

# Kensington-Talmadge Planning Group



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

## Regular Meeting Minutes – Final (Approved At May Meeting)

2012-03-14

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these and part of that process is for specific items to be presented at public meetings. We did have these items presented, but since our minutes are not exact transcripts of the meeting, not all of the items were mentioned in the minutes.

David Moty then read an amendment he would like to make to the November 2011 meeting minutes.

Don Taylor provided an approximate twenty-minute Power Point presentation regarding individual proposed street-lighting maintenance assessment districts (MADs) for each of the following neighborhoods: Kensington Heights, Kensington Manor, Kensington Park north of Adams Ave (Kensington Park North), Kensington Park south of Adams Ave (Kensington Park South), and Talmadge Park.

The presentation included descriptions of current status of street lighting in each of the five neighborhoods and the boundaries of each of the proposed MADs. The maintenance and/or additional street-lighting goals for each MAD were explained, including the estimated cost of \$85 per single family residence if MADs are formed. In addition, a large map was on display to assist the audience in understanding each neighborhood MAD's boundaries. This was followed by a question and answer period.

Hearing no objections, John M. Garrison said he would make the change.

David Moty then read a change he would like to make to the January 2012 minutes for the same reason:

Don Taylor made a presentation on the current status of each of the five proposed street-lighting maintenance assessment districts (MADs). The five proposed MADs are: Kensington Heights, Kensington Manor, Kensington Park North, Kensington Park South, and Talmadge Park. This included the display of a large Map, which clearly showed the boundaries of the proposed MADs to the audience.

The update included review of the petition drive in Kensington Manor, which had already gathered 46% homeowner petitions and a request for a vote and letter of support from the Kensington-Talmadge Planning Group. A review was provided regarding the recently started petition efforts in Kensington Heights and Talmadge Park and a timeline for the planned efforts in Kensington Park North and Kensington Park South.

The presentation also covered the steps that will occur in forming the proposed MADs after the petition drive, including: expected City Council votes in September, The need and estimated costs for Engineer's Reports, and options for Advisory Bodies. This was followed by a question/answer period and a KTPG Board discussion. The KTPG then voted in support, with exception of Gail Greer, of the Kensington Manor Maintenance Assessment District.

Hearing no objections, John M. Garrison said he would make the change.

[Secretary's note: More information on lighting MADs is at <http://ktpg.org/KMAD/lighting.htm> ]

David Moty asked if anyone had any objections to approval of the February 2012 minutes. Sherry Hopwood seconded the motion and it was approved 14-0.

David Moty made a motion to pay \$20 to San Diego Unified School District for January 2011 meeting at Hoover High, and meetings at Franklin Elementary for September 2012 through June 2013. Keith Roudebush seconded the motion and it was approved 14-0.



## TREASURER'S REPORT – REPORT FROM PRIOR MONTH

No report given due to the absence of the treasurer.

Secretary's note: Please note the approval (above) of spending \$20 for rent to SDUSD.

## COMMUNITY FORUM / NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

A community member raised a question about the blighted property at blighted property at 4496 Euclid Avenue.

Danielle Laman mentioned 2 items:

- Progress is occurring on installation of new lights in Talmadge
- Progress is occurring on using school district ball fields for community sporting events

Ben Ziegler (from Assembly Member Marty Block's Office) gave an update on Mart Block's activities.

Michael Prinz –DSD Planning Division, and our assigned community planner – gave an update on some potential changes to zoning near proposed BRT stations. There will be a working group formed in early to mid April.

## NON-SUBCOMMITTEE ITEMS

### 2012 KTPG ELECTIONS

Gail Greer, chair of the election subcommittee, gave a short description of the election procedures as laid out in the KTPG bylaws. She stressed that only 7 people can be chosen and that ballots with more than 7 names will not be counted. Any write-in names must be spelled correctly. Candidates are listed on the ballot alphabetically and the speeches will be given in reverse alphabetical order.

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### CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

David Swietlik – Has been a resident of the community since 2010. He has been active on the planning group Project Review Subcommittee for the past year. He did serve on a similar planning group in his previous hometown. David mentioned his business experience in procurement, project management and problem solving, which he believes will benefit the community on important topics such as Undergrounding. He will work to get the best solution for our neighborhood with regards to undergrounding. He believes his skills will also be useful in things like lighting maintenance and MADs.

Richard Lesser – Has lived in Kensington for 14 years. His goal is to protect the historic neighborhoods of Kensington and Talmadge, while being open to changes that will benefit the community.

Ken Horsley – Has lived in Talmadge since 1983, has been a licensed civil engineer since 1985. He has worked in areas such as traffic planning and community planning. We live on a canyon in Talmadge, and canyon issues are important to us, including fire safety issues.



Sherry Hopwood – Has been on the board now for four years, has lived in Kensington for 10 years. Historicity is very important to me. I am dedicated to preserving that feel. I believe we have to make change, that happens, but we need to keep a small-town family-friendly feel.

Sean Harrison – residence of Kensington since 2006. He is a real-estate development consultant, focused on the Riverside area, so he is trying to get people to move out of San Diego to make our lives easier. I got involved due to the time-lag in getting the Kensington sign put back up. He lauds the increased availability of beer in the neighborhood.

Guy Hanford – I am a business and property owner in Kensington. I have regularly witnessed the interests, passion, and sincerity of our residents. It is so valuable to have you here for communication. It is my goal to represent you and your interests. We have some very important issues in our near future including Copley Y, crime, continued efforts to make our neighborhood pedestrian friendly, undergrounding, MADs. He wants to thank David Moty for chairing the KTPG, the subcommittee chairs for the work they do, for our Treasurer for looking after our money and our Secret.

Bob Coffin – Was in the United States Navy, settled in Kensington in 1968. He restored two houses in the neighborhood, and he wonders if people can afford to do that now. We face a lot of challenges, such as bureaucracy we have to continue to trying to fight through. It is ridiculous that a resident today has to bring up this issue of the property that has been blighted for so long. It is the same with undergrounding. The utilities talk to the council members, we can't get in front of all the council members. The utilities would like the City to not listen to us, to not let us get a uniform solution for the City. I encourage you to ask your elected officials and candidate for office where they stand on these issues.

Secretary's note: Information about the 2012 elections is at <http://ktpg.org/subcommittees/elections/2012/index.htm>

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

### MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION

None

### TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

#### ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION TO CONVERT SPEED HUMPS TO SPEED LUMPS ON THE 4400 BLOCK OF 47<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND 4400 BLOCK OF HIGHLAND AVENUE

Chair Sean Harrison introduced a motion that the Transportation and Safety committee approved with regards to traffic calming measures on the 4400 block of 47<sup>th</sup> Street and the 4400 block of Highland Avenue.

Sean Harrison - A speed hump goes all the way across the right away, but speed lumps have a gap which lets a wide vehicle go through without going over the lumps. If we don't make this change, we will have neither speed



humps nor speed lumps. The subcommittee has approved making this change so it comes to KTPG as a motion that does not need a second.

The motion passed 14-0.

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## APPROVAL OF LETTER FROM THE KTPG SUPPORTING A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION OF TRAFFIC ISSUES RELATING TO ALDINE DRIVE, MONROE AND EUCLID AVENUE

Sean Harrison - We have been asked to write a letter in support of some specific traffic calming or other changes. We felt instead what we should do is write a letter in support of a more comprehensive study of the issues.

The proposed letter stated:

*All appropriate individuals and departments will be added to the final draft of this letter that will be approved and sent out*

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the member of the Kensington Talmadge Planning Group, are writing this letter to demonstrate our awareness of the continuing traffic safety issues that are present along Aldine Drive and Monroe Avenue in the community of Talmadge. As a group, we also support the comprehensive approach of the Talmadge Maintenance Assessment District and the residents of our combined communities of Kensington and Talmadge that are attempting to provide a solution to this serious safety issue that provides better circulation and livability for the resident directly affected by this problem and the nearby area.

We recognize that the current traffic problems for the stretch of Aldine Drive and Monroe Avenue between the Fairmont Drive Intersection and 49<sup>th</sup> Street involves a greater part of the area's roadways and the area plans circulation element. We fully support the efforts the Talmadge Maintenance Assessment District and its subcommittees and/or its task forces involved in providing a thorough and conscientious solution to this ongoing dangerous situation. We believe that a solution that includes both a safe living, pedestrian, and biking environment and will also improve the visual appearance of the area as well as the possibility of economic success of this major entry way to the community of Talmadge.

We look forward to working with the entire City of San Diego's Staff in regards to this matter and hope that we can collectively provide a solution to this persistent safety issue in an expeditious and economical manner.

There was discussion on whom we would give this letter to, and what affect it might have. There was discussion about when is the right time to send the letter. There was discussion about whether the letter is ready in its final form or if it needed more edits.

The subcommittee chair determined to withdraw the motion pertaining to the letter to allow more time for editing the letter.

## PROJECT REVIEW



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## INFORMATION ITEM: COPLEY YMCA AT PEARSON FORD SITE

Ann Pease – We have raised several issues with the most recent plans we have seen. One of the issues being discussed is parking. Although there is a parking garage on the premises, it does not provide much parking because a large number of spaces are taken up by structural elements. Also, they seem to be using a low ratio of parking to floor space. We have some concerns about light spillover from nighttime athletic uses into the neighborhood. We felt the design wasn't special; there were none of the curved corners or window glazing we had been led to expect from prior plans. Points of ingress and egress didn't seem to be wide enough. Landscaping was several inadequate. Some of the planting boxes were less than a foot wide. Spectator seating for the soccer field was absent. We couldn't understand why the plans included so many classrooms.

Sherry Hopwood – So you're saying that nice plan we saw is not their current plan?

Ann Pease – that is correct.

Liza Leif – Asked a question about road widening.

David Moty – clarified that the widening Ann Pease was referring to was driveway width, not road widening.

Liza Leif – Are they tearing down the structure that is there?

Ann Pease – the structures they plan to tear down have already been torn down. The one they plan to keep is a parking garage and it is planned to be kept. The problem is that it was designed for car storage for a car dealership, not for car parking. So, it is hard to use the space to park very many cars.

Joan Fitzsimons – Ann was very diplomatic in her comments. The proposed YMCA building is designed around the existing parking structure and it really does not have very good aesthetics.

Bob Coffin – What is the number of spaces in the parking garage?

Ann Pease – they tell us it will park 140 cars when they make it three levels. One out of 4 spaces is taken up by a post.

Liza Leif – it sounds like they just need a valet.

Elvia Sandoval – you said the plans they showed are not the plans they intend to build, are they going to present the new plans to us?

Ann Pease – Yes, they say they will keep presenting it to us.

David Moty – They are eager to present to us again, we are looking for the right time.

John M. Garrison – it seems to me it is important to pick the right time. If we try to study it too soon, we may not have all the information. If we wait too long, it may be so solidified that it has so much momentum we cannot change it.

Secretary's note: More info is at <http://www.ktpg.org/projects/price/index.htm>



## UNDERGROUNDING

### INFORMATION ITEM: UNDERGROUNDING

Bob Coffin says the City has no plans to create a task force or open up a hearing on this matter until/unless Todd Gloria's office asks them to. I was speaking to Tom Hebrank and he thinks he might be able to move them along. But for reasons that escape me, Todd Gloria and Dion are standing off on this.

There was some discussion about other politicians or political candidates that we may be able to approach for some help.

A community resident mentioned that the lights in the alleys are not planned to be tied in once the undergrounding is done; it will cause the alleys to go dark.

Secretary's note: More info is at <http://www.ktpg.org/projects/undergrounding/index.htm>

## ELECTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair Gail Greer announced the results of the 2012 KTPG Election. The candidates elected were: Bob Coffin, John M. Garrison, Guy Hanford, Sean Harrison, Sherry Hopwood, Ken Horsley, Richard Lesser

## NON-SUBCOMMITTEE ITEMS

### SPONSORSHIP OF A MAYORAL DEBATE

Possible Action Item: Shall the KTPG Co-sponsor mayoral debate? The KTPG has been offered the opportunity to co-sponsor a mayoral debate along with the following organizations: San Diego LGBT Community Center, Log Cabin Republicans, San Diego Democrats for Equality, Greater San Diego Business Association, Hillcrest Town Council North Park Main Street, Neighborhood Historic Preservation Coalition, Hillcrest Historical Guild, North Park Community Association, Mission Hills BID, Mission Hills Heritage.

David Moty – we have been asked if we will co-sponsor a mayoral debate. There is no cost to us. The main thing is publicity. We would be acknowledged as sponsors and if we had been asked sooner we could have had our logo published in the materials. However, the timing is such that we don't have time to get our logo into the materials, so the publicity impact might not be as large as it could have been if the timing were better.

[Secretary's note: There was a lot of discussion about whether we should get involved in an election/political matter. Some of the discussion centered on whether City policies allow a planning group to participate in an event like this. Some members felt it could be a problem; others felt the only problem would be in endorsing a particular candidate. The secretary did not capture all the debate.]

David Pease – The simple fact is that each and every one of you is involved in politics. One of you spoke that you are being stonewalled by local politicians. By sponsoring this event, you are showing yourself in a powerful light. What you are doing is strictly political.



John M. Garrison – offered motion that KTPG should sponsor the event. Keith Roudebush seconded the motion.

- In favor: Elvia Sandoval, Bob Coffin, Sean Harrison, Keith Roudebush, Anne Pease, Guy Hanford, Frank Doft, and John M. Garrison
- Opposed: Gail Greer, Sherry Hopwood, Danielle Laman, Kevin Kelley, Pam Hubbell, and David Moty
- The motion passed 8-6.

### KTPG LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

### AGENDA FOR THE NEXT KTPG MEETING

The next meeting will need to cover appointing chairpersons and formation of subcommittees.

### ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by David Moty and seconded by Sherry Hopwood. The motion was approved unanimously. Dave Moty adjourned the meeting at 8:25pm.