

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

APPROVED MINUTES

December 3, 2013, 6pm
Normal Heights Community Center

Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M.

Board members present: Jim Baross, Jean-Louis Coquereau, Art Harrison, John Hartley, Scott Kessler, Mark Lawler, Nancy Lawler, Caroline McKeown, Alison Moss, Mark Rowland, Dan Soderberg, and Earlene Thom. Joseph Fombon arrived at 6:06pm.

Members absent: All board members were present at this meeting.

Community Members/Guests: Additional community members were present, including Elena Carver, Katelyn Hailey, Jenny Hall, Kris Haworth, Suzanne Ledebor, Chris Peppel, and Gary Rose Weber.

Welcome and introductions

Non-agenda Public Comments

- John Hartley requested that we re-form the Normal Heights Library Committee. Chairman Baross suggested we discuss this later in the meeting during the Committee Reports section.
- Dan Soderberg informed us that a (second) bike was stolen out of his backyard on 11/11 sometime after 12am. Local police representatives commented that the city no longer registers bicycles and that the best protection is to lock up bikes or bring them indoors, and to write down the serial number and register the bike through the manufacturer and/or retailer.
- Art Harrison wanted to open discussion on the Mid-City Facilities Financing Plan that has been discussed at length at two previous meetings. He commented that he had been in contact with Vicki Burgess San Diego Dept of Developmental Services and Facilities Financing and she had mailed him extensive documentation on the Mid-City Facilities Financing Plan. He also expressed concern that the NHCPG should get involved in this. Members of the board responded that the same documentation had been distributed at 2 previous meetings and reminded everyone that we had voted previously and approved the formation of a Mid-City Finance Plan Project Prioritization Sub-Committee, which has met several times and will provide an update later in this same meeting.

Approval of November 2013 Minutes

- The draft minutes of the November 2013 meeting was distributed prior to the meeting. Alison Moss noted an error in the account of the Traffic Calming Subcommittee Report. Caroline McKeown agreed to change the error and Art Harrison moved to approve the November minutes with the agreed upon changes. Earlene Thom seconded and the motion passed with a vote of 13-0-0.

Information Items

- It was announced that Frank Stappenback has resigned from the board. This brings the board to 13 members. Any interested eligible community members that are interested in

serving on the board should contact Chairman Baross or Secretary McKeown. An eligible community member is a resident of Normal Heights (home-owner or renter), a property-owner (home or business) or business-owner within Normal Heights, or a representative from a school or non-profit within Normal Heights.

- The board proceeded with the standard introductions. Art Harrison requested a definition of the difference between “resident” and “property-owner”. The response was that a resident can be either a renter or a homeowner, and a property-owner can be a home-owner resident, property-owner non-resident, or business-owner.

Action Item

- **Censure or Removal of Board Member Art Harrison:**

Chairman Baross brought forward an action item to censure or possibly remove Board Member Art Harrison for disruptive behavior at previous meetings. Chairman Baross summarized past disturbances including but not limited to interruptions, shouting, slamming the table, and creating a hostile environment that not only deterred community members from attending but caused board members to resign and community members to prematurely leave the NHCPG meetings. At this point, John Hartley recused himself from the proceedings due to a distant familial relationship to Art Harrison, and sat in the audience.

Mark Rowland made a comment that this was not personal and he likes Art Harrison and appreciates how passionate Art is about our community, but that he wants our group to be successful and we cannot do that with constant disruptions. Mark Rowland made a motion to formally censure Art Harrison, putting him on notice and giving him a formal warning about the unacceptable disruptive behavior, but allowing him a chance to correct his behavior. Alison Moss “whole-heartedly seconded the motion” and it was opened up for discussion. Art Harrison responded to the motion by denying any wrongdoing and refusing to alter his behavior during the meetings. Earlene Thom noted that Art Harrison clearly does not accept there is anything wrong with his behavior and therefore she is having second thoughts about the censure. Earlene Thom then requested to amend the motion from censure to removal from the board. Mark Rowland rescinded the original motion, Earlene Thom made a new motion to vote for removal of Art Harrison from the board, and Jean-Louis Coquereau seconded the motion. The motion was then again open to discussion.

Jim Baross reiterated that complaints against Art Harrison include his behavior of raising his voice and shouting, banging the table, with the most egregious being standing and shouting in an aggressive manner to the audience and fellow board members. Jim Baross cited correspondence from former board members who resigned because of Art Harrison’s behavior. Art Harrison responded that the CPG has more board members than ever and that he believes the meetings are well-attended. Art Harrison apologized for speaking loudly but denied ever shouting or raising his voice above acceptable levels. Art Harrison stated that we all made a pledge to follow the NHCPG By-Laws, City Council Policy 600-24, and the Brown Act, and demanded that the board tell where he’s violated these laws. Dan Soderberg said that from 2010-2012 he gone to planning group meetings all over the city and that the NHCPG was “the most dysfunctional he had attended”,

specifically due to Art Harrison's disruptive behavior and relentless discussions on the precise enforcement of Robert's Rules of Order. Jean-Louis Coquereau remarked that he was questioning whether to become a member of the board because of the length of the meetings due to Art Harrison's behavior. Alison Moss commented, "the essence of this discussion is case in point that we spend an inordinate amount of time dealing with your behavior", noting that the board spent approximately half of the previous month's meeting dealing with Art Harrison's disruptive behavior, and that the board's time could have been better spent helping our community.

At this point, Chairman Jim Baross called for a vote to remove board member Art Harrison. The board voted 11-1-0 to remove Art Harrison from the NHCPG board. Art Harrison was the sole "No" vote and John Hartley was recused. The motion passed and Art Harrison was relieved of his seat on the board. Subsequently, Art left the board table and took a seat in the audience.

Government Representatives

- Officer Jenny Hall of the San Diego Police Department gave an update about local crime and safety. There was a residential burglary with a forced entry of a home undergoing fumigation at the 4400 block of Wilson Avenue. Officer Hall alerted everyone to be particularly careful of delivery packages at this time of year – there are increased thefts from porches and post-Christmas packaging in the trash/recycling can alert criminals to the possessions in your home. Officer Hall also announced the Police Department's Annual Toy Drive on Saturday December 7th at Cherokee Point Elementary. Caroline McKeown recommended promoting this event on the NHCPG Facebook page.
- Katelyn Hailey introduced herself as our area representative from Senator Marty Block's office. She noted that the state senate was slow in the January session but that in March they would be discussing EDD, DMV, and licensing, so she will have more news to report in the future.
- Adrian Granda from Todd Gloria's Office gave us an update from the Mayor's Office. The city is currently looking at a \$19M deficit for the next 5 yrs with cuts to services, but interim Mayor Gloria is working on a 5 year Fiscal Outlook plan that will leave the city with a surplus in 2016-2019. Additionally he has named Scott Chadwick, formerly of the Parks and Rec Dept, as the new city COO. Adrian also commented on Alison Moss' efforts working with the city traffic engineers to install crosswalks on Adams Ave and on the efforts of Parks and Rec to work with the Mid-City Little League to repair the baseball fields at Adams Ave Park. He noted that the Bike Master Plan will be coming before City Council on Dec 9th. And he gave us an update on the Utility Undergrounding – a master plan is expected by the middle of 2014, a task force has been approved by the Land Use and Housing Committee but it still needs to be voted on by City Council, the task force would have equal numbers of utility representatives and community members (the contact person for this is Steve Hill, district 3 interim chief of staff). Art Harrison (now acting solely as a community member) asked Adrian about the decreased and missed street-sweeping on his street due to lack of manpower; he commented that he has already mentioned this to Mayor Gloria and he requested that Adrian accept his comment again.

- Michael Prinz our representative from the newly re-named Department of Planning, Neighborhoods, and Economic Development talked about the Community Plan updates. The Normal Heights Community Plan was last updated in 1998, making it “one of the more current updates”; there is a likelihood of a new plan in the next 4 years, but it would be “Focused Section Updates” such as Adams Ave, or El Cajon Blvd. The projects the Planning Dept is working on right now are the Bike Master Plan and the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) prioritization lists.
- Scott Kessler reported on behalf of the AABA. The AABA will be hosting “Holiday on Adams” on Dec 14th with snow, Santa, and tree-lighting in Kensington Library Park, and a craft fair and movie night in Adams Park. There are 75 storefronts along Adams Ave participating and a free trolley running along the length of Adams Avenue.

Treasurers Report:

Earlene Thom reported that the treasury was at \$595 when she took office as treasurer last month. Subsequently, former treasurer Art Harrison handed her \$15 from sales of buttons and keychains (donated by Nancy Lawler), bringing the total to \$610.

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: 4629 36th St. and 4553 35th St. Committee member Suzanne Ledeboer reported that the residence at 4553 35th St. had been burned in a fire and was a total loss, and questioned why it was reviewed for historical significance. The Planning Dept response was that any structure over 45 years old is automatically flagged for historical review when a permit application is received, regardless of condition. No motions were made and no vote was taken on any of the properties listed.
- **Wilson and Central School Site Master Plan Representative:** Community member Gary Weber brought forth information about the SDUSD plan to develop a Wilson School Site Master Plan (Wilson is the middle school located just south of El Cajon Blvd that serves Normal Heights). The plan entails razing the current Wilson structure and building a new school that will house both Wilson Middle School and Central Elementary School from neighboring City Heights. The Wilson Site Master Plan will have 5 meetings, the first occurred on Nov 21, and the second will occur on Dec 11th. Gary Weber recommended that we appoint a representative from the NHCPG to attend these meetings on behalf of Normal Heights. Mark Rowland volunteered to be the NHCPG representative. Caroline McKeown made a motion that we appoint Mark Rowland to represent the NHCPG at the Wilson School Site Master Plan planning meetings, Joseph Fombon seconded, and the vote passed 12-0-0.

Committee Reports:

- **Mid-City Financing Plan Subcommittee Update:** Alison Moss reported that the Mid-City Financing Plan Subcommittee met and proposed a list of project priorities based on the CIP list, the Mid-City Plan projects, and community discussions. The projects proposed to be sent on to the Mid-City Facilities Financing Plan are listed in the following table. No vote was taken at this time.

Project	Details	Ref (FY2014 Plan)
Ward Canyon Park	Complete Ward Canyon Park Master Plan, including a facility/community building as planned	p.105
Normal Heights Library	Expand existing library or build new.	p.110
Traffic Calming	Intersection treatments (traffic circles and pedestrian accommodation?) on Adams Ave at East Mountain View and at Kensington Drive	p.50
Urban Trail	Walking trail from Normal Heights to Mission Valley	n/a
Wilson Improvements	Wilson School athletic facility including ball fields, and possibly swimming pool (see below)	p.88
Swimming Pool	See above, possibly in combination with Wilson Improvements	p.103
Drainage/Sidewalks	Based on updated sidewalk study; Availability of Stormwater/Enterprise Funds	p.61

- **Judy Moore Memorial:** Caroline McKeown gave an update about our efforts to honor former community member Judy Moore. Unfortunately, the City “Memorial Bench Program” has been cancelled, but the city does have a “Memorial Tree Program” in which an appropriate tree can be planted in a park in honor of the deceased, however there will be no plaque or other identifying mark honoring a person. Nancy Lawler commented that the Adams Avenue Rec Center Council is planning to do a memorial tree in honor of Judy Moore, likely in Ward Canyon Park. Caroline reported that she and Suzanne Ledeboer are currently researching bench options to place a memorial bench in the courtyard of the Normal Heights Community Center, which is private property. Pam Kisch, sister of Judy Moore, is offering a donation in her honor, to be divided between the NHCPG and the NHCA.
- **Normal Heights Library Committee:** Earlier in the meeting, John Hartley requested that we re-form the Normal Heights Library Committee. Chairman Baross suggested we discuss this later in the meeting during the Committee Reports section. An informal library working group was agreed upon comprising of volunteers John Hartley, Caroline McKeown, Mark Rowland, and Suzanne Ledeboer. The group will meet as a working group until the re-establishment of an official library committee can be voted on at a later meeting.
- **Traffic Calming Informal Working Group Update:** Alison Moss reported that a speed profile study was conducted and surprisingly the study found no evidence of speeding with an average speed of 25mph at Hawley Blvd. They are now pursuing the possibility of increased speed limit postings. The group has also requested studies for East Mountain View at Collier, North Mountain View at Hawley, and West Mountain View at Collier. The results are expected in 90 days.

- **City Planners Committee:** Jim Baross reported on the CPC meeting that the CPC are working on a Multi-Year Capital Improvement Project Plan, which would change method and or frequency of the annual recommendations the planning groups are currently required to make. They also are looking at Food Truck Ordinance proposals. And they are proposing to make changes to Council Policy 600-24, which Jim Baross reported were not substantitive and did not affect us so he voted in favor of the changes.

Next meeting: January 7, 2013

Meeting Adjourned at 7:35 P.M.