



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

**Minutes for Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 6:00pm until approximately 8:00pm**  
Board Attendance (X means “present”):

X	Gary Weber (C)	X	Linda Case	X	Mark Lawler
X	Gautam Dey		Richard Valentine	X	Scott Kessler
X	Jim Baross	X	Alison Flynn	X	Marty Graham (left at 7pm)
X	Caroline McKeown (T)	X	Nancy Lawler		Vacancy
	Rose Newberry (VC)	X	Alberto Foglia	X	Adam Deutsch (S)

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

**6:00 Call to order by Nominating Committee**

**ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS** – conducted by secret ballot before the regular meeting. Results to be announced after ballot counts are completed. New Board members “take office” at the April meeting. Marty withdrew from consideration in the election before it started. Results were reelection for Jim Baross, Linda Case, Alison Flynn, Mark Lawler, and Gary Weber, and election of John Hartley, Dan Soderberg, and Eric Tamayo.

**6:10 Call to Order - Start of regular NHCPG Meeting**

1. Introduction of planning group members and audience.
2. Agenda Setting/modifications (*Note: items may be addressed out of listed order*). Jim asked about an agenda item about Undergrounding (15).
3. May 31<sup>st</sup>. for the Rock N Roll Marathon
4. Approval of February meeting minutes – Adam Deutsch. M/S:Jim/Marty. All approved, but Gautam who abstained because he wasn’t here.
5. Treasurer’s Report – Caroline McKeown. \$1966.61, and we’re applying for \$500 in operating expenses from the city. All approved.

**6:15 Public Comment**

6. Non-agenda public comment may be limited to two minutes per person
  1. Jim made a comment about striping on the road at Mt. View, and how he’d like to see different paint to increase safety.
  2. Linda said she’d like to be the representative to the Rec Advisory Group.
  3. Gary brought up some CPPs for Adams Ave. locations

4. Marty met the neighborhood coyote while out walking, and it followed her and her dog, but not in a scary sort of a way. Her dog apparently holds coyotes in high regard.

### **6:20 Reports**

6. Government Representatives: None are present. Todd Gloria's rep. told Gary that they were working on a bunch of good legislation.
7. Community Groups
  1. Adams Avenue Business Association: Scott reported that Adams Unplugged is coming up. New banners are also being made soon. They're also in the process of an alley update, behind Mariposa Ice Cream.
  2. El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association: Gary went on their Developer's Tour last Friday, and it was pretty cool. The "Bus Only (Bikes Okay) lanes are working out.
  3. NH Community Association and NH Urban Arts: they messages that their meeting is concurrent with this one tonight, but they're doing an electrical box outside the Rec Center.
  4. Adams Rec. Advisory Group: Bob reported on iDog Park meetings. They have to make decisions in their meeting two weeks from tonight. Parks & Rec also has their feelings on it. Gary hopes the groups can come together on other options for dogs in neighborhood.

### **6:30 Chair Report**

8. Son of a BYOB – Proposed non-motorized tour of Normal Heights, again, to follow up on projects and developments. How about April 14<sup>th</sup>? A whole thing started about the idog park stuff again, so there might be another bike ride sooner.
9. Establishing committees – Recommend standing committee for Undergrounding, others? The city is meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> about undergrounding in Zone 3BB. From 6 to 8pm. Gary thinks they need to meet with us about 3DD, and as soon as possible. Who wants to be on the committee? Gary, Jim. Caroline suggested there needs to be an Underground committee as well as a MAD committee. Parks & Mobility being two others. Maybe Traffic/Circulation. Jim and Alberto and Alison will join the TC.
10. Increased staffing support for planning groups vs. Complete Communities. The city does not want to sent a presentative here every month. There's a lot of resources that would help make community planning groups better.

### **6:50 Action Items**

11. Support for the Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> Rock and Roll Marathon in Normal Heights: Jim/Caroline. We all approve of a letter in support for the marathon and to continue to run it along the Mountain View Drive pathway.
12. Shall the planning group recommend an increase in staff support to planning groups. Letter to Mayor, D3, CPD

There was discussion concerning the tone of that report, framing the planning groups as more like an inferior than a business partner, admonishing us to be prompt with the production of required documents yet incapable themselves of providing us information in a timely manner. Our planner is attentive and helpful when asked, but visits us once every three months, hardly often enough to understand our issues.

The NHCPG has contemplated the impact of State legislative efforts to usurp local land use authority and has been concerned about its impact. The group has consistently asked the City to address infrastructure deficiencies, and to review zoning conditions affecting our 15-block long frontage along ECB. The planning group has always advocated for high density along our Boulevard frontage, and reminds the City that our plan supports the kind of infill development that fits appropriately into its location.

The plan also supports the preservation of the diminishing single family areas, and accepts companion units as a reasonable means of increasing the housing supply. Other locations in our neighborhood were structured to permit adding units but keeping the original house. There is little support for any attempts by the State Legislature to rewrite our community plan in Sacramento, and a sincere desire to implement the one that we already have.

There was discussion at the meeting about the City's comment that it would take up to a million dollars to adequately staff all the planning groups, and a unanimous vote by the NHCPG to request the City to budget funds to the extent necessary to achieve adequate staff support for the various needs of groups that request it.

M/S: Caroline/Jim: Motion: we need more support to we can contributions to getting things done. Maybe we can join with other CPGs on this request. All approve.

Grand Jury and Audit reports at an estimated cost of up to 1M per year per City estimate?

13. Westside land use options for Caltrans property adjacent to I-805 – Linda Case and Eric Tamayo: there's a visual presentation. We asked if the residents along the land have been informed about this idea, and they said that would come later. They want our endorsement to advocate for this park. We discussed confusion over their association with the group, because they were talking at times like they're a separate community group approaching us. Turns out nobody just knows how this works.

Identify Caltrans land that could become accessible to the public for uses to be determined. Linda Case to assist in forming a parkland committee to spearhead the effort. A board vote to support looking into putting public space to use adjacent to I-805 was passed unanimously.

**M/S:Jim/Gautum: The trail is a good idea, and we support a letter expressing such. Scott thinks that we should make sure the residents are aware of this idea as soon as possible. All support the letter.**

14. NH & JA Elementary joint use to ensure community access during non-school hours: there was an awful meeting with the district at JA Elementary. The NH Elementary principle is turning parents against the rest of the community. We want the joint use land. Gary recommends a letter for the joint use, and also recommend security personal be covered in that joint use agreement. The public need to keep their parks facilities.

Gary gave an eloquent soliloquy about how we need to protect our park space, and think about expansion. There is a bit of turmoil at present regarding certain responsibilities associated with joint use. The safety of the students, the appearance of graffiti, and the cleanliness and usefulness of bathroom facilities at the two elementary schools require thoughtful solutions, not forced separation. The concerns about open access to the community is real and deserves an investment of time and money, specifically through the on-going use of security personnel, strategically deployed, to keep the sites free from abuse and more available to the surrounding residents. Other issues include a request for scaled down decorative fencing , and increase parking.

Overnight closures seem feasible, provided there are security personnel available to enforce it at each of the sites. Scott gave a summary of the meeting at JA Elementary.

**M/S: Gautaum/Alison: Motion to write a strongly-worded letter supporting joint-use park at Adams Elementary, and defacto joint use space on the blacktop that was available for years.**

There was robust conversation about the dynamics between the city, the school district, and us, too. **All voted in favor.**

15. Identifying Undergrounding committee members and key issues. We covered this earlier. No action was required.

### **7:20 Discussion Items**

16. Ward Canyon final design: scale and location of dog park, garden, event stage, ball fields. We have to stay on top of that.
17. Stadium site status & Fenton Parkway connection. There have been recent reports about them closing escrow on the property. We just want to the Fenton Parkway bridge.
18. Meade bikeway lighting: Marty sent a report that there are lights being installed on Meade that do not meet building requirements, and that they're blinding.

### **7:45 Information Item**

19. Election Results: Eric Tomayo, Dan Soderberg, and John Hartley were voted onto the board, and will join Alison Flynn, Adam Deutsch, Gary Weber, Jim

Baross, Rose Newberry, Albero Foglio, Gautaum Dey, Scott Kessler, Linda Case, Richard Valentine, Mark Lawler, and Nancy Lawler at the next meeting.

### 7:53 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](mailto:NHCPGsecretary@gmail.com)*

