

Graduate & Family Housing (GFH) Advisory Committee | MINUTES

Meeting date | Time 8/9/2023 1:00 PM

Meeting Location: Zoom

Type of meeting: GFHAC Town Hall	Attendees:
Co-Chairs: Rebecca Otten Kristin Leadbetter	
Note taker: Madeline Makings	
	Leadbetter, Kristin Theus, Daniela Ayala, Carlos Cooper, Zosia Lopez Ricoy, Ana Eugenia Paulson, Erik Matsukaka, Lisa Appleberry, Maura Glanzrock, Isaac Chavarin, Andrea De Brito, Ludmila Wahlenmayer, Catherine Askew, Autumn Garcia, Marianna McShane, John Holt, Keaton Carranza, Fabiola Swanson, Shelbi Yu, Yiyang Andrea, Aleli Joren, Hailey Trimble, Anna Nacht, Carrie Solomon, Jackson Stregiopolos, Dimitirs Freeman, Brian Vasquez, Vale

MEETING MINUTES:

Welcome

- Kristin Leadbetter introduced herself as the Co-Chair of the Graduate & Family Housing Advisory Committee.
- Daniela Theus introduced herself as the General Manager for Nuevo East.
- Carlos Ayala introduced himself as the Senior Superintendent.
 - o Carlos began with an overview of the project. This project was brought down from the Chancellor's office as an initiative. The size of the root balls are so large that they cannot currently plant trees in their place. They are grinding the stumps. The nesting survey has been completed in the area, currently there may be an owl nest near 9244 so the biologist will be coming out in the next few days to assess the nest.
 - o The schedule has been made jumps because of the car moving process.
 - o Saturday will begin the ECEC removal.
 - o The eucalyptus trees are not native to San Diego. The impact they have to the soil
 - o About ¼ of the trees that have been removed there is rotting inside of the stump. The trees are surveyed each year.

Question: What is the difference between these trees and the library walk trees?

Answer: The grove is collected together, and eucalyptus trees grow better together. Currently UC San Diego cannot replant any trees, Carlos is not part of the redesign plan but there are plans. There will likely be an opportunity for input on the new growth and the greenery.

Question Zosia: Asking for better communication. It has been very difficult to get information on what is happening, why and when. There were trees cut that were not listed on the map.

Kristin commented that GFHAC is working on transparency between HDH and its residents.

Question Isaac: Can we bring in an arborist who can identify which trees need to go now and which need to go in the timeline that Mesa is set to come down?

Answer Carlos: Annually an arborist has surveyed the trees prior to trimming. This directive has come from the Chancellor.

Question Yiyan: Where in the area are they being removed? They do not seem to match the area where they are cutting the trees in any zone or any time.

Answer Carlos: This will be written down and we will find out.

Question Maya: Are there going to be measures to compensate residents? Parking, quality of housing, etc.

Answer Daniela: There is currently no discussion of rent reduction. Current suggestion is to suggest creating a google document to give suggestions to minimize the impact. The trees are being removed; how can we make it better for residents in the meantime?

Suggestion Marianna: Focusing on shade and cutting down trees during the summer is not good timing, it is also an emergency to provide shade to residents. 1. Can we address the shade issue immediately. 2. Balcony exceptions to provide some level of shade.

Kristin Shared that due to some of them falling, this project is a liability as they fell on cars and on a building.

Suggestion/ Question John: If housing could be a little more relaxed on what people could bring on patios/balconies. A fabric like shade, possibly having maintenance install something if it is under the structural integrity. Also worried about the demolition of Mesa, when will this be happening?

Answer Daniela: When we did the same for North Mesa, we worked with all residents to find relocation. No one is going to be asked to move out where you do not have somewhere else to go. The offices will communicate

Answer Kristin: Currently they are working on a plan in place for relocation in the MOU for the renovation of South/Central Mesa.

Suggestion Fabiola: Why is a rent credit not on the table for residents? This is urgent for our community.

Kristin shared that we are currently working on solutions for this project. Talk to your GPSA representatives who are working on this MOU for the South/Central Mesa project. We do understand how important and impactful this project is for residents.

Suggestion Ana: I wanted to talk about the placement of wood chips. If we can decide somewhere else to put the woodchips.

Kristin shared that the tree removal process is up to the trees. The Chancellor and the office of the President make emergency decisions.

Suggestion Zosia: We have been sending suggestions to decision makers for a while now.

Answer Kristin: Please send any suggestions to gfhac@gsa.ucsd.edu

Suggestion Shelbi: Shared that her daughter currently does not feel safe going outside. The rent credit should be considered during this conversation. Remedy needs to occur.

Answer Kristin: This process is for the safety and security of all residents. What sort of solutions would you want to see?

Shelbi Commented that rent credit should be considered as an extra burden. The communication during this process has not been great. The red x's on the trees is haunting.

Suggestion Maura: This conversation has brought up a lot of solutions that are being agreed upon. Currently expect rent reduction, relaxing restrictions, beautification in the community as a whole. What is happening with the money that was used for the arborist once all of the trees are removed?

Answer Kristin: Please email this information that will be taken up.

Suggestion Lisa: Updating of the PDF's plans will change, with the email blasts they are missed, to put something in a google document with the most updated maps. Also suggest having spraying done continually on patios and entering apartments. Not all residents are equipped to make shade on their own.

Answer Daniela: Will speak with EH&S about proposing continual spraying.

Suggestion/Question Isaiah: Concerns regarding the environmental impact, currently observing nesting owls. What happens when the birds are actively nesting?

Answer Carlos: The biologists will be observing the nests they will make recommendations. There were 6 active nests that were left alone. Currently there is only 1 active nest.

Suggestion Emma: Ask more about current communication, currently a brand-new resident. Is it possible for the residents to receive a notice when specific trees will be removed?

Answer Kristin: Trying to inform residents as quickly as possible. Really adamant with transparency with residents, and now we know what to pay attention to.

Suggestion Vale: Was waiting for an important letter, USPS sent mail back to sender.

Answer Kristin: This is the first we are hearing about this, the Mesa office will reach out to USPS.

Final remarks:

Kristin stated that the transcript and the chat will be downloaded to gather all suggestions and comments that were made throughout the meeting. Thank you to everyone who came and shared today.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.