



NORMAL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

4649 Hawley Boulevard San Diego, CA. 92116

Conducted via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86163627338?pwd=N21ma25HRWN3bHAWckZiZke2MFBjQT09>

Passcode: 913640

NORMAL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

Meetings usually happen, outside of the pandemic, at the address above.

Minutes for Tuesday August 4th, 2020 6:00pm until approximately 8:00pm

Board Attendance (X means “present”):

X	Gary Weber	X	Linda Case (in at 6:36)		Mark Lawler
X	Gautam Dey		Richard Valentine		Scott Kessler
X	Jim Baross (VC)	X	Alison Flynn (C)	X	John Hartley
X	Eric Tamayo		Nancy Lawler		Vacancy
	Dan Soderberg	X	Alberto Foglia (T)	X	Adam Deutsch (S)

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

6:20 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*): None.
3. Approval of July meeting minutes – Adam Deutsch: M/S: Jim/Alberto: All approved.
4. Treasurer’s Report including use of City’s annual allocation – Alberto Foglia. No change, \$2085.99 is in our account at the moment. We will reimburse Jim for Zoom account from the city budget.

6:10 Public Comment

5. Non-agenda public comment may be limited to two minutes per person
 - a. Adam made sure the bylaws were available to the board and anyone else, so we’re reminded of the rules under which we operate.
 - b. Jim asked about the roster, and it is up-to-date with the city at the moment.
 - c. John asked about our west-side boundary. Jim commented that the bridge over 805 is city land. John continued that the loss of parking—for the pandemic—is of concern.
 - d. Joe Tabbutt is curious about the barriers on 40th at Monroe and Madison. They are eyesore, he says, and cause faster traffic on 40th.
6. Social Media & other communications – Adam, Alison, & Alberto. Adam says that some businesses are or are not operating, depending on their capabilities to keep up with public health guidelines.

6:20 Reports

7. Government Representatives
 - a. Randy Wilde from Assemblymember Todd Gloria’s office: updated us on the legislative process at the moment. Now is a great time to chime in on legislation you’d like to see happen.

Saturday Community Coffee @9am RSVP Link:

https://lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicCMS/LinkTracking.php?id=529150&eid=601141&url=https%3A%2F%2Flcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov%2FPublicCMS%2FADInfo%2Feinvites%2FAD78%2F2442_Normal_Heights_Virtual_Community_Coffee_.html&tid=AD78C832401597

Adam suggested pending legislation that allows cyclist to treat Stop signs as Yield signs when drivers aren't present, and would like to see that supported. (Including AB 3153, 2667, and 1266)

Alison asked about rent relief program details, and Randy gave details for that program. He also recommended we access resources from the city Housing Commission.

8. Community Groups
 - a. Adams Avenue Business Association: Scott isn't present, and there were no updates.
 - b. El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association: None present.
 - c. NH Community Association and NH Urban Arts: None present.
 - d. Adams Rec. Advisory Group: None present.
9. Candidates for public office may address the group

6:35 Chair Report

10. Preferred Email: NHCPGchair@gmail.com. That's the email to use to contact Alison.
11. CPC report: A recent report commented about how CPGs are not representative of the communities they represent. "We do our best to get people involved," Jim says, "but perhaps we can do better to get people involved." He gave a summary about state legislation that guides zoning and other municipal codes. The CPC has decided to adopt the state's mandates into the city codes. There was also a report on "Complete Communities." Those are still under discussion, and they CPC voted to not take a position until there is a finalized version. We would welcome a city presentation regarding those plans.

Adam commented that the comments about demographics not representing the neighborhoods CPGs represent is a direct result of the city not providing enough resources to planning groups; it is essentially free labor, and the city does not make it possible for people to contribute their time and energy to these meetings.

Alberto suggests that maybe the city should provide translation services for agenda and minutes documentation. There are paid people with expertise who might be able to help the community planning group with additional resources to make it more equitable.

We also discussed making Zoom meeting recordings available to the public, and there was conversations about privacy of images and city guidelines about access to recordings, and how they would interact with the Minutes and other official documentation. There is concern about privacy and having recordings of our faces and likenesses. Jim suggests we get clarification about recordings, disclaimers, and distribution of videos. Adam will look into that.

6:40 Working Group Reports

12. Transportation Group
 - a. Items from meeting notes attached in Appendix A
13. Parks: Linda reported that they made a Vision and Mission Statement. Adam reported that Caltrans has been contacted about the land along the 805. A representative has been asked to speak with us. Parks Working Group will meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month.
14. Undergrounding (to potentially be established): Nothing was discussed.

7:00 Action Items

15. Feedback on Meade Bikeway lighting: We do not see a problem at the moment, from the points of view on the board. Perhaps people can use the Get-It-Done app to report the issue if they're concerned. Linda suggested that she's been by a few times, and it seems that some of the brightness has been mitigated. We'll continue to monitor this, and think about possible actions in the future.
16. Vacant Seat Election: we have a vacancy. Nobody in attendance is eligible to fill a seat.

7:15 Discussion Items

17. Community Planning Group Representation – Alison Flynn. No Discussion necessary.
 - a. VOSD report quoted/linked in Appendix B

7:30 Information Items

18. None scheduled

7:36 Adjournment**Appendix****A. Working Group Reports - Transportation Working Group Items (in no special order):**

- Sidewalks are typically too narrow especially during our need for social distancing. Sidewalks should preferably be 10' wide.
- Adams Ave over 805 should widen sidewalk or continue to prohibit on-street vehicle parking to allow for pedestrian traffic to pass each other.
- Walking and bicycling routes—sidewalks and bikeways - should be contiguous; not have barriers, discontinuities, or breaks.
- Adams Ave business district would benefit from vehicle drop-off areas for customers to pickup products.
- Vehicle parking meters along sections of Adams Ave would encourage parking turnover and revenue for related projects.
- The intersections along Adams Ave at East and West Mt. View would be safer and easier to cross with installation of traffic signals or roundabouts.
- The intersection of 32nd St and Madison needs a ? Stop sign.
- Consider adding on-street vehicle parking on wide Hawley Blvd either angle parking, center of the road parking, or other treatment.
- Develop the proposed Urban Trail along 805 as previously investigated; consider the south side of Adams as an extension too.
- Install shoulder stripes among West, North, and East Mt. View Drive to calm traffic speeds and make the travel and recreational bicycling and walking/running more comfortable/safer. Re-orient Stop signs at 35th at N. Mt. View and redo the confusing intersection at 35th and Arthur—perhaps with a roundabout.
- Consider making Felton one-way; in conjunction with a SuperBlock treatment of the adjacent area ala Barcelona Spain's SuperBlocks.
- Make productive use of the open space created when the roads were re-oriented at Cherokee and Madison; garden? park bench? etc.?
- Tree removal at Arthur and 34th St.
- Research previous (or new) transportation proposals provided by Alan Hoffman.

B. Discussion Items - Community Planning Group Representation

- The city conducted a survey to get a better sense of who's offering the advice and found a stark demographic disparity. On the whole, Andrew Keatts reports, [the groups giving advice are older, whiter and wealthier than the city itself](#). They overwhelmingly own single-family homes.

Defenders of the community planning groups see themselves as [models of democracy on the front-line of self-government](#). Though the new study is unscientific, it's likely to give ammunition to transit and housing advocates who've [argued that the groups are not representative](#) and in need of reform.

C. The following are communications sent in response to actions at the July 2020 Meeting:



July 17th, 2020

CalTrans District 11
4050 Taylor Street
San Diego CA 92110

Dear CalTrans,

In a recent vote, the Normal Heights Community Planning Group unanimously agreed that the land just east of the 805 freeway, north of Adams Avenue could be made accessible for public use in the form of parkland, and/or perhaps a pedestrian pathway that connects Normal Heights to Camino Del Rio South, and the River Park in Mission Valley.

The property adjacent to the I-805 appears to be CalTrans land. The NHCPG would be very interested in learning about how that land could be made into a park or utilized for other public use.

Normal Heights is a severely under-parked neighborhood in the city of San Diego, and your consideration in this matter would be greatly appreciated. Our meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm, and we are currently meeting via Zoom while in the pandemic; we would welcome Caltrans staff to a meeting for a presentation or dialogue about possibilities for our neighborhood.

Respectfully,

Adam Deutsch, Secretary
Normal Heights Community Planning Group

c: Honorable Chris Ward, Councilmember



July 17th, 2020

Honorable Mayor Kevin Faulconer
City of San Diego
City Administration Building
202 C Street
San Diego CA 92101

Dear Mayor Faulconer,

In a recent vote, the Normal Heights Community Planning Group unanimously agreed that the NHCPG needs more support so can make meaningful contributions to get things done in our neighborhood, and act in the advisory capacity that we are responsible for, according to San Diego City policy.

This call for support comes in response to a recent Grand Jury and Audit reports that suggest these resources are necessary. The NHCPG has consistently asked the city to address our infrastructure deficiencies, and to review the zoning conditions of the 15-block stretch of El Cajon Blvd that is part of Normal Heights. We have sent numerous communications to the Planning Department and Development Services with details about how current zoning on ECB does not reflect what is called for in the Mid-Cities Community Plan; the solution to this is not to force a plan update, but to change zoning to align with the plan. In accordance with our community plan, we have asked for zoning that can accommodate high density commercial/residential mixed-use development, safe mobility, and much needed cultural community character. We are told staff does not have the resources to adjust that zoning, and we believe the city should be provided what those departments currently lack.

We also need dedicated city staff to attend our monthly meetings to keep us informed, and be in dialogue with us about the decisions that are at hand.

Please provide resources where necessary to help the Normal Heights community make such changes to advance the community plan.

Respectfully,

Adam Deutsch, Secretary
Normal Heights Community Planning Group

c: Honorable Chris Ward, Councilmember



July 17th, 2020

Lee Dulgeroff
4100 Normal St.
San Diego, CA 92103

Dear Mr. Dulgeroff,

In a recent vote, the Normal Heights Community Planning Group unanimously agreed that we continue to support joint-use park space at Adams Elementary.

It is not news that there are difficulties surrounding the joint-use agreements, and their expiration with a mysterious lack of vigorous efforts to enact new agreements that serve both the schools as well as the community. You also might recall a meeting that was held at Adams Elementary on February 7th of this year. It's not clear what action has been taken since that meeting to speak to the concerns of the community. In that meeting, those in attendance were reminded that in a communication on 12/31/2014, you wrote "The District values the joint-use green and black top spaces for our students and the community. We are not proposing change or reduce the joint use or green space with this project. We are hoping to develop a community consensus around the other project details including the multi-purpose building location." It is the hope of the NHCPG that the district remains dedicated to those values, and will not reduce the joint use or green space on the campuses in Normal Heights. We continue to ask for dialogue from the district to the community, ideally in our regularly scheduled public meetings, rather than in intimate private meetings where official minutes and documentation practices are not being followed.

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 and mobility strategies.

It would appear that Normal Height does not have adequate representation on the San Diego Unified Board of Trustees—District B. Until we have a representative who is receptive to dialogue with their constituents and representing our community in district discussions and decisions, it is our responsibility to continue these discussions in the interest of putting these conflicts behind us—students, parents, teachers, administrators, and residents alike. These identities are not separate, after all, and the conversations must continue, and these issues of joint use must resolve.

The challenges of the pandemic, meanwhile, are substantial, and while they certainly have impacts on the district and schools, as much as the city and everyone else, our hope is that meaningful progress can be made while we all work through this difficult time.

Personally, my child will be entering kindergarten before we know it, and I hope they can look at their school not just as place where they learn during the day, but also as a safe space to play in our neighborhood when the class time is done.

Respectfully,

Adam Deutsch, Secretary
Normal Heights Community Planning Group

c: Honorable Chris Ward, Councilmember



July 17th, 2020

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202 C Street
San Diego CA 92101

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Adam Deutsch, Secretary
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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



Help keep Normal Heights safe - Turn your porch light on!