



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

Minutes for Tuesday, September 3rd, 2019, 6:00pm until approximately 8:00pm
Board Attendance (x means "present"):

X	Gary Weber (C)	X	Linda Case	X	Mark Lawler
	Gautam Dey	X	Richard Valentine	X	Scott Kessler
X	Jim Baross	X	Alison Flynn	X	Marty Graham
X	Caroline McKeown (T) (in at 6:12)	X	Nancy Lawler		vacancy
X	Rose Newberry (VC)	X	Alberto Foglia in at 6:05	X	Adam Deutsch (S)

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

6:00 Call to Order - Start of NHCPG Meeting

1. Introduction of planning group members and audience
2. Agenda Setting/modifications (*Note: items may be addressed out of listed order*)
3. Approval of July meeting minutes – Adam Deutsch. M/S:Marty/Rose. All voted in favor, Jim and Alison weren't here so abstain.
4. Treasurer's Report – Caroline McKeown. We have \$2196.79, and we're looking to get a map printed for the Street Fair to help conversations with the community.

6:05 Public Comment

5. Non-agenda public comment may be limited to two minutes per person
 - a. Coffee with a Cop next Friday at 10am at Lestat's.

6:06 Reports

6. Government Representatives
 - a) Brett Weise: the council has been in legislative recess for the month of August so far. Inclusionary housing requirements have been update. We've had some street resurfacing, after the water/sewer pipes were fixed. It seems that undergrounding for North of Adams in imminently on deck. This only for homes North of Adams, and at the moment, it's not likely to include the main power lines that come up the canyon. Here's a link to the latest newsletter for all kinds of updates:
<https://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd3/newsevents/eblasts>
7. Community Groups
 - a) Adams Avenue Business Association: Street Fair is coming up in two weeks. It was moved up this week; CicloSDios is also coming up, followed by holiday events.
The lamp post painting is also complete.

- b) El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association: Nobody was present.
 - c) NH Community Association and NH Urban Arts: Nobody was present.
 - d) Adams Rec. Advisory Group: Bob reported on a meeting about Ward Canyon Park. There was also discussion of the idog park conflicts. Lots of Dog Owners vs. the residents of the 3 households who are being negatively impacted by that. Art Harrison laughed aloud at that, disruptively, and was ignored. Bob says more to come on those issues.
8. Social Media & other communications – Adam & Caroline. Caroline reported lots of conversation about the dog park. There's also a lot about the Meade and 30th St. Bike Projects. There's also a fundraiser for Adams Elementary that will happen during the Street Fair.
Adam's deleted his Nextdoor account because it's simply unbearable.

6:30 Chair Report (by Gary)

- 9. Report on August 6 workshop: This happened instead of the regular meeting (no quorum). Big interests include a permanent dog park in Ward Canyon (which is in the final plan for Ward Canyon Park). There was also discussion about land along the 805 that could become recreational areas of various sorts.
- 10. CPC – Compliance issues: This board needs a rep for that group, and we don't have one. They're trying to come up with a response to the Grand Jury report; according to that, we're actually doing pretty good. Gary feels the city would like us to all go away, but we provide a necessary outlet for the community to have input and advise the city, as we're tasked with doing.
- 11. School & Parks Planning Process: now that the Adams Elementary fence is done, all prison-like, we can hopefully talk about aesthetics and a new way to handle the issue of the school district not communicating with us at all.
There was a Parks meeting on 8/26, about money dedicated to developing Ward Canyon Park's design. We're severely under parked in this community. Do we want to keep renting out park space to groups, when the money doesn't come back to his community?
We also have an Environmental Impact Report for the Stadium Site out. We sent a letter about this in an earlier phase, which was ignored. We'd still like to have access created for this community to access that area directly to the North.

6:28 Presentations

- 6. CicloSDias – October 27: Jennifer Hunt reported on this event, a temporary closure of significant areas of the street for cars, but open for pedestrians, cyclists, skaters, etc. It's been a regular successful event for years around the city now. Scott asked if they'd like us to write a letter of support. We can make that an action item for the October Meeting to write a formal letter of support.
- 7. Home Start – They plan to acquire a property for support housing for Mothers and their children. We reviewed briefly about historic review and if any variances that they'd need in construction.
- 8. Mobility Programs – ECB bus only lanes, Meade Avenue update: Danny Veeh's back: they presented a new powerpoint ([link here](#)).

Center islands in traffic circles will have colored & designed concrete and rocks/gravel in the middle. All this would start in Nov 2019 and end in Spring of 2022. The plan has details to minimize disruption. The slides have lots of valuable details.

Adam wants to know if we can have a Neighborhood Gate at the 39th street traffic circle. He says that there's no plan for that at the moment. Adam explained that features like there were on the poster at the first presentation at the Lafayette years ago. It would be nice to get another thing in our community plan from this project.

Caroline asked about street lights, and about landscaping in the traffic circles. Danny said that the city won't let them put in irrigation, etc. Brett looked confused by that claim. She also asked about additional signage at intersections, and Danny said "There will be lots of signs." Someone claimed it's 45-48 signs per intersection. He claims he doesn't know the exact number off the top of his head. Adam asked if he can text someone for the number, and he says he'll get back to us. Scott mentions that we were told we could have these things, but the conflicts between the city and SANDAG seem to make these things not possible. There will be sleeves included to pull plumbing and electricity if things want to be added in the future. Danny says he pushed for plants for years, but we never heard about that directly. A number of people in the audience mentioned this, and how the website has stats on how much people demand these things, and Bird Rock has landscaped circles. Danny mentions that the sleeves will be there to include those later. A guy from KenTal spoke up against traffic circles, and delays in firetruck response time, and cited a lot of other data from other places; Jim wants to counter everything he just said, and Marty wants to counter anything Jim said.

Scott wants to take another action about concerns, but this isn't an action item. The general vibe of the room is that we want some aesthetics, and it's not getting the touches we've wanted and asked for over and over.

Marty asked about voices from the disabled community, and they have a committee at SANDAG who specialize in that. They're an advisory committee (like us). Lots more opposition came up, but SANDAG stands by the safety of their designs. Alberto wants to see something done to make biking safer in his lifetime. Caroline mentioned that they're doing to do what they want, as history has taught us. Jim mentioned the Climate Action Plan, and Rose mentioned the Climate Adaptation Plan, and wants more vegetation to help cool the place. Alison added that mass transit should be part of this, and it's currently not.

Excess Caltrans land along I-805 as potential park space: John Hartley has a presentation about using some land along the 805; it was a good video taken by Eric Tamayo and about the space that could work for a dog park or other additional greenspace if we could ever get Caltrans to sign it over.

Once upon a time, the I-15 could have been covered with park space from Adams Ave. to El Cajon Blvd, but then-Councilmember John Hartley voted against that plan, and we never got that cover on the freeway. Full history of that can be found here: <https://sandiegofreepress.org/2013/08/i-15-in-city-heights-how-a-freeway-that-divided-the-community-became-an-urban-monument-to-citizen-activism/#.XZELvVBIBTY>

7:30 Action Items

9. Vice Chair Vacancy: Nomination of Rose Newberry. M/S:Adam/Scott. Rose accepts that nomination. Rose is Vice Chair. We have one vacant spot on the board. We'll attempt to fill that next meeting.
10. NH Parks Masterplan – principals, Caltrans edge, John Adams, Ward Canyon. No action taken.
11. 30th St. corridor – Process, parking loss, precedent. Adam opposed chiming in on something happening in North Park. Gary explained that we're not responding to this project, but similar concepts that might be applied to us. Scott mentioned that the AABA, ECBIA, and other business groups have collectively opposed this, but the mayor hasn't responded. Scott talked about how they designed a plan that had parking and a bike lane, but that wasn't considered. Brett explained a bit about Option A and Option B that were presented and decided upon. No action taken at this time.
12. Street Fair booth – Survey, NH map, stickers, take away piece: Sign up on the Google Doc. It's required in our Bylaws. No action necessary.
13. NHCPG funds – Any expenditures or suggestions. No actions are being taken.

7:30 Discussion Items

14. Stadium site EIR – River Park, stadium, bridge link to Normal Heights. We need to make a response.
15. Undergrounding – status & public input process, requesting public discussion. Brett reviewed the areas in the Design phase. The city asked for more meetings to inform people, but they're not planned yet, and they said they want to start in November. They're also having a meeting about this in Mission Valley's Library, rather than in this community. They claim there's no free space that can hold over 100 people, which is complete bullshit. Brett says we'll have input on where boxes will go. There are maps associated with this. There's that meeting in Mission Valley on 9/11 at 6:00pm.
16. Dog park – Response to concerns of adjacent residents. Noting about this.

7:50 Information Items

17. Permits generating age 45 review. Nothing came to us for review because of that change where the city stopped sending us notices about properties that go up for review.

The following topics are candidates for further discussion:

Community character contributors

1. Streets - pavement, curbs, gutters, drainage
2. Lighting – public and private
3. Parking – on street & off street
4. Shade – amount, intensity and location

5. Upkeep – condition of public ROW & visible privately held property

History & Preservation

1. Archive responsibility and location
2. Content – please email photos and info to normalheightshistory@gmail.com
3. 70 year NH demographic trend lines

Intersection enhancements

1. Crosswalks
2. Crossing signals
3. Pop-outs
4. Bollards

Bicycle lanes and markings

1. Early action – painting lanes?
2. Storage issues

Arts & Culture

1. Gateway structures design theme
2. Statuary, sculptures & murals

8:00 Adjournment

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 Secretary Adam Deutsch at NHCPGsecretary@gmail.com

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

Normal Heights Park Development Options

Preface: Normal Heights is substantially underserved in park space according to the City's own General Plan standards yet very little is being done to address the situation. The NHCPG suggests that the solution lies in somewhere in the following strategies.

- Explore the feasibility of expanding and/or reconfiguring the existing park sites.
- Identify opportunity sites including properties either in public ownership, on the market or in strategic locations.
- Develop generic schematics of mini-parks scaled to the fabric of Normal Heights.
- Evaluate the feasibility of converting any and all excess Caltrans property along the I-805 freeway into park like settings, along with appropriate uses.
- Identify any possible overlook locations and explore methods of converting them into a park-like setting with benches, shade, and lighting.
- Evaluate the feasibility of humanizing the canyon system embracing Normal Heights through the introduction of trails, pathways and outdoor classrooms, along with the reduction of appropriate brush in order to reduce the risk of fire.
- Identify and develop a system of connected green streets throughout Normal Heights, enhanced with landscaping, pavement reduction and appropriate street furniture. The Urban Trail has had some public investment to date but not enough to use as an example.
- * Develop rooftops for use by residents and/or businesses housed in the structures.
- * Enhance every park like setting developed within Normal Heights with urban art including murals, sculptures, statuary and writings.

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Develop a tool box of park components for use in identifying how to best configure and use any space that would be created in this process (the process of plan implementation)

Gary Weber
July 2019