



**Uptown Whittier Improvement Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Avenue, Whittier, CA 90602
SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE/ZOOM MEETING
Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 9:00 a.m.**

Current Lists of UWIA Board Members: Frank Rinaldi (President), Melinda Pina(Vice-President), Jim Dunkelman (Treasurer), Katie Galvin-Surbatovic (Secretary)/Ben Pongetti/Brian Saeki, Ginny Ball, Roland Fargo, David Gonzalez, Stephen Ortiz/Irene McCallister, Milt Pate, and Steven Rodriguez

Present: Ginny Ball, Jim Dunkelman, Roland Fargo, David Gonzalez, Stephen Ortiz, Milt Pate, Melinda Pina, Frank Rinaldi, and Steven Rodriguez

Absent: Katie Galvin-Surbatovic

Guests: Jason Jamison, Trese Childs, and Don Lomont

**Consultant/
Staff:** Brent Haskell – GM Properties Inc.

MINUTES:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Action Taken?</i>
1. Call to Order	Frank Rinaldi called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.	1. No Action Taken
2. Roll Call	Brent Haskell took roll call.	2. No Action Taken
3. Public Comment	No public comments were received via email.	3. No Action Taken

UPTOWN WHITTIER IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

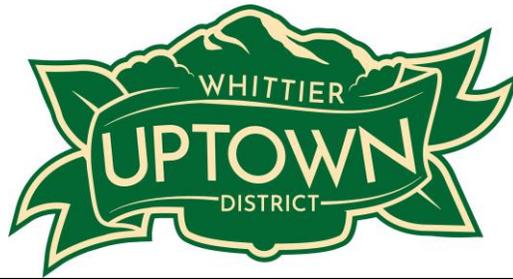
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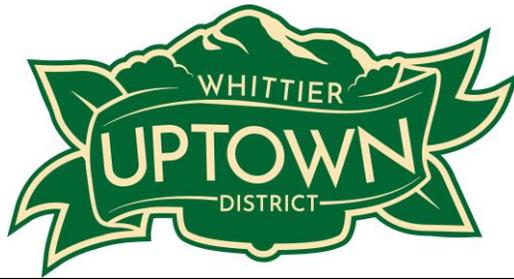
<p>4. The Board to Discuss with Property Owners Whether or Not They Would Like to See the Greenleaf Promenade Continue. The Board Will Then Grant Permission to a Representative of the Board to Present the UWIA's Results / Stance, Based on the Discussion, to the City Council at Their Next Meeting.</p>	<p>Frank Rinaldi discussed the reason for the special meeting. Stating that the tide seems to be changing regarding the promenade. The WUA is taking a survey on the Promenade. Frank stated the businesses are opposed to the permanent closure of Greenleaf and will present their findings to the City Council.</p> <p>Frank does not feel there is strong unity at the City on a stance with the Promenade. Frank would like to know if everyone would like to take a vote to present with WUA to the City Council.</p> <p>Frank stated the Promenade has created some issues with vandals, graffiti, and skateboarding. Frank thinks opening the street would help alleviate some of the issues.</p> <p>David Gonzalez had a question about the original StreetScape plan mentioned and wanted to know if that is the StreetScape plan that was approved. Frank stated yes, the hybrid plan that was previously approved by the City.</p> <p>Jim Dunkelman had a question about the Promenade - If the City closes it. Would they do some sort of modified plan for improvements. Frank stated the City is working on some sort of modified StreetScape plan. Jim supports the StreetScape plan.</p>	<p>4. Frank Rinaldi Motioned for UWIA to Support the Concept of an Emergency Promenade but Opposes the Concept of a Permanent Promenade and the Closure of Greenleaf Avenue. Jim Dunkelman Second All in Favor, Motion Passes.</p> <p>Frank Rinaldi Motioned for UWIA to Advocate to the City to Proceed As Soon As Possible with the Implementation of the StreetScape plan. Melinda Pina with a second. Six Board Members Voted in Favor and two Board members Abstained. Motion passes.</p>
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	<p>Frank thinks the property owners should support whatever the business owners would like to do.</p> <p>Melinda thinks the UWIA needs to be vocal on the Promenade and whether it should be kept as is and let the City create a hybrid Promenade. Melinda questioned if UWIA should tell the City it should be shut down. Melinda thinks the Promenade should be shut down and the City should continue with the StreetScape. Melinda also thinks the UWIA needs to be comfortable with that stance as an organization. Melinda stated everyone saw the issues coming with the Promenade. Continuing the Promenade as is would be detrimental to the area. The Promenade served its purpose in the beginning but does not work any longer.</p> <p>David stated there has been an increase in undesirable activities in the area which are concerning. David worked on the streetscape plan.</p> <p>Don Lomont stated he thinks the Promenade was great and helped his tenants survive. Don thinks it might be difficult to have Greenleaf closed off permanently and that could be an issue. Don thinks the Promenade should continue in some fashion until the City can figure out the direction they would like to go.</p>	
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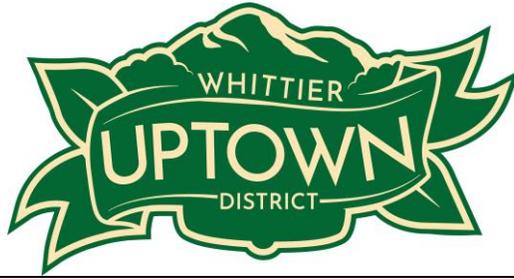
	<p>Jason thinks the Promenade served its purpose. Jason does not think it is a good idea to have the Promenade be permanent. Jason thinks the UWIA should take a strong stance to end the Promenade and push the City on the StreetScape plan.</p> <p>Stephen Ortiz agrees with Jason and thinks it is time to move away from the Promenade, move forward with the StreetScape plan, and it is time to put pressure on the City to move forward.</p> <p>Milt Pate would like to see Greenleaf opened up. Milt has a neighbor that won't even go uptown.</p> <p>Ginny Ball thinks the Promenade was great. It is tough to police because businesses did not follow guidelines of keeping the structures open. Ginny agrees with what others have said and would like to see the new StreetScape plans that include a Promenade before making a decision. Ginny thinks it would be nice to have a little of both, the StreetScape and the Promenade. Ginny asked why someone from the City was not on the Zoom. Melinda explained the meeting was for property owners and although the City does own property that Katie had recused herself from the meeting because of the subject matter.</p>	
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	<p>Melinda thinks UWIA needs to start forcing the City instead of waiting around because waiting has not worked well in the past.</p> <p>Don Lomont had a question about the money the UWIA put aside for parklets. Frank thinks if the City does the StreetScape the sidewalks will be widened and there won't be a need for the parklets. Don thinks that the UWIA could offer money to the City toward the StreetScape plan if available.</p> <p>Trese Childs thinks there are good and bad things with the Promenade and does not think all business owners will be able to afford the structures the City wants to lease.</p> <p>Roland Fargo thinks a permanent closure is not good. He agrees it is time to push the City to move forward. Roland thinks the Promenade was good for a time and has served its purpose.</p> <p>Steven Rodriguez thinks the Promenade severed its purpose. Steven thinks it is good that everyone watched it play out to what it has become in order to draw a better conclusion.</p> <p>Ginny thinks the fees for renting the sidewalks should be discussed and included in any motion. Ginny thinks the UWIA should not support the charging of</p>	
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	<p>fees by the City for businesses to use the sidewalk space. Frank does not think there is an issue with renting sidewalks or that the City has even proposed that. Frank thought there was only going to be a fee if the street was closed and the business wanted a structure. David thinks it is too soon to discuss possible rent of sidewalk space.</p> <p>Melinda thinks the City will weigh heavily on the opinions of the WUA and UWIA.</p> <p>General discussion followed regarding the closure language and motion language to vote on by the Board</p> <p>David commented that the President and the Vice-President of the Board have the ability to go before the City and advocate on behalf of the organization. Frank stated that is fine but would like to get the opinions and approval of the Board so he feels comfortable that he is presenting to the City what the UWIA wants and not necessarily what he wants.</p> <p>Melinda wanted to discuss the next steps after the last vote. Melinda feels this should be turned over to the Sidewalk Operations Committee to come up with a plan to help the City move forward with the StreetScape plan and the Sidewalk Operations Committee should keep the Board informed of what is taking place. Melinda asked for the opinion of the other</p>	
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	Board members on her recommendation that the Sidewalk Operations Committee should take on the task. The Board members agreed that the Sidewalk Operations Committee should take on the task of coordinating with the City on moving forward with the StreetScape plan.	
5. Next Meeting Date	The next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting will be on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Whittier Community Center located at 7630 Washington Avenue or via teleconference.	5. No Action Taken
6. Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.	6. No Action Taken

Minutes were taken by Brent Haskell, GM Properties