

Normal Heights Community Planning Group MINUTES

May 6, 2014, 6:00 PM
Normal Heights Community Center

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

Board Members present: Jean-Louis Coquereau, Joseph Fombon, Marianne Green (arrived at 6:20), John Hartley, Scott Kessler, Joe Kissell (appointed at this meeting), Phil Kramer (appointed at this meeting), Mark Lawler, Nancy Lawler, Suzanne Ledebor, Caroline McKeown, Mark Rowland, Dan Soderberg, Gary Weber, Ryan Zellers (appointed at this meeting)

Community Members/Guests: Dena Harris, Bob Kelsner, Jordan Gray (SDSU), Mason Lewis (SDSU), Ryan Brooks, Marco Lopez, Andrew Thies, Jim Baross, Peggy Rose Levin, Georgette Gomez, Katelyn Hailey, Derry Pence, Marty Graham

Welcome and introductions

- The meeting was chaired by the newly-elected Chair, Caroline McKeown.

Modifications to Meeting Agenda

- No modifications to the agenda were requested in May 2014.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of the April 2014 NHCPG meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. The Board unanimously approved the minutes with no modifications.

Treasurer's Report

- Mark Rowland, Treasurer, briefly discussed NHCPG's nominal gains from sales at Adams Avenue: Unplugged. These funds are deposited in trust with the Adams Avenue Business Association.

Non-agenda Public Comments

- Larry Wilske, Republican candidate for the 53rd Congressional District, introduced himself and briefly discussed his platform and elicited support for his candidacy at the polls on Tuesday, June 3.

Reports from Government Representatives and Community Groups

- **Katelyn Hailey, representative from State Senator Marty Block's office**, introduced herself and mentioned Senator Block's recent legislative highlights. The legislation Senator Block has introduced in this legislature is advancing through committee. Further information to come as this process continues.

Action Items:

- **Special Election to Fill Three Vacancies on the Board:** There are currently three vacancies on the NHCPG and three candidates willing to fill the vacancies.
 - **Joe Kissell** is a Normal Heights resident and seeks to fill a one-year term. Joe's nomination was motioned by Mark Rowland and seconded by Jean-Louis Coquereau. Joe's nomination was unanimously approved by the Board.
 - **Phil Kramer** is a Normal Heights resident and seeks to fill a one-year term. Phil's nomination was motioned by Mark Rowland and seconded by Suzanne Ledebor. Phil's nomination was unanimously approved by the Board.

- **Ryan Zellers** is a Normal Heights resident and seeks to fill a two-year term. Ryan's nomination was motioned by Mark Rowland and seconded by Scott Kessler. Ryan's nomination was unanimously approved by the Board.

At the conclusion of the third and last special election, all three newly-elected Board members took their seats on the dais. **Congratulations to all!**

- **San Diego Global Vision Academy Site Master Planning:** Dena Harris of the San Diego Global Vision Academy presented information about a grant that has been awarded to the charter school she heads by the San Diego Unified School District. This was an informative presentation that solicited feedback from the Board regarding what types of improvements to the school site would best benefit the neighborhood. Ultimately, the only motion that was made on this matter was whether or not to send a NHCPG representative to the meetings between the charter school and the school district. Seeing as how several Board members were already planning to attend the meetings, the motion did not receive a vote.
- **Barrio Logan Community Plan:** Georgette Lopez of the "Yes on B & C" campaign presented information to the Board and the audience regarding the upcoming citywide ballot measure that will determine whether or not to ratify the Barrio Logan Community Plan. Gary Pence of the "No on B & C" campaign spoke to the opposing viewpoint. The question to the Board was whether the NHCPG should stand in support with the Barrio Logan Community Planning Group and voice support for the "Yes on B & C" campaign? Before this question could be raised via a motion, Board member Marianne Green voiced concern that bringing this question to the NHCPG was problematic as the question contemplated a matter outside the jurisdiction of the NHCPG. *A motion to table this discussion until the City Attorney could opine whether the debate within the NHCPG is appropriate and in compliance with the City Charter was made by Marianne Green and seconded by Mark Lawler. The motion failed on a 1-6-8 vote.* Subsequent discussion on the matter ensued and eventually *a motion to support the campaign in support of Propositions B & C was made by John Hartley and seconded by Gary Weber. The motion failed on a 4-0-11 vote.* Adjudication of this vote's outcome was provided by Michael Prinz of the City's Planning Department. Lastly, *a motion to state that any and every planning group has the right to decide matters only within an individual planning group's physical boundaries was made by Marianne Green. Having received no second, the motion died without a vote.*
- **Transfer of NHCPG Financial Holdings/Oversight:** A discussion on a proposal to transfer custodianship of the NHCPG's finances from the Adams Avenue Business Association to the Normal Heights Community Development Corporation, a 501(c)(3) entity under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, was held. *A motion to approve this transfer was made by John Hartley and seconded by Scott Kessler. The motion received unanimous approval.*
- **Ad Hoc Bylaws Subcommittee:** The question on whether to codify that the NHCPG does not convene in the month of July was discussed and Suzanne Ledeboer moved to amend the bylaws to make this change, Marianne Green seconded this motion. *After subsequent discussion, Suzanne withdrew the motion from consideration.* A second question on whether to amend the bylaws to identify and list NHCPG's standing subcommittees was briefly discussed. Suzanne Ledeboer moved to make this amendment to the bylaws and Mark Rowlands seconded it. *The motion received unanimous approval.*
- **SR-15 Bike Facility Project:** A discussion on a project to connect Adams Avenue to Camino Del Rio South was held. The project's design is approved and awaiting funding. The question to the Board was whether to sign a proposed letter in support of the SR-15 Bike Facility Project.

Marianne Green moved to support the project with Ryan Zellers providing the second to the motion. *The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

- **Relocate the June NHCPG Meeting:** It was brought to the attention of the Board that the normal location for the NHCPG meeting will be used as a polling place for the June 3, 2014 primary election. A motion for Board Chair Caroline McKeown to find an alternate location for this meeting date, if necessary, was made by Caroline McKeown and seconded by Dan Soderberg. The motion passed on a 14-1-0 vote.

Other Old and New Business and Informational Items:

- Caroline McKeown advised the Board and the assembled audience that the Community Orientation Workshop (“COW”) is available both online and periodically in person. All elected or appointed Board members must take this orientation.
- **SDSU Student Presentation:** A group of students from San Diego State University presented information on urban trails within Normal Heights. The presentation was well-received and much appreciated.
- A reminder that the Rock n Roll Marathon will be run through Normal Heights in the morning hours of Sunday, June 1 was given.

Committee Reports:

- **Community Planners Committee:** Marianne Green and Caroline McKeown both gave updates from the most recent CPC meeting. The piece of this discussion that generated the most debate was regarding city ordinances on alcohol sales and consumption. A debate on whether these matters should be discussed by the NHCPG prior to the NHCPG’s representative to the CPC casting a vote on a measure was had. Scott Kessler noted that **to his knowledge, no complaints concerning alcohol-selling businesses in Normal Heights have been tendered. Scott also opposes the advisory vote at the CPC to heighten restrictions on alcohol-sales.**
- **Traffic Calming:** A committee composed of Jim Baross, Joe Kissell, and Ryan Zellers was formed to work on traffic calming within Normal Heights.
- **Library Committee:** John Hartley mentioned that a workshop on the proposed library will be held on June 7.
- **City Infrastructure Committee:** This committee did not meet and has no update.

Next meeting: June 3, 2014

Meeting Adjourned at 8:36 P.M.