

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

APPROVED MINUTES

November 3, 2009

6:00PM

Normal Heights Community Center

Call to Order by Jim Baross at 6:00

Members present: Susan Redelings, Kevin Johnston, Nancy Wolfing, Jim Baross, Dino Serafini, Morris Dye, Art Harrison, Richard Rios, Larry Hofreiter

Members absent: Earlene Thom, Holly Ritter

Community Members/Guests: Kim Eisenberg, Jessica McGee, Bob Keiser, Todd Reed, Daniel Chen, Gary Wendel, Lindsey Masukawa, Conni Musser, John Smith, Mark Rowland, Martin Berry, Nancy Lawler, Mark Lawler, Bob Redelings, Judy Elliot, Rick Newfort, Gary Weber, Marlon Pangilinan.

Welcome and introductions

Minutes of October meeting were not distributed to the Group; approval continued to December meeting

Art asked if the approved minutes are posted the CPG website. Jim believed they were.

Modification to Agenda: none

Information from Community Members:

Bob Keiser regarding Community dinner before the end of the year: the Cultural Council is willing to participate in a neighbors-meeting-neighbors dinner, but is not prepared to take the lead in organizing one before the end of the year; consider a dinner in 2010.

Judy asked about the CEQA review question on the agenda, she is interested in discussing that.

Non-Agenda Items by Board Members

Art wished to provide clarification as to his goals for serving on the Board and read from the City's Strategic Plan policy Sec. LU 35 specifically relative to gentrification and "minimization of transition costs...to groups".

Jim called for a moment of silence for Bank Dawson.

Jim was contacted by Supervisor Ron Robert's office to inform us that Woo-Jin Shim is the Supervisor's new representative to the community.

Kevin for Friends of the Canyons: Call for volunteers for the November 14th Eugene Place Canyon Restoration--the biggest event of the year. Meet at 9:00 a.m., bring a shovel and jug of water. kevin@sdcanonlands.org

Reports from Representatives of Elective Officials:

Assemblywoman Saldaña's (76th District) office, Lindsey Masukawa: the Assemblywoman wrapped up work on the new \$11 billion water bond measure that would provide \$180 million in project funding to San Diego County in addition to improvements to the Sacramento River Delta. The Governor signed into law 8 of the Assemblywoman's bills during this session. The annual Holiday Party and canned food drive will be on December 3rd at the Lincoln Military Housing Recreation Center, Naval Training Center, 1895 Tattnal Way at 5:30 p.m.. Contact Lindsey at the 76th Assembly District office if we know of Church or non-profit groups that would be interested in participating: <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/Saldana> or call (619) 645-3090.

Agenda Information Items per Agenda:

Regarding recommendation to ban storefront distribution of medical marijuana: Jim offered to place an item on future agenda if there was interest.

No further discussion or questions on information items.

Action Items:

1) Daniel Chen, presented his request for site development permit review. Before Mr. Chen purchased the property, non-permitted improvements on environmentally sensitive lands were made to his home at 4939 East Mountain View Dr. He was cited two years ago for code violations. Mr. Chen has since hired an architect, engineer and landscaper and has been working with Development Services Group to put the plans for an addition in order. DSG requested that he bring the plans to the Group for our comment. Two neighbors of Mr. Chen, Martin Berry and Gary Wendel, spoke in support of the development permit.

Kevin asked why the plans were not made available for review prior to this meeting. Marlon said they should have been transmitted to Jim.

Susan asked what exactly was not permitted, the accessory unit?

Chen: Yes, the improvements which were in-place prior to his acquisition of the property are in violation.

Art: is the companion unit a separate unit? A 2 on 1 and is the construction on the slope safe?

Chen: the engineer that he hired has certified the slope stability.

Nancy: will the addition require an exception or variance?

Chen: The requirement for bringing the companion unit into compliance is to provide access the unit from the street and add two off-street parking spaces, add landscaping.

Morris: is the project scheduled for a hearing?

Chen: not yet scheduled.

Jim/Morris: we have time to make a decision and the plans will be brought back for the Group's review for the December meeting and be placed on the agenda for proper notification.

- 2) Code Compliance Prioritization: Art spoke in favor of communicating the NHCPG code compliance priorities to the City. The changes in current prioritization requested by Art have been documented in past meetings: moving up the enforcement of the prohibition of elimination off-street parking and excessive storage from Low Priority to Priority III. Art said that even with the current City budget problem, it is still worthwhile to make a statement and noted that Pacific Beach is actively pressing the City Council to maintain code enforcement. Art moved for the changes in prioritization, seconded by Larry.

Kevin asked if Art would consider a modification to the motion to demote the priority of other violations in recognition of the likelihood of severe restrictions on all enforcement activities occurring in the future due to the budget deficit. Art preferred that a vote be taken on his motion as currently stated. Jim called for the question. In favor: Art, Dino, Larry, Susan, Richard, Kevin and Nancy; Opposed: Morris, Jim. Motion carried. Jim will compose a letter and send to Code Compliance and cc CPCI.

- 3) CEQA review opinion from City Attorney's Office: Jim provided a copy of City Attorney's letter that stated CPG's are not required to review CEQA documentation prior to making recommendations on projects which are brought before them.

Judy Elliot suggested that the conclusion by the C.A. should be brought to the Community Planners Committee for discussion. Jim said the CPC did bring it up and it was deferred.

Larry moved to establish a policy for the NHCPG that the available CEQA documentation be provided and reviewed by Group prior to making recommendations or decisions, Art seconded.

Kevin: would this policy forestall the legitimate project review by the Group. His concern is that if CEQA documentation is not ready for public review when the project is brought to the Group would it then be held up while we wait for the documentation.

Jim stated that the Group may make interim recommendations pending review of further environmental information. The motion was amended to state that nothing would preclude the making of interim recommendations while further information is provided. Jim called for the question, motion unanimously approved.

- 4) Board Vacancies and nomination procedures: Jim stated that there are two to four vacancies on the Board and the Chair has the authority to appoint a nominating committee. Guests in attendance with asked if anyone was interested in election to Board and were given applications for General Membership. Marlon explained what the Group's duties are. Jim reminded prospective members that the Community Orientation Workshop website is a source for information on CPG responsibilities.

Jim asked for an outreach effort for new members and for a message to be placed on the Theatre marquee.

- 5) Water conservation and new development approvals: The City is in a stage 2 water alert; we are not sure at what stage development restrictions take effect. Nancy wanted to commend the City on the easing of grey water restrictions.
- 6) Nancy Lawler informed the Group that the City is making improvements to the 4600 block of East Mountain View, including traffic calming measures, and suggested that a crosswalk at 4652 E. Mtn View is needed for school children. Jim pointed out that the proposed street improvements presented by the Engineering Department last week would possibly address that concern.

Other Items:

Judy Elliot asked if anyone from the Census Bureau had be by to discuss the 2010 Census? It is critical that residents know what the 2010 procedures are in order to get an accurate count of the community.

Kevin: the California High Speed Rail is facing controversy over its proposed routes through canyons in San Diego.

Next meeting: December, 1 in the Community Center

Adjourned at 7:47