

University Heights Association
Minutes
Monday, April 5, 2021
7:00 p.m. on GoToMeeting

I. Preliminary Items

- A. Call to order – President Julie Kidder called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
- B. Introductions – Julie Kidder, Sherry Smith, Marlene Brown, Brian Stinar, Gene Trosterud, and Don Hancock. Joseph Aguirre is a neighborhood resident.

II. Near Heights Community Planning Assessment involvement – Mikaela Renz-Whitmore of City Long-Range planning described the Community Assessment process, including how the process is to identify things that could go into the Comprehensive Plan update in five years, after all 12 planning areas (3 per year) are done. Another aspect is identifying issues for the annual IDO update. The Near Heights process will be five months, rather than four months. Next in the process are focus groups on transit; community facilities; community identity and heritage conservation; housing; infrastructure; parks and recreation; land use and economic development; urban design; transportation and mobility; public safety; and resilience and sustainability. There are also surveys and activities, such as walk audits. City is hiring mid-range planners for the first time, who could continue to be connections for nearer term planning. Each assessment will have a written Action Plan, including the timeframe, and measurements. Those assessments go through the EPC and City Council. A walk audit was done in the San Pedro area, as requested. Regarding Lead and Coal, the assessment will more likely include some recommendations for future action, including discussions with Project Zero. Don expressed concerns that Lead and Coal may be highlighted by a couple of neighborhoods, but ignored in favor of issues that are seen as area-wide, so he hopes that issues important to a few neighborhoods will be included in the assessment. He also pointed out the transportation planning in the city has reduced one-ways, with the notable exception of Lead and Coal east of I-25. Sherry and Brian expressed qualitative and quantitative concerns. Joseph pointed out that neighborhood concerns about safety and property damage was raised before the redevelopment, and that project failed to fix the problem.

III. Additional Preliminary Items

- A. Approval of agenda – approved.
- B. Approval of minutes of March 1 meeting.
- C. Next meetings – Thursday, May 6 at 7; Thursday, June 3 at 7 to better accommodate Mandy; Marlene may miss the May meeting.
- D. Open forum – Brian is still looking for a house.

IV. Action/followup items

- A. Jennifer Simpson – Various people participated in the Celebration of Jennifer on March 7. The recording of the event is on Youtube. Marlene and Brian are supportive of some kind of gathering, perhaps at Differential Brewery.
- B. Spring cleanup on June 5 – We'll do notices by the newsletter, which will include articles about Jennifer by Marlene, the neighborhood assessment process by Don, Lead and Coal by Joseph, the cleanup and garbage/recycling by Sherry. Don will collect the articles by May 16 and get them to Brian, who will produce the final version by May 24.

C. Lead and Coal – Joseph reported on the FTA Inspector General report’s inadequacies, about which he filed an appeal and distributed it to other federal agencies. He suggests that Gail Chasey and Antoinette Sedillo-Lopez should be thanked and encouraged to push additional action, including by other state officials. The Harvard-Coal intersection problems have generated some interest.

D. District 6 Coalition – Mandy distributed the minutes of the March 16 meeting. Mayor Keller will attend the May 18 meeting. The Coalition is also holding a special meeting on the Neighborhood Recognition Ordinance on April 20.

E. Zoning – The Near Heights Planning Assessment website is: <https://cpa.abc-zone.com/near-heights>

F. New City Neighborhood Recognition Ordinance – The revised draft bill has not yet been introduced by Councilor Benton.

G. Parking enforcement and permits. Sherry continues to get bizarre responses from 311, so she talks regularly with Jeremy Keiser about parking violations and the bad 311 responses. Councilor Benton is proposing legislation (O-21-54) that would change permit parking requirements in response to opposition to two recent new permit parking areas in the North Valley. The legislation is referred to the Finance and Government Operations Committee. Councilor Benton got immediate action passed at the Council meeting today to stay enforcement of the new North Valley parking areas for six months or until the parking ordinance is revised.

V. Officer’s Reports

A. President – Nothing further.

B. Vice-President – Marlene and Sherry participated in a Tree New Mexico pruning class in Barelás. The big concrete drum behind Marlene’s house in the alley was finally removed by the city, after she complained to County Commissioner Adriann Barboa.

C. Secretary/Treasurer – Interest of \$0.04 on the CD and \$0.01 on the savings account. Resulting savings account balance is \$1,418.45. \$5,000 CD matures on April 29, 2021.

VI. Adjournment – 8:37 pm.