

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

Normal Heights Community Center at 4649 Hawley Blvd

Tuesday, July 1, 2008 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

A G E N D A

Welcome & Introductions – (though not required, please sign-in on our attendance sheet)

Donation Opportunity – Buttons available for \$1 donation; “above the norm – Normal Heights” supporting the Normal Heights web site at www.normalheights.org .

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Public Comment (non-agenda items only, limit of 3 minutes per speaker)

Reports from Government Representatives or others may occur:

- 3rd City Council District Office – Monica Pelaez,
- City Planning and Community Investment Dept. – Max Stalheim
- 76th Assembly District Office -- Melanie Cohn
- Updates from other Normal Heights or Mid City organizations
 - Adams Ave. Business Association – Jim Schneider, Director
 - Adams Ave. Recreation Council –
 - Friends of Normal Heights Canyons – Kevin Johnston

Information Items

1. Gang Prevention – information from Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention.
2. Congratulations to Adams Ave Business Association for the successful “Taste of Adams Ave”
3. Thank you to Councilmember Atkins for putting on the ribbon cutting ceremonies for the Ward Canyon Park comfort station, Teralta History Lane and Cherokee Point Park; and the “One-Of-A-Kind Mid-City Bus Tour”
4. Vacancy to be filled. Nominating committee to be appointed and public notice to be circulated.
5. Community Planners Committee – Chair attended.
 - a. Green Building Council – LEED Certification
 - b. Indemnification Ordinance controversy and delay for acceptance
 - c. Land Development Code 6th Update, hearing 7/10?
 - d. Council Policy 600-24 administrative guidelines (64 pages) for review
 - e. Planning Group Bylaw revisions, 20 approved, 20 to Council, and 2 late.
6. Funding source for NH projects
7. Safe Routes to School Grant Process - On April 25, 2008, a call for Cycle 2 federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects was announced. The application submittal deadline is July 18, 2008. Program Guidelines and a download-able Application are posted on the Safe Routes to School website at: www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/saferoutes/saferoutes.htm
Submit three (3) hard copies of completed application(s) to Caltrans District Local Assistance

Engineer by that deadline. To find out who they are and their mailing address, go to:
www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/dlae.htm.

If you have program-related questions, contact -
Joyce Parks, DLA Safe Routes to School Coordinator
(916) 653-6920 joyce_parks@dot.ca.gov

or

Luis Z. Medina, Lead Associate Program Coordinator
State of California Department of Transportation
D-11 Local Assistance MS132
4050 Taylor Street, San Diego, CA 92110
(619) 278-3735 Luis_Zmedina@dot.ca.gov

Action Items

1. Project Review –
 - a. No requests for project review were received in time for this agenda.
 - b. Potential projects for review in future
 - i. #156896. 4939 E. Mtn. View Dr., 395 sq ft previously constructed addition
2. Community Gardens on public property? Does the NHCPG generally stand in approval of establishment of community garden operations on public property including designated or potential park space?
3. Mission Valley Overlook? Does the NHCPG support efforts for the City to acquire available property for park or open space use that offers scenic views of Mission Valley from Normal Heights?
4. Position regarding Quarry Falls? San Diegans for Responsible Planning, a citizens' coalition comprised of San Diego residents, business and property owners are seeking modifications to Quarry Falls, a large mixed-use project planned for a sand and gravel quarry along Friars Road in Mission Valley. A developer is proposing to convert the 230-acre quarry into a residential and retail center, featuring 4,780 dwelling units and more than one million square feet of new commercial space. As proposed, this development will generate more than 66,000 car trips every day onto the congested roads in and around Mission Valley twice the number allowed for the site under the Mission Valley Community Plan.
5. Review, discussion and potential prioritization of projects on our “comprehensive” list.

Committee Reports (All subcommittee meetings as scheduled are open to the public)

Housing –

1. Housing – (Holly Ritter)
2. Community Needs – (Morris Dye)
3. Facilities –
4. Transportation (Morris Dye, Jim Baross)
5. Bylaws -- (position vacant) –
6. Canyons (Jeff Underwood) –
7. Library –
8. City Heights PAC – (Rudy Burlin)

New Business for the next meeting

Adjournment

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

MINUTES

Tuesday June 3, 2008

6:00PM

Normal Heights Methodist Church

Call to Order by Chair Jim Baross at 6:03

Members present: Richard Rios, Dino Serafini, Earlene Thom, Kevin Johnston, Jeff Parsons, Susan Redelings, and Jim Baross

Members absent: Kerry Sheldon, Jeff Underwood, Rudy Burlin, Morris Dye, Holly Ritter, Nancy Wolfing.

Guests: Gary Weber, Conni Musser, Colette Smith, Bank Dawson, Ted Ewing, Buran Haidar, Paul Lewis, Samir Hajjiri, Sherry Ryan, Art Harrison, Bob Kaiser.

Welcome and introductions

Minutes of May meeting not approved – no quorum

Public Comment (non-agenda items only, limit of 3 minutes per speaker):

Art Harrison - reiterated his focus on street cleanliness. Streets seem only to be swept on the odd third Thursday of the month. The school down the street is subject to lead-laden dust pollution which is stirred-up by garbage trucks. Could the alley next to the retirement home be paved to reduce the health hazard?

Ted Ewing - representing the Adams Ave. Recreation Council, reported that the Ward Canyon Neighborhood Park comfort station has been installed, a dedication ceremony will be held later this month, District 3 Council office is organizing the event. At the park renaming ceremony, which took place in March, Stacy of the City Park and Recreation Dept. promised that funding would be provided to furnish a large stone name plate. New computers work stations were provided for kids at the Rec. Center. The portable pool will return to the Adams Ave. Park on the 3rd weekend in June through the end of July. The Recreation Council is participating in Art Around Adams. The Rec. Center is short one staff position. The Rec. Council meets on the 4th Tuesday at 7pm at the Adams Ave Recreation Center. Bank Dawson was introduced as the newest member of the Council.

No Reports from Government Agencies/Representatives

Action Item 2 (taken out of turn, no action will be taken due to lack of a quorum)

NHCPG position on Community Gardens on Public Property - Ted Ewing was asked if the Recreation Council has discussed whether the vacant lots on 40th Street next to Ward Canyon Park could be used for a community garden. The Rec. Committee has been asking about plans for these lots, which are owned by the City Park & Rec.

Dept.. Various ideas: skate board park, dog run. The issue of community gardens needs to be addressed to the Dept.. Gary Weber suggested turning the CG advocates loose on the property and let them begin planting. This item will return on a future agenda.

Member's Comments

Kevin Johnston announced the next meeting of Friends of the Canyon on Wednesday June 10th at 7:00 at Café Cabaret. Fifteen people participated in the River Days Event.

Dick Rol of Friends of the Canyon and the Greenways Council presented the preliminary plans for the Normal Heights Trail at River Days. The trail envisioned from Normal Heights to Serra Mesa would be eligible for State grant funding if the right-of-way is obtained. A positive indication was obtained from the Carmelite Monastery. The next step for the trail is an open house for the immediate neighbors of the trail alignment to determine if trailhead as proposed off of Ellison Street is most desirable. A resident on Ellison was present expressed concern about location and appropriateness of trail.

Toni Atkins office allocated \$1000 for canyon restoration activities, now they are waiting to be reimbursed for work already accomplished.

Information Items

1. I-15 Bus Rapid Transit Committee – Jim provided an update of the Committee's discussion on the four BRT configurations the Committee is focusing on:
 - 1) & 2): the BRT buses travel and stop in the I/SR-15 median, using the elevators to get up to the transit plazas
 - 3) Buses stop on the freeway's shoulder;
 - 4) Buses exit freeway and stop at transit plazas.Options 3) and 4) may include a stop on Adams Ave. all are welcome to attend the Committee meetings.
2. Gang Prevention Commission information – no representative in attendance.
3. Pedestrian Master Plan for Normal Heights – Samir Hajjiri, Senior Traffic Engineer introduced the master plan process underway in Normal Heights, City Heights, Southeast San Diego, Golden Hill, Uptown and two other neighborhoods. The program goal is to identify and prioritize pedestrian improvement projects. Normal Heights was selected to enter Phase 2 of the project. A workshop is scheduled on October 25th to gather input from the neighborhood. The city wants to build awareness and interest in the project. Information/survey sheets were distributed – intended to be completed by residents noting additional deficiencies.

Sherry Ryan of ALTA Planning & Design continued the presentation of Phase 1, which involved an inventory of facilities, identification of deficiencies and delineation of priority zones based on walking

opportunities, demand generators and attractors and impediments to walking (detractors). Study focus areas were processed in a modeling effort which used the above factors to output the priority values. Gary suggested the consultant obtain and incorporate the Mobility Study and the Sidewalk and Drainage Report that had been completed a few years back and acknowledge the Urban Trail project in the Plan.

Other comments from the Group and audience: Glad NH was selected to participate but is the city really going to build anything? Model is out-of-date – Ward Canyon Park, an important attractor - is not shown. What was the motivation for the Pedestrian Plan effort, safety, health, energy? Safe crossing of Adams Ave. is an obvious and big concern. Is the Plan going to dovetail with Safe Routes to School program? City seems to spend a lot of money on nice studies but never anything to show for them – what is different about this one?

City response: money is available from time to time and having a study that validates and documents needs get more favorable consideration, noting the \$2 million grant for University Avenue improvements in North Park. The Plan was initiated to address health, safety and energy and to conform to General Plan policies that encourage walkability. The objective of the Plan is to establish an objective, consistent methodology to address non-motorized travel and evaluate individual projects relative to measures of effectiveness. The Ped. Plan is more comprehensive than Safe Routes, but that program would be coordinated with this one.

4. Susan attended the CPC and described the “Tierrasanta Henge” project – a photo journey through that neighborhood featuring ugly utility boxes. Tierrasanta seems a good candidate for a utility box art project. The slide show will be presented to City Council. Leo Wilson (Uptown District) was re-elected CPC chair. Jim Varnador (City Heights) was also nominated so that Leo would not have to run unopposed. A new Community Plan Update manual is to be developed - to conform to the updated Strategic Plan.

Future CPC happenings: a Green Building presentation; explanation of substantial conformance determinations; condo conversions workshop and restaurant conversion to nightclubs; a discussion about re-structuring of Planning Commission, DSG Planning Dept. and overall development review process.

Suggestion of ways to address Planning Commission: right of Group to appeal ministerial decisions; comment on an agenda item, etc.

5. Community Plan Update Guidelines and Procedures – Group members invited to join a subcommittee providing advice and assistance in the formation of the CP Update manual - a good thing to get involved with.
6. Any projects that Ron Roberts would fund? Friends of the Canyons? Gary mentioned that AABA has been talking about what to do with our sign,

which might be a good project to bring our groups together. Kevin suggested inviting Ingrid Hansen to describe how to get funding from Supr. Roberts' office.

Committee Reports:

1. Housing – Holly Ritter not in attendance to present report.
2. Community Needs – Morris not present
3. Facilities – nothing to report
4. Transportation – Frank Gaines, City Traffic Engineering, is working on three projects impacting NH: Pedestrian and Bicycle access on SR15 and the Urban Trails project. At the Bicycle Coalition meeting on July 25th, Jim notified him that these projects should be brought to NHCPG.
5. Bylaws – have been approved by the City Attorney's office and have been returned. Copies will be made available at the next meeting.

Next meeting is back at the Community Center

Adjourned at 7:35