

Hillcrest Town Council
Community Meeting of August 9, 2016
Joyce Beers Center

DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm, Kath Rogers presiding. Additional board members present: Benny Cartwright, Vice Chair; Mary McKenzie, Secretary; David Coben, Treasurer; Daniel Merk-Benitez, at-large-member.

Attendance: 61 (per Mary McKenzie count)
Collection: \$39

Kath announced that Daniel Merk-Benitez has been appointed to the Board to assume the open at-large seat.

Kath thanked Mandi Jo ___ for providing snacks and for serving as the "welcoming committee."

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Ward, City Councilmember elect, thanked everyone for their support.

Ben Nicholls for Hillcrest Business Association. Reminded everyone about upcoming CityFest, on August 14.

Michael McConnell raised questions about approach to homelessness in Hillcrest.

Alexis Conerly and Heidi Callahan, from the Florence School, asked for volunteers to help with a campus clean-up on August 21, 22.

Eddie Reynoso, LGBT Visitor Center, will celebrate its 1-year anniversary on September 16.

A resident expressed concern about the condition of neighborhood bus stops which he described as "vile".

Lori Saldaña thanked everyone for their support, and encouraged the HTC and all present to bring the County to the table on homelessness issue.

II. GUEST SPEAKER: Susan Davis

Congresswoman Susan Davis spoke to us and also had a Q&A session. She expressed her understanding of many Americans' anger toward the current Congress, but emphasized her resolve to

continue to work on issues such as gun violence, Zika virus funding, student debt, voting rights, housing and transportation.

III. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Stephen Russell, executive director of the San Diego Housing Federation, presented data to explain the reasons for the dearth of affordable housing in our city. The San Diego market is characterized by comparatively low wages and high prices, putting homes out of reach of the majority of working San Diegans. Developers are over-supplying homes affordable only to those only in the highest income brackets, while demand for low and median-income homes significantly exceeds the supply.

Powerpoint Presentation attached.

IV. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES UPDATE

Adriana Martinez for Council member Todd Gloria. Adriana discussed Gloria's work on the plastic bag ban, minimum wage, and housing for vets.

Toni Duran for Assemblymember Toni Atkins, explained the traffic ticket amnesty program.

David Mier for UCSD Medical Center Hillcrest. David handed out flyers describing available medical testing.

University Avenue Pipeline Project. Natalia Mendez, reported for the City and the progress of water main replacements.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary McKenzie, Board Secretary