

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

APPROVED MINUTES

January 7, 2014, 6pm
Normal Heights Community Center

Meeting called to order at 6:04pm.

Board members present: Jean-Louis Coquereau, John Hartley, Scott Kessler, Mark Lawler, Caroline McKeown, Alison Moss, Earlene Thom, and Joseph Fombon (6:13pm).

Members absent: Jim Baross, Nancy Lawler, Mark Rowland, and Dan Soderberg.

Community Members/Guests: 13 additional community members were present, including Bill Conway, Toni Duran, Marianne Greene, Katelyn Hailey, Art Harrison, Bobby Horn, Kris Haworth, Phillip Kramer, Suzanne Ledebor, Gary Rose Weber, and Ryan Zellers.

Welcome and Introductions

Non-agenda Public Comments

- In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair, the meeting was chaired by the Secretary as allowed by Council Policy 600-24 and by the NHCPG Bylaws.

Approval of December 2013 Minutes

- The draft minutes of the December 2013 meeting was distributed to the board prior to the meeting. Community members were informed that the final approved minutes would be made public on the city's website. Mark Lawler moved to approve the December minutes as written, Scott Kessler seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 8-0-0.

Treasurers Report: No updates at this time.

Action Item (out of order)

• **Mid-City Facilities Finance Plan Project Prioritization and Decision**

Due to a scheduling conflict, Vicki Burgess of the San Diego Dept of Developmental Services and Facilities Financing requested we address the Normal Heights Prioritization list for the Mid-City Facilities Finance Plan early in the meeting. Alison Moss distributed a list of project priorities proposed by the Mid-City Financing Plan Subcommittee. The list generated some discussion from the floor. Alison noted that while the likelihood of funding any one project is low, the priority consensus for all the projects was high among the community members, and this is an opportunity for us to go on record as a community about our needs. Vicki briefly explained the process once the plan is submitted. First, the city engineers estimate the cost of the projects, next City Council decides which projects will go into the draft budget in April, then they lobby for their district projects from April to July, and then the final approved projects go on the city budget in July for the following fiscal year.

Scott Kessler made a motion that we vote to approve the prioritization list provided by the Mid-City Financing Plan Subcommittee (listed below), with the exception that we remove the specific number of lots proposed for the last item in the list in regards to land acquisition and development of parks. Joseph Fombon seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7-1-0 with John Hartley going on record as saying that he voted against the list because he wanted the library item (item #2 in list below) to say only Normal Heights and not Kensington/Normal Heights.

The prioritization list (with corresponding page numbers from the Mid-City Plan) for Normal Heights provided by the Mid-City Financing Plan Subcommittee and approved by the Normal Heights Community Planning Group is as follows:

“The following list represents the priorities of the Planning Committee:

- P-37 Ward Canyon Community Park Development: Include a facility/community building as planned.
- L-3 Kensington/Normal Heights Library Expansion: Either expand or new.
- T-30 Safety Upgrades – Traffic Circles, Traffic Calming Devices: Traffic Calming intersection treatments (traffic circles and pedestrian accommodation) on Adams at EMV and Ken Drive.
- P-40 San Diego River Trail: From Normal Heights to Mission Valley need to further define.
- P-20 Wilson Middle School – Joint Use Improvements: Athletic facility including ball fields, and possibly the swimming pool referenced in P-35.
- P-35 Normal Heights-Ken/Tal Community Swimming Pool: Possible location, Wilson JU site in P-20.
- T-28 Streets, Sidewalks, Curbs, Gutters, & Storm Drains: Locations based on updated sidewalk study.
- P-36 Normal Heights Land Acq & Dev for Parks: Potential site, passive park space at end of Cromwell Ct. (Acquisition & Development of vacant lots at the end of Cromwell Ct.)”

Government Representatives

- Katelyn Hailey, our area representative from Senator Marty Block’s office, gave an update. She noted that the state senate was back in session and that Senator Block is promoting a bill that would allow community colleges to offer 4-year degrees in areas where there is high demand for specific degrees. He will introduce the bill in March.
- Toni Duran introduced herself as a Normal Heights resident and as our new representative from Assemblymember Toni Atkins’ office. She informed us of workshops including one on Covered CA Healthcare and another entitled “Senior Scam-Stopppers” that are happening in January. She encouraged everyone to sign up online for the email newsletter from Assemblymember Atkins where you can learn more about their workshops, and a new feature called Finding Hidden Gems in the Community.

Additional Action Items:

- **Historical Reviews:** The NHCPG aids in the historical reviews of properties when the city receives a permit request for any property over 50 years old, in particular, what do we know about that property that the city needs to know. Properties submitted for historical review this month were: 4661-62 32nd St., 4420 33rd St., 4772 Felton St. (St. Didacus Church), 4873 Bancroft St., and 4462 Bancroft St. Committee member Suzanne Ledebor reported that St. Didacus Church is indeed historic and that the committee reported back as such and asked for additional information on the development plans for the property. The committee will report back with an update on St. Didacus Church at a later date when they have more information.
- **Establishment of a Nomination Group for the March Election Ballot:** The NHCPG has annual elections at the March meeting. The group must identify eligible potential candidates for the ballot via a nominating committee. The nominating

committee may not include any members who are up for re-election. As per City Planner Michael Prinz, the committee will identify and contact all eligible community members, and present a nominee list for the ballot to be voted on by the board at the next meeting. Potential candidates are eligible community members (residents (homeowners or renters), property owners, business owners, or non-profit representatives, within the boundaries of Normal Heights) who have attended at least 2 NHCPG meetings in the past 12 months (Mar 2013-Jan 2014). Secretary Caroline McKeown has kept attendance records and volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee. She requested that outgoing board members Jim Baross and Earlene Thom assist on the committee and that community member and former nominating committee chair Suzanne Ledeboer be available for guidance. All agreed to assist as requested. The formation of a nominating committee is in the NHCPG Bylaws and any nominees for the ballot would need to be approved by board vote, so no vote was necessary at this time.

- **Board Vacancies:** An eligible community member and former board member Marianne Greene has expressed interest in joining the NHCPG Board. John Hartley made a motion that we vote to appoint Marianne to the board and Alison Moss seconded. The motion was passed with a vote of 8-0-0. Welcome to the board Marianne!

Information Items

- **V-1 Pipeline Rehabilitation Project:** Community member Suzanne Ledeboer attended the V-1 Pipeline meetings and updated us with the following important information: If the city construction affects a homeowner's parkway (park-strip/tree-lawn/land between the sidewalk and the street) landscaping, the city is not responsible to replace the landscaping unless the homeowner had a prior permit for the landscaping. In other words, if the work wasn't permitted, then the city is not responsible if something happens to it. Lesson: get a city permit if you want to landscape your parkway! The V-1 project map can be obtained by contacting any board member or by directly calling the Project Engineer Jenny Jarrell at 619-533-5224

Committee Reports:

- **Traffic Calming Informal Working Group Update:** Alison Moss reported that they are working with Adrian Granda in City Council President and Interim-Mayor Todd Gloria's office to try to get a traffic study and speed profiles for East, North, and West Mountain View. Community member Ryan Zellers commented that he is a traffic engineer and would like to join the group. It was also mentioned that a City of San Diego Pedestrian Master Plan is currently in Phase 4.
- **Undergrounding Project Subcommittee:** It was noted that the Utilities Undergrounding controversy in the Kensington-Talmadge neighborhoods was featured on the KUSI "Turko Files": <http://www.kusi.com/story/24561111/ugly-and-unwanted>
- **Normal Heights Library Committee:** John Hartley reported that the Library Committee has met and is currently reaching out to the city and the school district to gather information on potential funding and sites. Both the committee and the library plan itself are in the early stages and will keep the board updated as they gather more information. The group will continue to meet as a working group until the re-establishment of an official library committee is voted on at a later meeting.

Next meeting: February 4, 2013

Meeting Adjourned at 7:18pm.