

Normal Heights Community Planning Group
Draft
MINUTES

June 1, 2010

6:00 PM

Normal Heights Community Center

Call to Order by Jim Baross at 6:01

Members present: Kevin Johnston, Nancy Wolfing, Jim Baross, Dino Serafini, Art Harrison, Nancy Lawler, Joseph Fombon, Mark Rowland, Richard Rios, Aaron Allen

Members absent: Susan Redelings, Larry Hofreiter, Allan Acevedo, Earlene Thom, Rick Neuffer

Community Members/Guests: Mark Lawler, Suzanne Ledeboer, Ben Moore, Rebecca Tabatzky, Gary Weber, Bob Keyser, Conni Musser, David Moty, Ralph Riebl, Gretchen Pattengell, Jim Schneider

Welcome and introductions

Modification to Agenda:

Information Item No. 3 taken out of order:

David Moty presented slides of the results of recent utility undergrounding projects in Talmadge. The slides depicted several aboveground utility cabinets, boxes, pedestals and concrete in and adjacent to the sidewalk, in some cases causing trip hazards. For future projects in area, Mr. Moty advocated pressure from the communities on the utility companies to install more of the appurtenances in vaults below ground level. Mr Moty asked that Normal Heights join with Kensington and other communities to begin lobbying the utilities and the City. A group from Kensington has met with the companies at City Hall.

Gary: Asked David to discuss how the Talmadge Assessment District would have been able to participate in the additional costs of placing fixtures in vaults. David indicated that the AD could have participated.

Approval of May, 2010 Minutes

Joseph moved to approve, second by Kevin, Richard abstained, due to absence, otherwise approved unanimously

Non-Agenda Public Comments/Information from Community Members:

Jim Schneider AABA: Kudos to the community for its efforts to relocate the Farmer's Market to Adams Elementary School for the foreseeable future. 40th Street turned out not to be economically feasible. Reminder: "Taste of Adams Ave." is coming up.

Nancy: noted also: "Art Around Adams"

Information from Group Members

Kevin--Friends of the Canyons: San Diego River Days Event was a big success—15 attended. Blind Lady Ale House will host the FOC on Sunday, July 18. There will be a native plant sale and 15% of all food and drink sales that day will go Canyons Preservation. E-mail Kevin@s.dcanyonlands.org.

Nancy: Re: Safe Neighborhoods Todd Gloria was at the last San Diegans for Safe Neighborhoods meeting and presented a \$500 check matched by another \$500 check from the San Diego Municipal Employees Association. The money will help to fund operations including graffiti paint-out, citizen's patrol, licenses and insurance. Jenny Hall was introduced as the new Community Relations Officer for Mid-City.

Reports from Representatives of Elective Officials: None in attendance

Information Items *per Agenda*

- 2) Art noted that the August meeting will be the 2nd not the 10th
- 4) Kevin noted that the grant application could benefit the NH trail project
- 6) Jim, Gary and Art provided input at the affordable housing parking standards workshop. Art expressed his fascination that these types of meetings always seem to have a preponderance of representatives of development interests in attendance. The cost per off-street parking space ranges from \$5,000 to \$30,000 each, depending on whether is surface or structured. So, developer interest in saving that cost is understandable, but Art is personally in favor of more spaces.

Gary's perspective is that this is a way for the City to assure that AH builders show a profit, but parking reduction really only makes sense in senior complexes. AH, as implemented in San Diego, does not follow balanced community objectives.

Jim: understood that this is one of a series of workshops and that there is a website to register comments

- 7) Kenmore Street Vacation is coming--possibly in August
- 8) No word on Arco

-Other information items per the Agenda

Action Items:

- 1) Project Review: ATT&T Cell Tower at Adams Ave. Park

Mark: ATT&T originally brought the application in Feb., 2010. Revised plans have been submitted with the changes NHCPG had requested:

1. light pole relocated
2. flagpole
3. power supply brought out to the field

The matching/complimentary lighting colors apparently are not addressed. New items were added:

1. Street trees along Adams Ave.
2. removing more concrete than originally shown

Mark moved to approve the revisions; Art seconded.

Jim Schneider asked where exactly the new trees were going and who would maintain them. The concern is that the maintenance assessment district does not have sufficient funds to maintain the trees that currently exist along Adams and would request that the City be responsible for watering, pruning and replacement as part of the park.

Jim Baross: called for the vote; unanimous.

2) City of San Diego Stormwater Management Program

Kevin spoke on the City Storm Water Department's plans to obtain general approval to perform a range of maintenance activities within storm drainage channels located throughout the City, including those within canyons and wetlands without the need to secure permits for any individual location. Kevin believed that the program, if implemented as described, would be too broad, would create other impacts that are not addressed, does not provide local mitigation for disruption of natural areas and, in general, lacks justification for the need to avoid the established permit process for non-emergency maintenance activities within sensitive areas. There are alternatives that could be adopted that accomplish the same purposes while avoiding the potential for environmental damage.

Kevin moved to send recommendations to City Council; Joseph seconded; unanimous except for Aaron who abstained.

Jim will draft a letter to City Council outlining the group's position and the alternatives.

3) Commercial Trucks on 36th Street

Word from the City's Traffic Engineering Division indicated that a study had been done which showed only 2 trucks within 24 hours.

Art didn't think that the study was plausible and asked why 36th Street north of Adams Ave. is posted with a commercial vehicle prohibition and not south?

Jim will ask a representative of the Traffic Division to attend a future meeting.

4) Restoration of moratorium of multi-family housing permits in each Mid-City community until at least 3 acres of dedicated, usable park space is added in that community. The moratorium would apply to MF developments that lack at least 750 sq. ft. of play area per unit.

Aaron stated that an approach is needed that reflects the specific situation in Normal Heights, the recommendations may not be appropriate to our community.

Mark: The requirement for 750 sq. ft per unit is onerous; he would prefer that the 750 sq. ft. go into a community space.

Art moved to support the recommendation, motion died for lack of a second.

Jim directed that Aaron form a sub-committee to do research and develop recommendations for NH.

Committee Reports

Housing Nancy reported that two 45-year reviews were conducted for foundation reconstruction. The reviews indicated nothing of historical significance in either structure.

Community Needs Art asked that the group to consider and suggest things that would improve the community.

Community Planners Committee MCAS Miramar has issued a change of operations for the joint strike force.

New Business for future meeting: SDUSD is proposing to raise the height of fencing to reduce security costs.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00