Land Use Minutes  
Tuesday Oct 5, 2010  
Next meeting: Tues Nov 2  
Present were:  

Minutes from the 9/8/10 meeting were approved. 
The order of the Agenda was changed to accommodate schedules.

Item 5  
Nicole Possert reported on the first Occidental Community meeting to re-write the Specific Plan for the campus. The College is planning to expand into the community off-campus, primarily for faculty housing. It is unclear at this point if this will be a welcome integration into the surrounding communities of Highland Park and Eagle Rock, or if they are planning to build unwelcome large developments. The Occidental Master Plan currently includes a directive to adhere to the Secretary of the Interior Preservation Standard for all retro-fitting and alteration of their many valuable and historic buildings. However, in the current proposals for seismic retrofit of Swan Hall, these standards are already violated. This is not a good beginning, and raises questions about their intentions for the many other buildings they intend to alter. There is an EIR due out this week. It was suggested we invite Jim Trancada to Land Use to present, and answer questions.

Item 4  
There was some confusion about the question for Heritage Trust about the “windshield survey” of York Blvd. The question: As the HHPNC is unable to write a contract for this work, is the Heritage Trust able to host the HHPNC Board-approved $5000 and write a contract for Charlie Fisher to compete the survey? Janet will write the question, and Nicole and Tina will present it to the Heritage Trust Board in November. If HT is unable to do this, we will find another way.

Item 2  
Zenay was able to give us the update on the current state of negotiations for the clean-up of the ATT Mural at Ave 56 and Meridian. She reports
there are weekly meetings being held to complete the contract with the artist Baca for the restoration of the mural. She said the attorneys were working on the language, and she expects the contract to be completed by the end of the year. She said after that, Baca hoped to begin repair work late Feb 2011. Zenay said ATT is committed to the process, and has pledged to pay for all costs likely to be around $78,000. It was suggested ATT could post a sign indicating restoration was in process, so the neighborhood was not left with an impression of neglect.

Item 1
Edel Vizcarra, Planning and Transportation Deputy for CD 14 reported on the Dept of Transportation Call for Projects. This is a competitive county-wide process. Each application is scored. While $30 million for these transportation projects seems large, it is spread throughout the entire county, and a percentage the money must be matched by the applicant. He described projects CD 14 has applied for this year, and promised to send copies to Land Use. In the past, Highland Park has not done well in the competition, and he hoped with Councilman Huizar on the board, we may get better attention. Furthermore, any project awarded this year will be funded in 2015.

Edel fielded several questions about our perception of neglect, and described the CD 14 “new York” project. It will be led by Green LA Coalition, which he described as a think tank of planners, who CD 14 felt were a better, more flexible group than a traditional planning company. There will be community workshops. The first one will be Wed Oct 13 at Café de Leche. Land Use will be there, and will encourage attendance. He will send Land Use anything he is working on for Highland Park.

Item 3
On Oct 1, the City Council voted 11 to none to extend the McCormack Baron Salazar Exclusive Right to Negotiate until the end of January 2011. We do not know how close MBS is to developing a Joint Declaration Agreement to build the Gold Line Village. Land Use was able to lobby hard before the meeting, and Janet spoke at the Council meeting. The Committee considered outreach plans including canvassing of local business owners, and neighbors, and presentations to other Neighborhood Councils. We will begin with an informational meeting, perhaps at the HHPNC meeting, to present information, answer questions, and begin to organize a larger outreach.