



NORMAL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP
4649 Hawley Boulevard San Diego, CA. 92116

Meeting Minutes – 4/5/16

Meeting Beginning Time. 6:05pm by Jim Baross

Board Attendance (x means “present”):

x	Gary Weber	x	Nancy Lawler	x	Mark Lawler (in at 6:13)
x	Khalisa Bolling		Dena Harris	x	Scott Kessler
x	Jim Baross	x	Ryan Zellers	x	Joseph Fombon (in at 6:17)
x	Caroline McKeown		Dan Soderberg		Gretchen Eichar
x	Marianne Green	x	Earlene Thom	x	Adam Deutsch

Administration Items:

Modifications to Meeting Agenda: Moving Action/Discussion Items based on community members who are here to speak about those issues. These minutes reflect the order of Discussion/Action items as they were covered.

Board Officer Elections: Secretary Adam announced that all those who hold board positions are willing to keep their officer positions. Khalisa makes motion, Ryan seconds for those who are officers to remain officers for another year.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the **3/2/16** NHCPG meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. No edits were made. Khalisa moved to approve the minutes and Caroline seconded. The approval was unanimous.

Treasurer’s Report: No change from last month: \$1898.94 to date. Also, we still have license plate holders for sale. “Why Be Normal” frames are still available.

Information & Communication:

Reports from Government Representatives: No representatives present.

Planning Department: No new news.

Adams Avenue Business Association: Scott reports on Tree Trimming along Adams, and discussion about cross walk equipment mounted on historic poles. Perhaps City can coordinate with AABA about installations of public safety equipment. There will be no vendors or outdoor stages for Adams Unplugged.

Non-Agenda Public Comment: Kevin Melton, R-candidate for 78th District State Assembly seat. Gave background on demographics. Tod Gloria is opponent in that race. Melton ran last time, got 20% of vote. Claims to be “middle of the road,” and “fiscally conservative.” Shared website (<http://www.KevinMelton.net>), and gave background on experience. “I like doing good things and working hard...give them hell and get some of your money back.”

Art Harrison: Concerned about Parking Enforcement. Would like overstayed vehicles to be cited, and for NHCPG to make minutes available faster. Would also like Jim to not send out “gardening tips.” Also commented that minutes were not up-to-date on the city website (as of the morning of 4/6/16, they are). Secretary attempted to make an update about the minutes on the city website, at which point Art shouted about his time (2 minutes for public comment), which had run out.

Gary Weber: He’s been reviewing park development budget, and we do not have what the city has recommend for “Park Development,” (about \$13m). Also, when we introduce ourselves on the board as “property owner,” that should imply that we don’t live in the neighborhood. Those who own property can simply say “resident,” regardless of personal assets.

Community Member Charles pointed out money for Ward Canyon that was mentioned during Toni Atkins’ time in office, but it seems that money hasn’t be used as it was once mentioned. It is not entirely clear which funds were being referenced.

Ralph: Upset about 37ECB’s use, and wants more community input on what gets put in the neighborhood. In response, Jim has letters he’ll circulate. Jim also recommended looking to the ECBA about those issues.

Reports from Neighborhood Groups:

Social Media Update: 37ECB project got positive response after KPBS report earlier in the week. iDog Park has contention because of the mulch—some people don’t like it.

Discussion Items:

- **Rock ‘n Roll Marathon Route Update:** both races will run together for first 8 miles starting this year. Road closures until about 10am, June 5th, 2016, and they will distribute brochures with details (Course Map is at <http://www.runrocknroll.com/san-diego/the-races/course/>). Additionally, working with group called “Wear Blue.” They will promote their group along the course. Expecting to see 25,000 runners coming through Normal Heights.
- **Update sewer project 767A:** Door hangers will be put on hopefully 3 days before any shut-offs. Jose Ortiz provided updates on work on 33rd Pl. Water

lines will hopefully be replaced along with sewer lines. Most work from here on seems to be in alley ways. Khalisa asked about road repair after pipe work—contractors explained how the city decides on the finish after construction.

- **Citizen’s Plan for San Diego:** Jeff Marston (former Assemblyman), appreciates the invitation to show up. Citizen’s Plan for San Diego (<https://citizensplan.org>) is a ballot initiative hoping to qualify for the Nov. ballot. The purpose is to raise hotel tax from 10.5% to 15.5%, and 14% for smaller hotels; prohibits the plan for Convention Center expansion along the water front; prohibits the construction of any sports facilities without the vote of the people. Claims to give General Fund an additional \$15m per year. Plan also incentivizes the creation of park and public land in places like Mission Valley. Would also possibly impact expansions of SDSU and UCSD. Questions asked about details about development and distances downtown, and Marston cited other conversations among the hotel industry. Scott asked question about how funds are allocated, and taxes collected would go into the General Fund. Art asked about allocations of taxes, and how much goes into the General Fund, and also suggested that Qualcomm might be replaced by condos, to which Marston replied that 1% of the additional 5% goes to the General Fund, and the rest is open to the hotel industry for promotion or infrastructure projects (but not to a stadium).

Actions:

- **Update regarding Meade Ave. Bikeway:** Danny Veeh, PM of project from SANDAG. Giving background on regional bike plan, fully funded by tax measure in early stages. It’s a comprehensive project “beyond just painted lines.” This project has 6 segments. Today is about the Georgia-Meade segment, which is in our area. Construction to start in 2017—in design phase now. Will include Buffered Bike Lanes from Park to Fairmount, and removes the center turn lane to make room for those; Traffic Circles will also be installed (34th and at Swift, and 38th and at 39th), which will also move pedestrian ramps; Bend Outs so there is an extra barrier to protect bikers from right-turning cars (at 33rd and 35th); Chokers with Speed Lumps to reduce speeds midblock(at Wilson and at 36th); Raise Crosswalks for pedestrian safety (at 37th). Net loss of parking wasn’t calculated, but 4 streets are wide enough to configure new parking for additional spaces. ***More information will be at future public SANDAG meeting, 5/10/16 at 4:30 – 8:30, Lafayette Hotel, Mississippi Ballroom, 2223 El Cajon Blvd.*** Caroline asked about landscaping traffic circles, Veeh is hoping to put in zero-maintenance items. Samples will be at the meeting. An EMRA could also be formed to maintain what is installed as well. Ryan asked about putting buffers near door-zones, which they will take into consideration; he also asked about 35th Bike Lanes; also commented on new signal at

McClintock and ECB. Scott asked about estimated speed reductions along Meade, and another representative explained studies that helped guide the designs. Scott is also curious about parking space impact, and Veeh says complete offset is unlikely. Art Harrison asked about changing traffic on El Cajon Blvd, perhaps changing light timing, to which Veeh replied that there are other plans to address that. Gary is concerned about conflicts with parking plans that ECBA has been planning. Also wants NH cost estimate.

- **Recommendations for 40th St. Barricade relocation:** two proposals from Ryan, one to move the barrier north, and another to add extruded curb and remove the signal. Cost of moving a barricade and new stripes is minimal. Discussions centered around costs, restriping parking, and what is possible between city and CalTrans land. Residents of the area recommend a more robust barricade than the wood that is there now. There is concern about the parking, and who actually uses the park, especially on weekends. Gary makes motion to support moving the barrier; Caroline seconds it. Marianne asks for amendment for a concrete barricade, approved. In favor: 10, 1 opposed (Scott, over concerns of lost parking), 1 abstained (Jim, as no tie-breaking was necessary).
- **Request for ideas for City reimbursement funding for operating expenses:** \$500. Last year we used them for promotional items. Caroline suggests using it for a projector or tent or website pay-forward, or smaller items like photocopying. Marianne suggests using it for catering, but food is not a reimbursable expense. Perhaps also a screen to project on. \$15 will be used for website url for 1 year. People will collect estimates for desired goods/services for next meeting.

Other Discussion Items:

- **Historical Stamp Pattern on Sidewalks:** Recent work was done correctly, but contractors need to be made aware of it for all future work. The historic pattern map is available online. If you see someone working on a sidewalk, make sure they have the proper historical pattern. Sidewalk stamp and pattern preservation is part of the General Plan (<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/planning/genplan/pdf/generalplan/adoptedhpelem.pdf>) Full Maps is at the end of these minutes.
- **Powerline Undergrounding:** Earlene wants to know if it's in our best interest. Mission Hills is the ideal project, but the neighborhood also has different aesthetics, but we don't have a comparable model for what our area might look like. Earlene mentioned that Ft. Stockton and Sunset in Mission Hills

could be a reasonably good touchstones for how Mt. View Drive might turn out, but for the straight streets, which comprise the majority of streets in both Normal Heights and even most of Mid City, Meade could be a better touchstone. Are boxes better than the wires?

The opt-out date is not scheduled. Should we take it up at a future meeting?

More information on this process is at

<https://www.sandiego.gov/undergrounding>

- **Rent Control:** Adam is interested in discussion. It's come up on social media, and he's noticed a place he used to rent on Adams for \$725 in 2011 is now renting for \$1600, which seems excessive. Is this an issue the board would have an opinion on? Gary brought up Prop O from the 1970s. There are petitions currently out there, says Joseph; Ralph points to cities where rent control policies have failed; Bob comments that rent *is* a problem in this area; Earlene doesn't think a roll-back is possible. Jim confirms that if it came up as some kind of proposal, this body would likely discuss the issue.

Committee & Ad Hoc Group Reports

- **Community Planning Committee:** Open Data Program, dataSD.org, to mine departments about data and provide it to the public is open now.
- **Project Review Community:** No Projects.
- **Website Update:** Board will cover \$15 for one year of url NHCPG.org
- **9/21/16 Event?:** No plans explored as of yet.
- **Booth at Adams Unplugged:** AABA is not doing booths. WE might circulate information at individual venues.
- **Learning Our Community Plan:** Copies of the Community Plan on available online, or in print for \$20.
- **Historical Property Review:** Properties on agenda did not have issues.
- **Transportation/Traffic Calming:** Ryan adds about a crosswalk at Adams and 33rd. City wants to know if we want to stripe across decorative pavement. Lights would be preferred. Scott wants to know if we can avoid disturbing the acorn poles, and would like to explore alternatives thoroughly. Proposal to address the cross issue with lights without impacting the poles. Will bring up in next month's meeting.
- **City Infrastructure Oversight:** Nothing new.

Adjourned at 8:35pm

The Next Meeting is 5/3/16

Anticipated/Requested Future Agenda Items

Agenda order and timing are approximate and subject to change. This information is available in alternative formats (sign language, oral interpreter, and/or Assistive Listening Device). To request an alternative format, call 619-533-3650 at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting. If you have questions concerning the NHCPG, please express them at the meeting or contact the NHCPG Chair, Jim Baross, at jimbaross@cox.net or 619-280-6908, or the City of San Diego Associate Planner, Bobby Mordenti at BMordenti@sandiego.gov or 619-446-5064.

Past Agendas and Minutes are available at <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/normalheights/agendas>

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