

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

Approved MINUTES

March 4, 2014, 6pm
Normal Heights Community Center

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm.

Board members present: Jim Baross, Jean-Louis Coquereau, Joseph Fombon (arrived at 6:23), Marianne Greene, John Hartley, Scott Kessler, Mark Lawler, Nancy Lawler, Caroline McKeown, Alison Moss, Mark Rowland, Dan Soderberg, and Earlene Thom.

Members absent: none.

Community Members/Guests: Over 35 additional community members were present, including (but not limited to) David Akin, Brad Antt, Nichole Bowman, Bill Conway, Carmelita Del Real, Toni Duran, Ron Ferrero, Katelyn Hailey, Everett Hauser, Bobby Horn, Anna Keig, Bob Keiser, Joe Kissell, Kara Kong, Phillip Kramer, Suzanne Ledeboer, Adriana Martinez, Dylan Murphy, Conni Musser, Eva Posner, Nathan Rebelo, Diego Velasco, Gary Rose Weber, Charles Wyborne, and Ryan Zellers.

Welcome and Introductions

Non-agenda Public Comments

- Ron Ferrero of the Normal Heights Community Association announced that their next meeting will occur on March 11th at 6pm and will include a community panel discussion featuring Adrian Granda from Todd Gloria's Office, Jim Baross from the NHCPG, and Scott Kessler from the AABA. All were encouraged to attend.

Approval of February 2014 Minutes

- The draft minutes of the February 2014 meeting was distributed to the board prior to the meeting. Community members were informed that the final approved minutes would be made public on the city's website. Scott Kessler moved to approve the February minutes as written, Jean-Louis Coquereau seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 11-0-1, with Jim Baross abstaining due to not being present for the February meeting.

Treasurers Report: There are no changes to the treasury, which currently contains \$610.

Government Representatives and Information Items:

- **David Akin, Public Utilities Customer Advocate**
David Akin gave a thorough presentation on how to read and understand your water bill. More information, including how to get a residential water survey, can be found at <http://www.sandiego.gov/water> or by calling (619)533-3500, or by contacting David directly at Dakin@sandiego.gov or at (619)533-4275.
- **Scott Kessler, AABA, on behalf of the City Traffic Engineers**
Scott Kessler informed us that the AABA has been working with the city to re-configure the head-in parking spaces on Hawley Blvd. between School St. and Madison. They propose to increase the parking angle to 78° and decrease the width of the spaces (from 12ft to 9.5ft wide) for a net increase of 8 additional parking spaces. This will be voted on later in the meeting (see action items below).
- **Diego Velasco, Dept. of Architecture, College of Arts and Sciences, University of San Diego**
Students gave a very thoughtful presentation on their visions for Adams Avenue as part of an Adams Avenue Design Project that included increased green space and better

pedestrian-storefront interfacing. More information can be obtained from dvelasco@sandiego.edu.

- **Adrian Granda, City Council President Todd Gloria's Office**

Adrian reminded us that Todd Gloria no longer the acting interim mayor and that he continues to act as City Council President and to serve us as our District 3 City Council Representative. Updates from the Councilmember's office include the appointment of a new police chief, utilities undergrounding moving forward with formation of a task force that will include 7 members from the public, and the recent passing of the Food Truck Ordinance.

- **Katelyn Hailey, State Senator Marty Block's Office**

Senator Block is working on introducing 3 new bills:

SB911 - Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly, which increases the training required for employees and no longer allows employer retaliation on employees who call 911.

SB939 – Human Trafficking, allowing consolidation of trials in cases that cover multiple jurisdictions.

SB850 – Community Colleges to Offer 4 year Degrees, specifically in areas where the degree is needed and not otherwise offered, to be decided by the community college and the local 4 year degree-offering university, along with community business partnerships.

- **Toni Duran, Assemblymember Toni Atkins' Office**

Assemblymember Atkins will be appointed as the new Speaker in May, becoming the first San Diegan to serve as Speaker. She is supporting the new Snoopy License Plate, proceeds of which go to support California Museums, information can be found at <http://www.snoopyplate.com>

Assemblymember Atkins is currently supporting 3 new bills:

AB1523 – Residential Care Facilities to carry liability insurance.

AB1623 – Confidentiality for Domestic Abuse Victims, in regards to other legal issues which often deter the victim's likelihood to report the domestic abuse.

AB1577 – Respect After Death for Transgendered Persons, allowing for the transgendered status to remain after death.

- **Scott Kessler, AABA** The AABA has recently planted 32 new trees along Adams Ave.

They have initiated a traffic study for the 805 overpass and are working with Assemblymember Atkins to redesign and beautify the Adams Ave bridge over the 805.

- **Adams Rec Council and Safe Neighborhoods** They have begun a Park Patrol of Ward Canyon Park, and have found the bathrooms locked for the last 3 weekends, they are working to remedy the situation. The Mid-City Little League has a new scoreboard, and City Council President Todd Gloria will be present for the Opening Day Festivities on Saturday, March 9th at 9am. The Rec Council Meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the Adams Rec Center.

- **Ron Ferrero, NHCA** The NHCA is starting their Summer Movie Series in the Adams Park again this year. Information can be found at <http://www.normalheights.ca>

- **Todd Gloria, City Council President and District 3 City Council Member**

Todd Gloria attended to present commendations to out-going board members Jim Baross (Chair) and Earlene Thom (Treasurer) for their 8 and 9 years of service, respectively. He also informed us the Adrian Granda is moving up and our new rep from his office will be Adriana Martinez. He mentioned the Utility Undergrounding Task Force is now accepting applications from volunteers, and he commented on the field

improvements and new scoreboard his office helped facilitate for the Mid-City Little League at the Adams Rec Center.

Action Items:

- **Historical Reviews:** The NHCPG aids in the historical reviews of properties when the city receives a permit request for any property over 45 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: 4415 Swift Ave. and 4765 34th St. There was no discussion on these properties and no action was taken at this time.
- **City Policy Modification CP-200-07, “Comprehensive Pedestrian Crossing Policy”:** Alison Moss moved that we recommend the policy modification, Dan Soderberg seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a vote of 13-0-0.
Alter Parking on Hawley Blvd: As mentioned above, Scott Kessler informed us that the AABA has been working with the city to re-configure the head-in parking spaces on Hawley Blvd. between School St, and Madison. They propose to increase the parking angle to 78° and decrease the width of the spaces (from 12ft to 9.5ft wide) for a net increase of 8 additional parking spaces. This generated discussion, particularly from bicycle advocates who are concerned about the safety of head-in/back-out parking as it pertains to cyclists; Jim Baross suggested switching to back-in/head-out parking. The current parking is head-in/back-out, so this proposal does not change that, only changes the width of the spaces and the angle of entry. Scott Kessler made the motion to move forward with the parking changes as presented, and John Hartley seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 9-3-1 with the Chair not voting.
- **Election of a New Board for 2014/2015**
The NHCPG has annual elections at the March meeting. The following nominees were approved as candidates at the February 4th meeting for the March 4th Election Ballot. The first eight listed below will be running to fill 8 2-year seats, with remaining two candidates filling open 1-year terms.
 - Jean-Louis Coquereau
 - Joseph Fombon
 - Marianne Greene
 - John Hartley
 - Mark Lawler
 - Nancy Lawler
 - Alison Moss
 - Kris Haworth
 - Suzanne Ledeboer
 - Gary Weber

Each candidate gave a 1-2 minute self-introduction (except for Kris Haworth who was not present) and then eligible community members voted by secret ballot. The votes were tallied and all candidates were elected. The new board will be installed at the April 1st meeting. **Congratulations to all our new board members!**

Committee Reports:

- **Rock-n-Roll Marathon:** The Rock-n-Roll Half-Marathon will be coming through Normal Heights again this year. They informed us that the route through Normal Heights was a huge success and that the runners loved the community involvement. Similar to

last year, the first runner will come through Normal Heights around 7am and the last runner will exit around 9am, they will try to keep most of the music in the commercial areas and have quieter acoustic acts in the residential areas, and they will again have a real-time complaint system for quick resolution of problems. They said we can expect 22,000 runners to come through Normal Heights on Saturday June 1st. More info at <http://runrocknroll.competitor.com/san-diego>

- **San Diego Foundation Great Neighborhoods Challenge Grant**

Marianne Greene attended the SDF workshop and is working on drafting a grant proposal for the Great Neighborhoods Challenge. She reported that the grant needs to be submitted by a non-profit and she is looking for a local non-profit to sponsor it. This generated some discussion among the board and the community – it was suggested she contact Lois Miller of the Normal Heights Community Development Corp which is the 501c3 non-profit that runs the Community Center, or Ron Ferrero of the Normal Heights Community Association which is also a 501c3 non-profit. Additionally, a community member in the audience commented that he is affiliated with a non-profit that may be able to work with her, and they agreed to speak after the meeting.

- **SANDAG East-West Bike Corridors**

These are still in development. The proposal is for the bike corridor to run down Meade Ave from Fairmont to Park Blvd, through Normal Heights (and additional E-W corridor is proposed along Lincoln or Orange Ave in North Park). SANDAG has committed \$200M for these kinds of projects, including the BayShore Bike Route and the Coastal Rail Trail. The final proposals will be presented in April.

- **Normal Heights Library Working Group:** No update provided at this meeting.

- **Undergrounding Project Subcommittee:** No update on the proposed task force other than what we have learned at this meeting from Council President Gloria.

- **Traffic Calming Working Group:** Alison Moss presented and distributed her White Paper entitled “A New Framework for Promoting Walking in the City of San Diego”. Email the secretary if you’d like a copy.

- **Wilson School Site Development Project:** Marianne Greene reported again on the proposed green-space linkage from Normal Heights Elementary to Ward Canyon Park to Wilson Elementary and Terralta and Park de la Cruz, as part of the Wilson School Improvements. She has invited the school architects to come give a presentation to the NHCPG at our June meeting.

Information Items:

- **NHCPG Membership and COW Reminder:** Community members residing within or owning a property or business within the boundaries of Normal Heights are encouraged to fill out a membership application. The Secretary has applications on hand at the meetings, and they are also available as a pdf on our website and on our page at www.facebook.com/NHCPG. Community Orientation Workshop (“COW”) is available online and all Board members must take the COW within 60 days of being elected.

Next meeting: April 1, 2014

Meeting Adjourned at 8:17pm.