffin accepted this Daniele and John's suggestions as friendly amendments to his motion; the second (Sherry Hopwood) also agreed to the changes to the motion.

A vote was taken and the motion was passed 14-1-0 with John M. Garrison voting against the motion.

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## INFORMATION ITEM - UNDERGROUNDING

Bob Coffin spoke about the Undergrounding Project. He said that the undergrounding in Kensington is occurring in 3 phases. The first Undergrounding in Kensington is due to begin in 2012.

Bob said that Ralph Riebli and Darlene Love would be making a presentation about how this has been going in Talmadge

First step is design phase - For electricity, there would be 1 utility box for every 12 houses. The other 2 utilities: AT&T and Cox, will have their own pedestals. Theirs are smaller. People in the first phase will be invited to attend an informational meeting (with those affected by later phases having their own meetings later).

The undergrounding comes with a bonus to Kensington, because the city will come in and upgrade electrical lines for all lamp-posts.

[Secretary's note: I e-mailed Bob Coffin to ask for more information on what he mean by "upgrade electrical lines for all lamp posts. Bob sent the following reply:

Hi John: As I understand it, the City will use the same utility trench as SDGE, Cox, and ATT to lay its own conduit to carry new wiring to each lamp-post in the undergrounding areas. They will be using state of the art circuitry with segment breakers and panels.

They will re-wire each lamp-post. If the lamp-post is damaged they will replace it with a cobra-styled lamp-post unless there is in place some organization (such as a MADD) that will buy and deliver a crown or acorn style lamp-post, in which case the City will install that lamp-post at no additional cost. Where existing lighting is from cobras on telephone/electric poles, those lights will also be replaced with a cobra-styled lamp-post. The cobra-style lamp-posts are currently to be found in the our community. They are plain steel posts with a horizontal tube at the top with a cobra light at the end of that tube.

The costs of the removal of the old wire, the supplying of the conduit and wire, the laying of the conduit, the supplying of breakers and breaker boxes, the rewiring of the existing lamp-posts, and the supplying of the cobra lamp-posts will borne by the City.

If we have a MADD in place and that MADD buys the acorn or crown period lamp-posts (which are available) the City will credit the cost of a cobra lamp-post against the period lamp-posts.

Signed, Bob Coffin]

The trench will be in the street. The homeowner will be responsible for bringing the utilities from the box at the street to their house. That doesn't mean that the homeowner will have to pay a contractor. The utilities will do it and the cost is borne by the city.

One of the key issues though is that the boxes are pretty ugly. We have some folks who are going to be showing us what those boxes look like and what the drawbacks are. SDG&E is going to be wanting to put those boxes where they want to put them. We will be working with them to see if we can come up with a better idea than how it was done in Talmadge.

A community member—says that where there is a transformer now, that would translate into a 3x3 box. If you look where those transformers are now, the actual number is more like 1 in 5 houses, so that 1 in 12 is not accurate.

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#### PRESENTATION BY RALPH REIBLI AND DARLENE LOVE

Although the “undergrounding” project results in electrical, telephone, and cable lines being removed from overhead lines and buried underground, the project still results in above-ground utility boxes. The presentation included a slide show with a number of photographs showing how the undergrounding has been done in the section of Talmadge that has already been done, including pictures of the size and placement of the utility boxes.

A few slides generated particular discussion:

- 1<sup>st</sup> slide – boxes on Meade Avenue – the slide appeared to show a large number of boxes located on consecutive properties.
- 4225 Marlborough – the box is currently completely underground, but Ralph's understanding is that this box will be brought up above ground.
- A slide showing a panel set flush in the pavement, with no above-ground box. Ralph mentioned that this panel is in front of John Royal's house, and that he would explain more fully.

John Royal – I want to take us back to the first meeting we had in Talmadge. The engineer showed no pictures. Immediately people started asking questions like what they look like, how big are they, etc. The engineer did not have answers to those questions. We asked if they had spoken to the residents. He said they didn't have to since the city owns that strip of property. We asked if they were going to talk to the people who were going to have boxes in front of their house. They said no. Since Talmadge was going to occur in steps, they only notified the people who were affected by each step. The first meetings were near the Aerospace Museum downtown during the middle of the day. I was head of TMAD the whole time and I never knew about it. They said notified 700 people and 100 showed up and they had so many questions they had to stop the meeting.

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#### SPEAKER SLIPS SUBMITTED ON THIS ITEM:

The following are speaker slips that were submitted on this item, and the wording that was submitted on the speaker slip:

- Shirley Kelly – undergrounding
- John McKay – what is the average cost per home owner for their share of the undergrounding project
- Mary Radley – General comment about utility boxes in streets with no parkways
- John Royal – personal experiences with undergrounding in Talmadge. Assisting those owners in Talmadge so they don't get ugly boxes instead of ugly poles.
- Charles Kaminski – undergrounding (agenda item V II A)
- Bill Bamberger – Undergrounding utilities – will modifications to existing plan delay the time schedule?
- Carol Larabee – Are the plans already drawn?
- B. J. Comer – have 2 questions regarding underground utility projects. [not present when called]
- Gretchen Pattingill – undergrounding
- Keith Roudebush – When will the actual formal vote be held? One year from now or later?
- Ron Anderson – undergrounding
- Sue Ann Macomber –(agenda item IV) undergrounding suggestions and options and why SDG&E is able to place boxes wherever – works with UCANN and wants to tell residents to band together to have maximum impact.
- Terry Frey – I want to speak in favor of undergrounding utility lines. I would oppose delaying implementation

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## DISCUSSION

Shirley Kelly – I live in north Kensington, and there are some transformers placed underground over 80 years ago. Why do we now have to bring them up?

Mary Radley – lives on south side of Adams. There is no strip of land between the sidewalk and the road. So when they have to put something in the yard, don't they have to have permission of the homeowner?

Bill Bamberger – I share the concerns about the boxes, but I am concerned that changes could delay things.

Bob Coffin – We asked that question and they said that if they hit an impass with a community, they don't move the community to the end of the line, they would take us out of line, do someone else, and then slot us back in at the first opportunity.

Carol Larabee – Are the plans already drawn?

Tom Hebrank – no, not yet. They say we have time to affect the plans

A community member asked how this could be called “undergrounding” if the boxes remain above-ground.

Tom Hebrank responded that it is called an undergrounding project because the lines are underground [as opposed to being above ground on poles].

Community member – how is this an improvement? Is it an improvement?

Charles Kaminski – I am a homeowner in Talmadge. You are doing the right thing. You are getting educated, and you have to keep getting educated. You have to continue to get your education and don't rely solely on this body. If you get a notice to come to some far off place for a meeting, you should go there. Don't laugh it off. I don't really like my neighbor so I worked with the engineers to move it as far as possible over to my neighbor's side of the yard. I also got them to put the two smaller boxes under the sidewalk. The big box is off to the side so I really don't see it from my house. It's not bad. I'm glad the wires are coming down; I have been waiting for that a long time.

Community member – how long before the construction were the plans drawn up?

Charles Kaminski - when I got the first notice to come to the first meeting, the drawings were already done.

[Secretary's note: The following 2 items were mentioned but the secretary was not able to capture the speaker or the exact context:

- Undergrounding project 3HH – Talmadge
- Public utility district could be created.]

Community member – I have a process question. It seems community members are evenly divided as to whether this is a good idea. Will the community get to vote?

Bob Coffin said that there would be a vote taken closer to the start of undergrounding work.

[Note: Secretary is uncertain whether this is a KTPG vote, a ballot mailed to the community, or some other type of vote. David Moty has informed the secretary he believes Bob was referring to a City Council vote.]

Community member – I thought there was going to be a city presentation tonight?

Tom Hebrank – We did discuss that at one point, but we felt that the timing was not right. Bob and I have met with Ralph and Todd Gloria’s office and we were all involved in the decision to push that presentation back. It is really too soon to have that presentation because the project is so far away that they would not have answers to our questions.

Ralph Riebli – I had a different understanding. I believe I was at all the meetings and I never heard any decision to delay the presentation.

Daniele Laman – it is important to remember that Talmadge is not done, and that parts of Talmadge are coming up. We can’t be too focused on just the upcoming work in Kensington.

John M. Garrison - Are the boxes better than the lines? To me, it is marginal. If we were starting from scratch, I think the boxes are just a little better than the poles. But we are not starting from scratch. We are spending a lot of money to replace something that is already functional. All we get for it is a marginal improvement in aesthetics.

I am disappointed that the city experts did not come here tonight as had originally been offered by Todd Gloria. I understand there were reasons for rescheduling that and for them not being here tonight. But I agree with Daniele; this is not just about Kensington. We know that Talmadge is not done yet. We should be working right now to make what changes can be made to help Talmadge, and not wait for Kensington. Besides, if we wait until plans are ready, then it may be too late to change those plans.

## KTPG LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

## AGENDA FOR THE NEXT KTPG MEETING

Tom Hebrank asked if anyone had items for the next KTPG meeting, beyond the normal subcommittee reports. No items were mentioned.

KMAD will meet in June as scheduled. All 3 regular subcommittees (Project Review, Membership and Communications, and Traffic and Safety) will meet as scheduled in May. Meeting times will be announced when the subcommittee meeting agenda is sent.

[Secretary’s note: Subsequent to the May KTPG meeting but prior to the May subcommittee meetings, the Project Review subcommittee chair, Tom Adam, e-mailed the subcommittee to say that there would be no Project Review meeting.]

## ADJOURNMENT

Tom Hebrank adjourned the meeting at 8:34pm

