

Normal Heights Community Planning Group DRAFT MINUTES

February 1, 2011
6:00 PM

Normal Heights Community Center

Meeting called to order without quorum at 6:05 P.M.

Members present: Aaron Allen, Jim Baross, Joseph Fombon, Art Harrison, Mark Rowland, Earlene Thom, Nancy Wolfing

Members absent: Allan Acevedo, Nancy Lawler, Susan Redelings, Richard Rios

Community Members/Guests: Suzanne Ledeboer

Welcome and introductions

Non-Agenda Public Comments/Information from Community Members:

There were no non-agenda public comments made at the February 2011 meeting.

Modification to Agenda: No modifications to the February 2011 meeting's agenda were requested.

Reports from Representatives of Elected Officials:

Dion Akers, representative from District Three's Councilmember Todd Gloria's office, commented that the State of the District address will occur on February 23, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the Birch North Park Theater. Mr. Akers further commented that Todd Gloria is now the chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee on the City Council and that a community garden is being considered for the Normal Heights neighborhood. Mr. Akers discussed the effect of the City Council's recent vote to repeal the Ordinance to Protect Small and Local Businesses.

Other Old and New Business:

- 1) Jim Baross reminded the Board that the Community Orientation Workshop ("COW") is available both online and at periodic in-person events and that all Board members must take the COW within one year of being seated on the Board.
- 2) Mr. J. Baross apprised the Board that S. Redelings has tendered her resignation from the NHCPG. There was no comment from the Board on this matter.

Project Review – Arco Station 3295 El Cajon Blvd.:

A representative of the Arco gas station at 3295 El Cajon Blvd. began an informational presentation on the requested remodeling of the gas station's service bays to a food sales area.

After considering S.Redelings' resignation and its effect on the count of Board members, it was determined that a quorum was present at the meeting and a meeting with quorum was called at 6:27 P.M.

The Board reviewed the applicant's presentation and moved to approve the request. Mr. J. Fombon initially moved with Mr. M. Rowland providing the second. The Board unanimously provided its approval.

Update on Ward St. Park Projects:

Mr. M. Rowland presented his findings on the possibility of a new community garden being built at the Ward Canyon Park site and the hope that the joint-use park will be completely available without hindrance to access by the end of the year. Mr. A. Harrison requested a point of order and commented that parks, in general, are not a priority concern for all community members.

Other Business:

Mr. A. Harrison, upon being granted a point of order, raised concern about NHCPG's dwindling membership and the possibility that the Board might be forced to disband due to lack of membership. Mr. Harrison further commented that there needs to be more publicity given to the NHCPG in order to increase awareness of its existence. Lastly, Mr. Harrison recommended that interested parties join Jim Varnadore's e-mail distribution list.

Approval of January 2011 Minutes

Mr. A. Allen moved to approve the January 2011 minutes with Mr. A. Harrison seconding the motion. The Board unanimously approved the January minutes.

Community Planners' Committee Meeting Update:

Mr. J. Baross apprised the Board that the City is working on its seventh update to the land development code. Mr. A. Harrison made a request to speak on this or another matter and was denied. Mr. Harrison subsequently left the meeting.

Action/Discussion Items:

- 1) A brief discussion was had on the City's requirements to begin a community garden are in the process of being revised.
- 2) Discussion was held on the potential impact of Governor Jerry Brown's proposal to eliminate redevelopment and enterprise zones in cities throughout the state. Discussion on the mechanics of property tax collection and distribution was also held. The Board generally felt that

- more time was needed to see how negotiations between the Legislature and the Governor proceed on this matter before aligning itself.
- 3) Ms. S. Ledebor commented that she was generally unimpressed with all the proposals regarding parking in Plaza de Panama.

Next meeting: March 1, 2011 at the Normal Heights Community Center.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 7:30 P.M.

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