

Normal Heights Community Planning Group DRAFT MINUTES

November 1, 2011
6:00 PM

Normal Heights Community Center

Meeting called to order with quorum at 6:06 P.M.

Members present: Jim Baross, Charles Bradford, Joseph Fombon, Art Harrison, Nancy Lawler, Ben Moore, Richard Rios, Mark Rowland, Earlene Thom, Nancy Wolfing

Members absent: Aaron Allen, Dan Soderberg

Community Members/Guests: Bill Conway, Cynara Kidwell, Bob Kerail, Mark Lawler, Suzanne Ledeboer, Dick Rol, Deborah Smithton, Gary Weber, Matt Zimmerman

Welcome and introductions

Non-agenda Public Comments

- Cynara Kidwell and Matt Zimmerman briefly addressed the Board to introduce themselves as representatives of a local group that seeks to reform existing medical marijuana cards. They discussed making a full presentation at a later meeting.

Approval of October 2011 Minutes

Mr. Charles Bradford put forth a motion to approve the October minutes. Mr. Art Harrison seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted to approve the motion.

Modifications to Meeting Agenda

There were no modifications to the agenda requested.

Government Representatives

- There were no government representatives present at the November meeting.

Other Old and New Business and Informational Items:

- 1) Mr. 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.

Action Items:

- A representative from AGC Design Concept, Alex Cuevas, addressed the Board and its assembled guests regarding the Arco project at 33rd Street

- and El Cajon Blvd. The project as currently designed would install six trees as opposed to the City-required number of eight trees. Mr. Cuevas requested approval of a variance from existing code to permit only the six trees being planted. Mr. Joseph Fombon put forth a motion to approve the request for a variance with Mr. Aaron Allen seconding the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
- A representative from San Diego Canyonlands, Dick Rol, presented information to the Board regarding the City's General Plan and the distinction within that document between "designated" and "dedicated" open spaces, the major distinction being that dedicated open spaces require a 2/3rds vote of the people to develop the land.
 - A question was put to the Board: For parcels of open land in Normal Heights, does the NHCPG support changing the classification from designated to dedicated open space, knowing that a change in classification will not affect the available parkland ratio? The Board voted 8-1-2 to support the motion with Mr. Art Harrison opposing and Messrs. Jim Barross and Joseph Fombon abstaining from the vote.
 - A second question, mirroring the first question but for the City in its entirety as opposed to only Normal Heights, was put to the Board. The Board voted 7-2-2 to approve the motion with Messrs. Art Harrison and Joseph Fombon opposing the motion and Messrs. Aaron Allen and Jim Barross abstaining from the vote.
 - Several pieces of information were discussed by the NHCPG regarding the keeping of bees, chickens, and goats in residential zones within the City. A motion was presented by the Board by Mr. Joseph Fombon and seconded by Mr. Charles Bradford to support these aspects of urban agriculture in concept. The Board voted 9-2-0 to approve the motion with Messrs. A. Harrison and R. Rios in opposition.
 - There were no buildings of historical significance identified since the previous meeting.
 - It was reported that the joint-use field at Normal Heights Elementary School is now open. Further information on this will be provided as it becomes available.
 - The City recently distributed information to chairs of the community planning groups stating that plans and/or other information received for projects to be reviewed are copyrighted and are not to be photocopied. This matter will continue to be discussed.

Committee Reports:

There were no further committee reports.

Next meeting: December 6, 2011 at the Normal Heights Community Center.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:28 P.M.