



NORMAL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

Minutes for Tuesday, May 4th, 2021, 6:00pm until approx. 8:00pm

Participation is by teleconference during Pandemic; no in-person meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87455852530?pwd=Z2RiQXNseWgzSOZWWWhQTlhKdS9jUT09>

Meeting ID: 874 5585 2530 Passcode: 078958

Minutes for Tuesday, May 4th, 2021, 6:00PM until about 8:00PM

X	Gary Weber	X	Christian D'Emilia (VC)	X	Victoria Everich (T)
X	Jim Baross (C)		Scott Kessler		John Veneklasen (S)
X	Linda Case	X	Mark Lawler	X	Taylor Everich
	Gautam Dey	X	Nancy Lawler	X	Jessica Ricciuti
X	Alberto Foglia	X	Dan Soderberg		

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

6:00 Call to Order – MEETING AUDIO AND VIDEO WILL BE RECORDED

1. Introductions by planning group members. The audience is encouraged to document their presence and their contact information in “Chat” or verbally if participating by telephone audio only.
2. *Add-in- Report from Community Relations Officer Jennie Hall:
 - No residential burglaries in the last month.
 - Confrontation at an Adams Ave taco shop resulted in the negligent discharge of a firearm up in the air. No damage to persons or property occurred.
 - Narcotics Unit served a search warrant at 4400 block of 32nd Street and seized 23 firearms, narcotics, and \$33,000 in cash.
 - **Best number to reach police with non-emergencies: 619-531-2000**, or contact our Community Relations Officer jmason@pd.sandiego.gov
3. Agenda Setting/modifications (*Note: items may be addressed out of listed order*): Approval of previous meeting minutes – Secretary [will be absent from this meeting]:
 - Minutes Approved
4. Treasurer’s Report including use of City’s annual allocation – Treasurer:
 - Account Balance- \$2,085.99, hasn’t changed due to lack of activity since the pandemic.
 - Only \$25 of the \$500 budget from City has been used this accounting year (for Zoom membership, to be reimbursed to Jim after he provides the invoice).

6:10 Public Comment regarding NH landuse & related community issues

5. Non-agenda public comment may be limited to two minutes per person:

- Dan: dropped a note off with the city that new construction at 5121 34th St should preserve the historically important features of the property.
 - **Molly, Pastor at Normal Heights United Church:** Pride flag was stolen and flagpole was broken, replaced with a bigger one. Wants to remind community of their gender and sexual affirming therapy and their Community Fund which can assist with therapy. All are invited to contribute to this fund. The Community Fund is a neighborhood focused Community Aid program.
6. Social Media & other communications – [who will monitor our SM presence?]:
- Jim: We have a Facebook group and NextDoor presence and need a volunteer to manage these. Jim encourages members to consider if they are interested in this responsibility and speak-up offline or in future emails if they are ready to take it on.

6:20 Reports

7. City, State, and Government Agency Representatives
- a. Ryan Garcia (Councilmember Stephen Whitburn):
 - Community Budget Forum scheduled for the upcoming Thursday (May 6) to review the mayor’s 2022 budget and allow for community input. Those unable to attend can contact Whitburn’s office at stephenwhitburn@sandiego.gov.
 - Whitburn’s office continues to advocate for improvements to Ward Canyon Park with particular attention to the temporary dog park.
 - Whitburn invites community input regarding homeless encampments so they may pass along the comments to CalTrans.
 - Questions: regarding construction vehicles by Ward Canyon Park: no construction on the park yet, these vehicles are here as a staging area by CalTrans for their other projects.
 - b. Jamie (County Chair Nathan Fletcher):
 - Regarding COVID19- SD County is following state guidance- fully vaccinated persons may be unmasked while outdoors.
 - Over 74% of the county has received the first dose of the vaccine.
 - All vaccination sites allow walk-ins, no appointment needed.
 - c. Christopher Gris (Assemblymember Ward):
 - Many have reached the one year mark for their unemployment claims. Ward’s office has assisted those with issues refiling their unemployment and offers assistance to anyone who may be having issues. contact- Christopher.gris@asm.ca.gov.
 - In March, Ward researched various bills that went to his various committees. These are now going to the full assembly.
 - California has reached over 30 million COVID19 Vaccines administered.
 - California seeks to “re-open” on June 15.
 - Jim: Many members of the citywide Community Planners Committee are concerned about an upcoming piece of legislation which would allow for splitting lots and allowing up to four separate units on a single lot. These members hope this legislation is adjusted to protect single-family areas while encouraging further density along transit corridors.
 - d. Nothing from Todd Gloria this month
8. Community Groups
- a. Chair report – 40th St. barricades, Park Master Plan v PARC, COW requirement, ...:
 - Jim: contacted staff with the City to open 40th Street to cyclists, skaters, etc.

No response yet.

- Park Master Plan- current parking to become dog park, site existing dog park to become a community garden, parking and traffic signal by freeway ramp will likely to be removed, nearby building overdue to be demolished and replaced by a community center, basketball courts to be moved further south.
- Nancy: Councilmember Whitburn to host a zoom meeting at 2 PM on May 6 to garner community input regarding the dog park.
- Vickie: Parks & Rec proposing an “alternate interim-*interim*” dog park by the basketball courts, the city notified residents within 300 feet of this location to voice opinion. One person showed up and was in favor. Fencing quoted at \$15,000-\$20,000. Adams Rec needs to vote on this and if they choose to move forward, the next step is to seek funding for the fencing. This would serve large dogs until the proposed dog park in the master plan is completed.
- Jim: New members must complete the E-COW training ASAP to ensure they understand their responsibilities and become official members who are potentially eligible for legal assistance from the city in matters pertaining to decisions made with the CPG.

b. Adams Avenue Business Association: No updates.

c. El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association:

- John O’Connor: The Boulevard’s Office is re-opening and excited as things return back to normal for businesses on the boulevard.
<https://theboulevard.org/centraltownhall/>

d. NH Community Association and NH Urban Arts:

- No updates.

e. Adams Rec. Advisory Group:

- Vickie: 40th and Madison St. barrier was recently destroyed after a fire on the house at the corner. The Adams Rec. Advisory Group has requested a copy of the CPG’s letter to the City so they may consider whether or not they will also support the adjustment.

City looking into decomposed granite instead of mulch to cover the sand at the dog park.

f. Community Planners Committee - Reminder to provide Officers’ and Members list info to Planning Dept:

- Some CPGs are concerned about short-term rentals.
- Parks Plan recommends changes to park requirements from population based to amenities based.
- Normal Heights wants to maintain the acreage requirement as recommended by PARC.
- CPC enacted an open-space advisory committee.
- Also discussed legislation with the city that would push for increased density which would affect single-family zoned areas.

7:00 Action/Decision Items

9. Bridgedeck - a Right-of-Way Street Vacation to vacate the western portion of the cul-de-sac of 40th Street generally located just south of 4344 40th Street as well as 785.92 square feet of the existing alley running west from 40th street between two lots. See <https://docs.sandiego.gov/citybulletin notice:>

- Two formerly city-owned parcels that were envisioned to be transit-oriented developments, now that the transit infrastructure exists here, they seek to finally have this development project accomplished. **The specific request is to vacate a cul-de-sac and replace it with a “hammerhead”** which will allow for emergency vehicle access. As a whole, the development will host and connect several infrastructures conducive to public transit ridership and active transportation.
 - Q&As (paraphrased for brevity):
 - Jim: Will the section be closed to vehicles? A: Removable bollards will inhibit vehicle traffic.
 - Linda: Where will moving trucks park? A: Parking will be located near the building’s elevator system
 - Paul: (commentary) past rendering was only five stories, happy to see that more recent sketches anticipate up to ten stories.
 - Christian: What does the affordable housing unit package look like, tax credits or vouchers? A: All affordable units, no market rate, obtaining vouchers from housing commission.
 - **Motion: Reinforce and continue to support the Bridgedeck Project, M/S:** Gary Weber/Dan Soderberg.
 - **Motion passes with ten in favor, one abstain**
 - Christian D’Emilia abstained due to a potential conflict of interest per his role with the Housing Commission

10. How we might expand public outreach and participation

- Jim: We would like to increase attendance and diversity of this board and its meetings, Jessica has some ideas.
- Jessica: We can send out flyers with QR codes to allow easy access to online information about the CPG and related community projects. These flyers may cost up to 25 cents, we could: Will send Jessica our current flyer and brochure materials and requests her to draft new documents for outreach, we will then research printing options. costs will likely be reimbursable by the city, we also have our own money saved. Jessica to complete the draft before the June meeting so we can approve and utilize the city budget.
- **Jess and Christian established as a working group to design outreach materials and investigate costs**

11. Filling Vacant Board Positions, as needed:

- There must be 12 current members (one vacant position). No member can be on the board for more than eight continuous years.
- All planning groups had issues running elections during the pandemic. Terms that should have ended this past March were continued until normal elections may take place.
- **Jim proposes a formal notice at the June meeting to have an election for the positions whose term ended in March, replace those who have reached the eight year term limit, and fill the currently vacant 15th seat.**

7:40 Standing Working Groups & Pending Issue Reports

12. Transportation Group – Meade Bikeway update, etc: Bulbouts and traffic circles are appreciated as it feels safer for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.
13. Parks Development – I-15 corridor, Mission Valley access, “more” parks, etc:
 - Jim wants to Re-establish a working group to pursue park space along I-805 by working with Cal-Trans and the City. Gary would be happy to work with Linda on this and sit down with someone to identify every opportunity for park space in Normal Heights and pressure the city to put price tags on these projects.
 - Jim cited the long-time interest in walking access to Mission Valley. The multi-use path

east of I-15 was an improvement in this goal.

- **Gary, Linda, and Christian established as a working group to investigate park opportunities in the community**

14. Undergrounding - Some undergrounding occurring near E. Mountain View.

7:50 Discussion/Information Items

- a. **ADA compliant curb cutouts at Ward Canyon Park:** Vickie and Jim will work with the Adams Rec. Council to request curb-cuts to make the park ADA compliant.

8:00 Adjournment