

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

APPROVED MINUTES

September 3, 2013, 6pm
Normal Heights Community Center

Meeting called to order at 6:01P.M.

Board members present: Jim Baross, Art Harrison, Scott Kessler, Mark Lawler, Nancy Lawler, Caroline McKeown, Mark Rowland, Dan Soderberg, Frank Stappenbeck, and Earlene Thom.

Members absent: Joseph Fombon and Alison Moss.

Community Members/Guests: 12 additional community members were present. Of those, the following signed in: Ron Ferrero, Dena Harris, John Hartley, Bob Keiser, Suzanne Ledebor, Conni Musser, and Dave Rodger.

Welcome and introductions

Non-agenda Public Comments

- There was no non-agenda public comment at this meeting.

Modifications to Meeting Agenda

- It was suggested that Information Item #2 –Dena Harris from San Diego Global Vision Academy - be moved up in the agenda prior to the action items. This was agreed on by all in attendance.

Approval of August 2013 Minutes

- The draft minutes of the August 2013 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Scott Kessler moved to approve the minutes and Mark Rowland seconded - the Board approved the August 2013 minutes with a 8-0-0 vote (Art Harrison arrived after this vote took place).

Government Representatives

- Adrian Granda from Council President Todd Gloria's office was present at this meeting. Adrian informed us that despite the fact that Council President Gloria is now serving as Interim Mayor, his office is still fully available for us in District 3. Moreover, Interim Mayor Gloria has chosen not to run for Mayor in the special election that will occur on Nov 19th. Adrian also notified us that the Capital Bond fund projects will be decided during Interim Mayor Gloria's 90-day term and that the completion of Ward Canyon Park is one of his top priorities.

Information Item (out of order):

- Dena Harris, CEO of the San Diego Global Vision Academy (SDGVA), gave us an update on the progress of the school. SDGVA is located in the building across the street at 3430 School St, and also co-located with Adams Elementary on the Adams campus. SDGVA is a public charter school in their 3rd year of operation, and is currently expanding their middle school up to grade 7; they will ultimately become and remain a K-8 school as of next academic year. Dena was excited to announce that the California State Academic Performance Index (API) scores have been publicized and SDGVA scored an API of 870

this year! This score made SDGVA the Top Small Charter School and the 2nd ranking Charter School overall in the San Diego Unified School District. Dena reported that SDGVA is both academically successful and financially stable. SDGVA likes being a part of the Normal Heights Community and would like to stay in the neighborhood if possible. She mentioned that voter-approved Proposition Z (\$2.8B Facilities Bonds, approved in 2012) allows for \$530M for charter school facilities, and SDGVA will be applying for some of these development funds. She also noted that parents want to know that their school is stable and they are looking into either purchasing facilities or building a better facility to house the school. Dena said she would continue to update the NHCPG with their progress in securing funding and permanent facilities for SDGVA.

- Dena’s presentation generated a significant amount of discussion and debate about charter schools in general and about the specific goals and demographics of SDGVA. Dena informed us of SDGVA’s goal and motto which is to “develop civic-minded leaders, accomplished writers, and resilient life-long learners.” Dena reported that the school accepts any student that registers, at least 1/3 of the SDGVA students live in the 92116 area code, and that proportion is increasing each year as the school gets established within the community. Dena also reported that the SDGVA student body is roughly 35% African-American, 30% Latino, 25% White, and 2% Asian.

Action Items:

- Art Harrison, arriving after the vote, requested to reopen the previous meeting’s minutes. He moved to change the Action Item concerning the Visioning Workshop support. No one seconded. Discussion was re-opened about supporting the Visioning Workshop, and it was agreed that we had already discussed this item at length and voted on this at the August Meeting and despite some continuing objections, it would be supported, as previously described in the August meeting minutes.
- **Historical Reviews:** No proposals were brought forward by the Historical Review Committee and no vote was taken.
- **September Street Fair Involvement and Merchandising:** Caroline McKeown updated everyone on the status of the Adams Ave Street Fair Booth and the NHCPG Merchandizing. The “Why be normal?” license plate holders have arrived (and look great, shown at meeting) and are priced at \$5 each, generating a potential profit of \$3.66/item. Volunteers were asked to sign up for 2 hour blocks for the Sept 28-29 event, with the expectation that the NHCPG Board Members would fill a majority of the volunteer slots. The booth is B-24 which will be located between 33rd and Bancroft, near the Post Office. People interested in volunteering should sign up or contact Caroline and she will send you a link to a Google Doc with sign-up times and info. It was confirmed that Suzanne Ledeboer would be reimbursed for fronting the costs for the license plate frames; she submitted an invoice to the Board for \$423.15 – Scott Kessler was approved to write a check from the NHCPG funds in the AABA account.
- **Visioning Workshop Support:** As previously voted on in the August meeting, up to \$300 (depending on the amount remaining in the NHCPG account) will be reimbursed to Jim Baross, Gary Rose Weber, and John Hartley for fronting funds for a consultant for the Visioning Workshop. Art Harrison commented that the consultant’s invoice was not professional or official and made a motion that the invoice be “changed for fiduciary

reasons”. No one seconded the motion. At this point, Art Harrison asked to be excused from the meeting citing health reasons, and departed prematurely.

- **Second CIP Meeting:** As voted on in the August meeting, we will finalize our CIP Priority List at our Oct meeting.

Other Old and New Business and Informational Items:

- 1) A reminder was made about Board Member attendance. Board members missing 3 meetings in a row, or a total of 4 meetings in a term year (defined as Apr-Mar) can be relieved of their position on the Board. Jim Baross reminded the Board that the Community Orientation Workshop (“COW”) is available online and that all Board members must take the COW within one year of being seated on the Board.
- 2) Jim Baross reported from the Community Planners Group and the Bike Community that San Diego will likely be getting Deco Bike, a fee-for-service bike-sharing program. They are looking for public input on where to put their stations, which can be accessed at www.decobikesandiego.com. Also, Jim commented on the city initiative to put in two cross-city bike routes through mid-city, one on either El Cajon or Meade Avenues, and the other on either Orange or University Avenues.
- 3) Suzanne Ledebor reported that the unsightly and unauthorized clothing drop boxes located in the Rite Aid parking lot on Adams Avenue have been removed. The problem was first reported at the Visioning Workshop where it came to the attention of Todd Gloria’s office, and was subsequently resolved within a few days.

Next meeting: October 1, 2013

Meeting Adjourned at 6:59 P.M.