



NORMAL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP
4649 Hawley Boulevard San Diego, CA. 92116

Meeting Minutes – August 1st, 2017

Meeting Called to order at 6pm by Chair Jim Baross

Board Attendance (x means “present”):

X	Gary Weber	X	Nancy Lawler		Mark Lawler
X	Bill Conway	X	Ralph Enriquez		Scott Kessler
X	Jim Baross (C)		Ryan Zellers		Joseph Fombon (VC)
X	Caroline McKeown (T)		Dan Soderberg	X	Khalisa Bolling (left at 7:30)
X	Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg	X	Thomas Lovell		Adam Deutsch (S)

C=Chair; VC= Vice Chair; T= Treasurer; S=Secretary

Administration Items

1. **Call to Order:** Board introduced themselves.
2. **Agenda Setting:** Items might be taken out of order. Additional items included: where to buy Eclipse viewing glasses, SR15 issue, Balboa Park Tour, and proposal to invite SoccerCity to present at the next NHCPG meeting, SDGE/Sempra is not here to present on item #9 below (see item #7 below for discussion)
3. **Approval of April Minutes:** Adam distributed the minutes from July 11th to the board prior to this meeting, and took feedback via email, incorporated them into a new draft, and shared them again prior to this meeting. **M/S:Caroline/Thomas. All approved with the exception of Khalisa (abstained)**
4. **Treasurer Report:** No change from last month. Total at \$1787.66 in our account, and \$750 of that is pre-approved for pint-glass production. **No motion.**

Communications

5. **Reports from Government Representatives:** Chloe Madison from Chris Ward’s Office: We are coming up on a short break in news because of the legislative recess, however CM Ward was very happy to pass yesterday’s Equal Pay Ordinance (SD is now the largest city in the US with such an ordinance). Chloe will be leaving for her wedding soon and even though August is a short month, Tyler Renner will be filling in for her if we need

anything (trenner@sandiego.gov). In September, CM Ward will be releasing his legislative priorities memo, which will likely include short term vacation rentals (STVR).

6. Reports from Community Groups

Normal Heights Rec Council: Circulated petition for SDPD to install signs and enforce a curfew law to add all of the NH parks to a 12am-6am closure and supports the City Attorney in bringing charges against those found in violation of these laws. Rebecca commented that she was unhappy to see the community looking for creative ways to arrest homeless people. Caroline was concerned about the timing of the closure because of legitimate late night use of the parks by the community. Jim suggested that the police would have discretion about when to cite people for violation of curfew laws. General discussion about how this can lead to discrimination. Public comment from Charles Bradford describing being assaulted in the park by a homeless person and the police not taking action in response. General discussion about how that person had committed a crime that should be punished, but if enforcement of existing laws (e.g., assault) is already lacking then adding curfews would not fix this problem. Jim proposed to add this as an agenda item for next month's meeting (specifically for the Planning Group to take a position on whether to initiate a curfew for the parks and if so what timing to recommend). "Safe Neighborhoods" community group offered to be in touch with Charles.

Normal Heights Community Association:

The movies in the park are happening; check nhmovies.org. Also moving forward on the community brochure (which will describe key local services and organizations) and it will be out by the street fair. It will be a physical directory as well as online and will be available in English and Spanish.

Normal Heights Urban Arts is tomorrow night at the Rec Council (always meeting the First Wednesday of the month!).

El Cajon Business Improvement District (BID): The Civic SD will be releasing a request for proposals (RFP) for what to do with the property at 40th and ECB (west of the 15). There is currently a survey going around to inform the RFP. Ralph is collecting emails. Jim agreed to distribute the survey to PG members.

7. Non-agenda Public Comment (may be limited to 2 minutes each):

- a. **Jay Powell (comment delivered after #5 above):** Mr. Powell feels that Sempra's absence from tonight's meeting is a delay tactic and encourages the planning group to take action anyway. General board discussion about this item. **M/S: Keep item on the action agenda (Rebecca/Bill). 7 in support, Caroline and Gary opposed. Motion passes.**
- b. **Gerald Schown:** Question to Chloe Madison for follow up on the Get It Done app closing tickets without fixing them. No new information.

Second question was about how the City prioritizes street repairs, no answer from Streets. Jim recommends residents reach out to the Mayor's office directly because of our strong mayor system.

c. Jim Baross: Three comments:

- i. Local libraries are giving out free eclipse glasses. Jim brought a pair to show them off and they were quite fetching. Several local entities (including the downtown library and the Fleet) are having viewing parties. The eclipse will be on August 21 from about 9-11.
- ii. The Balboa Park Conservancy has invited the Planning Group on a tour
- iii. SR15 bike path issue: No new information regarding when this will open but it is physically possible to use it now (not legally). The final path will include a center line. Regarding noise: no response from CalTrans.

d. A cat walked into the meeting several times. Nancy's dog did well.

8. **Communications from Web/Social Media/Other sources:** There was a house fire in Normal Heights on Mansfield and the residents lost everything. Many community members have been posting on social media about a GoFundMe account set up to help them rebuild. The Normal Heights Methodist Church is also updating the community about what the family needs.

Action Items

9. Recommendation regarding Community Choice Aggregation (CCA): Language for a potential letter to send to the City was provided by Alicia Race from Climate Action Campaign. **M/S: Approve language in this letter and submit it to the City (Rebecca/Khalisa).** Discussion: Alicia provided some more background about community choice. She reminded the board that this Planning Group had previously voted to support local control over energy during the development of the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) and that CCA does exactly that. Additionally, San Diego is one of the last big cities in CA not to have adopted this and it will help the City achieve its CAP goals. Last month, the Planning Group postponed a decision on CCA pending the release of the City's Feasibility Study. This study came out earlier this month and found: CCA would likely result in lower energy rates for SD residents, the rates would be stable, it would provide cleaner energy, and add jobs to the local economy. Addition comment/questions:
- a. Rebecca: Since SDGE will now have to compete in the open marketplace and provides a lot of local jobs, will CCA potentially result in a net loss of local jobs if SDGE takes a hit? (Answer from Alicia: this has not been the case in other areas, no reason to think it will be here. Additional note from the community: SDGE would still energy distribution and that's where most of their jobs are. SDFE has been

divested from energy production for years, but Sempra still does energy production and SDGE has a power purchase agreement with Sempra that includes money for Sempra).

- b. Rebecca: What has SDGE's main talking point been in trying to stop City's from adopting CCA? (Answer from Alicia: that there are still too many unknowns to move forward, delay).
- c. Thomas: Is this type of issue relevant to the Planning Group? (Answer from Jim: yes, but it's a stretch. Answer from Alicia: 10 other PGs have already supported CCA and 1 did not make a decision. No one has opposed it)
- d. Bob Kaiser: Supports CAC but doesn't want the PG to take action today without a Sempra presentation (for due diligence).
- e. Rose Kelly: The City's CAP is good but because it's not being implemented it is hurting development in the City. Getting the CAP implemented will help development (whether you think that is a good or bad thing is a different issue).
- f. **Votes: 6 yes, 3 no (Caroline, Bill, Gary). Jim to send the letter to the mayor**

10. Mid-City Urban Trail Project, linking a path from the Stadium up to Mountain View at 33rd: Gary would like to see more focus from the PG on land use issues and implementing the community plan. One way to do this is to implement the trails identified by the plan, for example linking the stadium to Mountain View. This could be part of linking City Heights all the way to Serra Mesa. The biggest issue would be getting into Mission Valley and this has already been mapped. Gary would like to see this done as part of the mitigation for any changes to Qualcomm (e.g., SoccerCity). Comments:

- a. Rebecca reminded the group that with no environmental impact report (EIR), there will be no mitigation, and if the use of Qualcomm goes on the ballot as an initiative in 2018 and passes (as opposed to going through standard development channels like any other project), there will be no EIR (her general soap box issue about ballot-box land use planning).
- b. Bill: Can we come up with a joint plan between NHCPG and MVCPG and get approval from the City? (Jim to investigate)
- c. Caroline: Didn't a previous study find that an existing SDGE easement is a good option except for the first 10 feet? Can we find who did that study and build on it?
- d. Gary: It was Kevin Johnson and Dick Rule.
- e. Jim established a subcommittee to look into this further (no motion), including finding the previous information. Subcommittee members: Bill, Gary, Jim.

Information/Discussion Items

11. Board member Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg resignation, and the process for filling the vacancy: Rebecca must resign her position due to relocating to the Bay Area. Jim would like to fill the position at the next meeting.
12. Information regarding On-Street and Off-Street parking conditions impacting Normal Heights: Someone found the relevant City code and its SDMC Chapter 8, article 6, "Stopping, standing, parking of vehicles, and impound procedures". Gary had a question about angled parking and found comprehensive guidelines. This is particularly relevant as off street parking requirements get diminished and suggests experimenting with head-in spaces. Jim to agendize formal PG recommendation for next meeting. Comments:
 - a. Ari Harrison: Parking has been converted to storage throughout the neighborhood and no one is enforcing it. Also, work trucks are stored on the street. Implementing the 72 hour rule actually takes weeks.
 - b. Jim to Chloe: Will updates to the budget coming out later in the year include more money for code enforcement? (Answer from Chloe: Yes but probably not for parking and there are not enough abatement officers) Jim follow up – encourages residents to complain directly to the Mayor's office because of the strong mayor system.
 - c. Ralph: Suggestion to everyone that reports these issues – get a case number.
13. Follow-up/additional information regarding the status of the Mock Building in Ward Canyon Park: The City is investigating to figure out what is actually in the rental agreement for the building. Real Estate Assets is in charge of this but there is no timeline. Comments:
 - a. Dave: this will be discussed on the 4th Tuesday at 6pm at the Rec Center
 - b. Jim: We all want police presence in the parks and support a facility for them, but the police can not actually see the park from this building.
 - c. Marty: The building has never actually been condemned. The only code enforcement on it has been for graffiti. Officer Jenny Hall called it a slime bucket.
 - d. John Hartley (from "Safe Neighborhoods"): Listed what his organization does (e.g., organized a "Coffee with a cop" event, handyman work at the Mock Building). Said the City was not maintaining the building but he found conflicting reports about the state of the building. Tried to help but was told to stop.
 - e. Dave: Reminder that this will be discussed at the Rec Council.
 - f. Jim: We will wait to hear what they say before taking action.
 - g. Arlene: The issue isn't people who don't want police in the park. It's fixing up the building with intermediate repairs.
 - h. Caroline to Dave: Will the Rec Council presentation include the full Ward Canyon Park plan? (Answer from Dave: Yes).
14. Follow-up regarding changes to Adams Ave. Park and replacement of the stolen memorial plaque: The plaque was stolen years ago. Is there interest in spending PG money to replace it? Comments:

- a. Dave: The Rec Council supports this. An old photo surfaced of the plaque but it isn't possible to read who was identified on it.
15. Follow-up on Adams Ave. Street Fair (9/30-10/1) Planning: The PG will have a booth. Caroline has an online sign up form that she'll send around. We will have pint glasses.
16. Reporting Road Repairs: Response from Caltrans regarding noise as a result of the I-15 Bike Path: "There will be a centerline yellow stripe—broken striping along most of the bikeway while in areas with somewhat limited sight distance the stripe will be solid. Noise analysis protocol may have been tied to the Centerline project environmental analysis, they will let us know when info. Is available from the project/environmental team.
17. Eased Requirements for Companion Housing/Granny Flats: CA has eased up these requirements to help bring down the cost of housing. Gary: this won't help because there is no requirement for owner occupancy in the main building.

Committee and Ad Hoc Group Reports

18. Community Planners Committee – No new info.
19. NH Library - Ralph E.: None.
20. Properties reviewed for historical significance: Nothing of note.
21. Project Review Committee – no new projects requiring review
22. Transportation/Traffic Calming – Ryan Z. No Updates

Meeting ended at: 7:57pm

Anticipated/Requested Future Agenda Items

Agenda order and timing are approximate and subject to change. This information is available in alternative formats (sign language, oral interpreter, and/or Assistive Listening Device). To request an alternative format, call 619-533-3650 at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting. If you have questions concerning the NHCPG, please express them at the meeting or contact the NHCPG Chair, Jim Baross, at jimbaross@cox.net or 619-280-6908, or the City of San Diego Associate Planner, Naomi Siodmok at NSiodmok@sanidiego.gov or 619-446-5064.

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