

# **University Area Commission Planning Committee**

## **Meeting Notes, 12 February 2014**

*Present:* Doreen Uhas-Sauer, Jim Bach, Ethan Hansen, David Hegley

*Guests:* Pasquale Grado, Matt Hansen, Sharon Young

### **1 Selection of committee chair**

President Uhas-Sauer brought the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. She announced that there is a vacancy for the chair of the Planning Committee. Mr Bach stated his desire to run for chair, so Ms Uhas-Sauer asked if there was a nomination. Mr Hegley nominated Mr Bach, and the motion was seconded. Mr Bach was elected chair of the Planning Committee by a voice vote. At that point Ms Uhas-Sauer handed the meeting over to Mr Bach.

### **2 Annual goals for the committee**

The main portion of the meeting was devoted to long-term planning of the annual goals of the committee. Ms Uhas-Sauer had several suggestions, which were discussed. The committee decided to focus on the following items for 2014:

1. **The ‘rooming house’ issue**, coupled with people, mainly university undergraduates, living in the attics of houses/apartment buildings. While this is also a density issue, the committee decided to treat this as a tenant safety issue in order to gain better traction with the city.
2. **A comprehensive parking study** of the university district. There is currently a similar study being undertaken in the Short North, and the committee decided that such a study for the university area would also be fruitful.
3. **Traffic and mobility**. As the planning process is concerned almost exclusively with land use, the UAC Planning Committee should look at a more comprehensive university district plan for traffic and mobility, using the Weinland Park Mobility Plan as a guide, and attempting to bridge that plan with plans to improve the Hudson St streetscape.
4. **Northside Library expansion**. Since the library expansion will impact land use, the Planning Committee should be involved in the expansion plans.
5. **City planning process**. The Planning Committee should work with neighborhood civic associations to make sure all neighborhood residents are aware of the planning process at its various stages, and are informed about any meetings in which the process is discussed.
6. **Prevention of ‘Balkanization’ of the university district**. The Planning Committee should make it one of its long-term goals to foster a greater sense of common goals for all residents of the university district, and should attempt to prevent any sense of isolation among residents of any specific neighborhoods.
7. **City property along Glen Echo and Iuka Ravines**. Several residents living along the ravines have erected fencing, which may be on city property. The Planning Committee should reach out to the City Attorney for clarification on this.

### **3 Update from the UDO**

At this point, Matt Hansen, the Executive Director of the University District Association, had two announcements to the committee, both concerning parking.

1. Mr Hansen has been chosen to serve on the city's Parking Meter Advisory Committee. The committee is undertaking a comprehensive examination of all the parking meters in the Short North district. During this process he would invite input from both the Planning Committee and from the Area Commission at large.
2. Mr Hansen also updated the committee on the Short North Parking Study, mentioned above. Commissioner Hansen asked if there were any plans for dynamic parking pricing in the Short North. Mr Hansen replied that such a pricing scheme did not work well when tried in San Francisco, and that there was little indication that it would be successful here.

### **4 Other business**

Ms Uhas-Sauer suggested the committee look into a master plan for parks and recreation facilities in the area. She thought that, rather than simply ask the city for more money to improve or expand parks, the committee (and the UAC) could serve as a 'cheerleader' of sorts for neighborhood parks. She noted that there are many good programs coming from the Metro Parks, perhaps the UAC could emulate them, albeit on a smaller scale? She also wondered if the Planning Committee could advocate for a university district naturalist, to take advantage of the various greenspace and wildlife in the area.

Also, the University Community Business Association (UCBA) will hopefully advocate for on-street parking along High Street, from Chittenden Avenue to Lane Avenue. In addition, the UCBA will be starting to investigate a Special Improvement District (SID) between Seventh and Lane Avenues, along High Street.

Mr Bach adjourned the meeting at 6:59 pm.