



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

Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, July 2nd, 2019, 6:00pm until approximately 8:00pm

Board Attendance (x means “present”):

X	Gary Weber (C)	X	Linda Case	X	Mark Lawler
X	Gautam Dey	X	Richard Valentine	X	Scott Kessler
	Jim Baross	X	Alison Flynn		Marty Graham
X	Caroline McKeown (T)	X	Nancy Lawler		vacancy
X	Rose Kelly (VC)	X	Alberto Foglia	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 members
2. Agenda Modifications/Setting (*Note: items may be addressed out of listed order*). None!
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes – Adam Deutsch emailed those out and took M/S:Caroline/Rose. All approved, except Adam, Gautam, who abstained because they wasn't here, and Alison because she doesn't remember.
4. Treasurer's Report – Caroline reported out balance: \$2196.79
5. Social Media & Other Communications—The internet is a place where horrible things happen.

Reports

6. Government Representatives

- a. Brett Weise from Councilmember Chris Ward's office: he doesn't have more information on undergrounding, but is aware of a lawsuit being brought by a Talmadge resident.

The budget was approved by the mayor this week. There is increased funds for code enforcement. We also got funding to plan Ward Canyon Park to the tune of \$400,000, which means we can design then apply for state funding; the plan includes knocking down the Mock Building. They also secured money for bus only lanes on ECB as a pilot program. There's also about \$10m for Balboa Park.

They're working with the Mid-City Parking District on a plan for parking in the area.

Gerald asked about the TPA map, and is it as the crow flies, or actual miles; city attorney says it goes by walking or driving, not as the crow flies.

Linda asked about resurfacing 35th St. It was delayed because of construction at the school. He's looking into that right now. There are also more water pipes being replaced in the neighborhood as we go.

Adam asked about when the playground and park at School St. & Mansfield, and Brett says two months. The lack of notice is troubling, as usual. As it happens, this neighborhood doesn't have a functioning member of the District School Board.

Gerald wants more slurry on roads, as Kensington has gotten over and over again. They finished Monroe a long time ago, and that hasn't been completed yet.

A resident wants public input in the planning phase of Ward Canyon Park, and Brett says there will be.

- b. Brandon Torres from Supervisor Nathan Fletcher: County budget just wrapped up, and there's 125 new child welfare workers. 11 new housing/community development staff members, and lots of new supportive housing. They're also piloting a "voting center" for future elections, so voters and vote, drop off ballots, etc, up to a week before an election.

7. Neighborhood Groups

- a. AABA: working on a new event to cut children's hair. They're also painting more light posts. Taste of Adams sold out for the 5th year in a row, but the first time selling out before the day of the event.

The big news: CiclosDios will happen Oct. 27th, and will be in our neighborhood.

8. **Public Comment:** Non-agenda public comment may be limited to two minutes per person.

- a. Gary: the CPC is still having meetings about the Grand Jury report. He also wants to keep working Rose on the community Survey so we can have essential data. Undergrounding isn't on our agenda tonight, but apparently guys have been working on the streets in the neighborhood, so he asked Gerald to speak about it: there haven't been updates official from the city. However, rumor from the power company is that the city has been frustratingly dragging their feet on the two block groups of undergrounding that's slated to get done.
- b. A resident on 35th has balls from VAVI going over the fence, hitting cars and houses. He has a collection of 30-40 softballs, and two windows have been broken recently. He wants to talk so someone about putting up a net or something to mitigate this problem.
- c. Adam recounted almost getting hit twice while on a bicycle with his son (both by the same car). He asked people to be mindful of cyclists
- d. Going Dark in August? We haven't skipped a meeting since August of 2015, so Adam, Alison, and Caroline asked if we can go dark for August.

9. Workshops: At this point in the meeting, we broke into groups to cover various topics in open Discussions.

- a. **Density:** Adam gave background on our efforts to have the city adjust the zoning on El Cajon Blvd to increase density, and align with the communities plan. There was a robust conversation about zoning and our neighborhood specific. There is no planner at this meeting (which is a common occurrence, as the Planning Department doesn't compensate planners to attend all the meetings). We got into nuance of where upzoning would happen, where it would apply to Normal Heights, but also the need for amenities.

The community agrees with the advocacy we've been doing, but it seems a lot of people learned about nuances of planning that aren't common knowledge (things like Floor Area Ratio and how that facts into high regulations).

- b. **Parks:** Caroline gave background on the current state of the lack of parks in Normal Heights, and we are woefully diffident. We have a 48% deficient on parks, less park acreage than every neighborhood in the city except Kensington. Caroline asked people to circle areas on a map about places they'd like to see parks. The same resident who attends every few months to fear-mongers against parks and a canyon path (and once against libraries) came through to speak against a trail that would connect us to Mission Valley. Two people had emotional appeals against having things like park near their homes. It was pointed out that the city notoriously passes up buying opportunity properties that would be excellent sites for installing parks.

We had an expert, Tony Ortega, in the room, and he took a little time to define a park more in terms of what they socially provide for a community, and what a "space" is, and defined a number of terms. We'll tabulate those areas and share them at a future meeting.

Linda proposed people collectively buy a house on the cliff, and allow it to be an entrance to the river park, and Adam expressed that, while he doesn't have much money, he does love that idea.

- c. **Traffic and Circulation:** This is focused on Meade Avenue, mostly. We don't have plans to look at with the details we've requested repeatedly from SANDAG.

10. August will likely be a strategic meeting.

7:52 **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 Vice Chair, Rose Kelly at rosemargaretkelly@gmail.com, or the City of San Diego Associate Planner, Nathan Causman, NCausman@sandiego.gov.

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<http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/normalheights/agendas.shtml>

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