



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

**Meeting Minutes – 5/3/2016**

**Meeting Beginning Time. 6:01pm by Marianne Green**

**Board Attendance (x means “present”):**

x	Gary Weber	x	Nancy Lawler	x	Mark Lawler (in at 6:09)
x	Khalisa Bolling	x	Dena Harris(in at 6:18)	x	Scott Kessler (in at 6:03)
	Jim Baross	x	Ryan Zellers (in at 6:06)	x	Joseph Fombon (in at 6:08)
x	Caroline McKeown	x	Dan Soderberg (in at 6:09)	x	Gretchen Eichar
x	Marianne Green	x	Earlene Thom	x	Adam Deutsch

**Administration Items:**

**Modifications to Meeting Agenda:** No modifications were made.

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes of the 4/5/2016 NHCPG meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Edits were made for clarity from Earlene and Dena, and clarifications were presented. Caroline moved to approve the minutes and Earlene 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. Keep your plates shaded this summer with a “Why Be Normal” frame.

**Information & Communication:**

**Reports from Government Representatives:**

- **Ralph from State Senator Marty Block's office.** Block terms out, but is still in office through the end of the year, so contact for state-related issues.
- **Bobby from City Planning Department:** We need to email public and private roster to city with new board members. A Public roster has any info we want public, while a Private roster has other information that won't be public. New board members have to do the COW session (either online or in person at a scheduled time). Also: Planning Department is shuffling, and Naomi Siodmok will take over as the Planning Department representative for Normal Heights. This is Bobby's last meeting; we're sorry to see him go, but wish him well in other communities!
- **Chevelle T. Newell, with Toni Atkins' office:** handed out newsletter and introduced herself. "Socks for Stand-Down" drive, for people to donate socks starts on May 15<sup>th</sup> until June 15<sup>th</sup>, and donations can be made at the University Heights Library or at Toni Atkins' local office, 1350 Front St. Suite 6054, San Diego, CA 92101. And a reminder about Constituent Services: if you can't get through to any state office or agency, contact Toni Atkins' office. Additionally, Atkins would like to speak in July, so we will get information to her about appearing at that meeting.

#### **Reports from Neighborhood Groups:**

- **AABA** just did Unplugged—which was pretty awesome—and Art Around Adams is the first weekend of June. Look forward to the last week of June for the Taste of Adams Avenue event.

#### **Non-Agenda Public Comment:**

- **Adam:** SANDAG Board voted on a ballot for November, and more information can be found at <http://sandiegofreepress.org/2016/05/getting-sandbagged-by-sandag-san-diegos-failure-of-imagination/>

#### **Social Media Update:**

- **Caroline:** people are displeased about the bark/ground cover in the dog park; people want new ground covering. People are reporting allergic reactions, the dogs getting splinters, and difficulty picking up droppings. None of those people are at this meeting.

#### **Actions:**

1. **Operating Expenses Budget:** We have \$500 for operating expenses, and we need to determine how to spend it, and submit that request this month. One option is a new pop-up tent (Caroline got a quote for \$503.20). Another one is a new screen for the public meeting space (ranging in price, but within our budget). There are several options for the screen, made for HD projections,

and under \$500. Other ideas: Art Harrison exasperatedly expresses frustration about meeting procedure, and thinks we need to put money into printing meeting materials, making the claim that the City website is 3 months behind. Adam (as Secretary) clarifies that the website is, in fact, up-to-date on agendas and approved minutes. Art Harrison then requests the minutes from April's Meeting—which had been approved just a few minutes before, and Adam clarifies that they will be sent to the city for posting within a few days after the meeting. Gretchen requests clarification, asking Art Harrison if he is suggesting we have a printer on-site for immediate distribution of approved minutes. Adam—only one man, after all—would find it very difficult to format, print, and distribute approved minutes *while actively taking minutes* in the meeting in progress, and we move on to other ideas. Scott suggests we consider using the money for promotional items, but no specific proposals or quotes are currently available at this time, however that is an idea we will keep that in mind in the months to come.

Dena makes a motion to purchase both a pop-up tent and projector screen with both the city operating expense funds and our treasury budget, Joseph seconded it. Vote was unanimous.

- 2. Planning Group Introductions:** Earlene brings up the verbiage we use to introduce ourselves as board members, suggesting we are clear about all the stakes each of us have in the community from the beginning of the meeting. Caroline comments that she's on the fence between simply making it clear that we live or own a business in Normal Heights, but on the other hand, it might help the audience to know *all* the roles a person has a community. The debate seems to be around how the term "resident" could mean "property owner" or "renter," but when one says both "resident and property owner" with the intent to express that they reside in the property they own, it sounds like it might be classist (most people seem to understand the implication of "property owner" as one who owns property where they don't actually reside). Ryan suggests we go with the term that qualifies us to be on the board (Resident/Business Owner/etc.). Marianne is seeking clarification about if it changes bylaws, or if it's just a discussion about group etiquette. Adam explained what the terms actually indicate (Resident vs. Property Owner) from a cultural/language perspective. Gretchen is looking at it more scientifically, pointing out that other groups state how long they've been in the neighborhood. Dena mentions that the distinction as "Business Owner" carries status markers that we can easily avoid. Khalisa suggests that other distinctions might be valid in more substantive conversations, and might be reserved for that (i.e. "As a renter on that block," or "From a business owner's perspective..."). Joseph makes the point that all board members are vetted and approved prior to their election, and thus it is unnecessary to restate them

every month, since we are on the board and by definition must live/own/work here. Dan prefers the simple labels that qualify us to be on the board, according to the bylaws, but Adam points out that others might have different interpretations of the words. Caroline points out that when the community comes out to vote, candidates will state official association to the neighborhood. Todd from the public: suggests name and professional title; Art Harrison states he is a Captain, then points out that bylaws don't require stating association, but reminds us, generally, that those with vested interests should recuse themselves from discussions and votes; he also points out that the city calls non-resident property "investment property" with an abbreviation.

Meaningful consideration and contemplation about language and etiquette happened, but no motions were made, and no action was taken.

- 3. Meade Avenue Bikeway:** Gary explains how SANDAG is doing neighborhood projects, but not always with the best interest of the community in mind. He has looked into projects in the past, and his concern is that their project will not speak to our community's needs. He cites the adopted plan from 1998, and explains details from the Community Plan regarding Meade Ave. Page 52 contains vision for streets and the requirements to achieve those; page 62 talks about adding trees, lighting, and crosswalks. The SANDAG plan as it stands does none of those things. Gary also cites the work on Madison in North Park, which has not pleased the community. Gary suggests surveying the residents on Meade Avenue and that they do more planning. Their meeting is on 5/10/16 at 6 – 8pm, Lafayette Hotel, Mississippi Ballroom, 2223 El Cajon Blvd, and Gary feels SANDAG should not go further without presenting a revised plan that aligns with the community plan. He estimates they will spend \$3-4m on the project, and we should be able to decide how that money can be used with input from the community, and what aligns with the community plan. Marianne would like to clarify: do we want to inform the city of our concerns about how this plan doesn't align the community plan? Caroline gives background that we were presented with certain details of the project and approved it, but the plan has since changed, and we have not voted on the new/modified plan, which is very different from what was voted on before. We only saw the new plan at the April 2016 Meeting. Scott agrees that we should go on record with a note to the city and SANDAG that the plan is inconsistent the Community Plan. Gretchen points out that the Community Plan isn't necessary binding, but is more of a vision. Bobby suggests we read the plan carefully, so any communication from the NHCPG to the City/SANDAG can be specific, and we should craft our position according to the plan as much as possible. Marianne suggests an ad hoc committee to draft the letter about how the bike plan is inconsistent with the community plan, and have that distributed before the next meeting.

Motion from Dena to form an ad hoc committee to draft a letter outlining the community's priorities, and present it to this committee, Scott seconds that motion. Amendment to expand the motion to include that SANDAG interact more regularly with the community and with the residents on Meade. Vote was unanimous. (Ad hoc committee includes Gary, Khalisa, Scott, and Adam).

### **Other Discussion Items:**

- 1. Undergrounding of Utility Lines:** Motion to keep discussion at 5 minutes made by Marianne, Caroline seconded. Gary points to report from meeting in September 2014, and is confident we can have SDG&E do this in a way that we would like them to, which includes mid-block lighting installation while lines are undergrounded. He is concerned it's being engineered without our input, insisting that "This committee has an obligation to find out what is going on with this thing." He is favor of getting rid of the wires and poles. Ralph from Block's office says that they are supposed to do extensive public outreach about the project, and the scheduling they put out in 2014 might not be accurate anymore. Caroline points out that the dates on the website has NH broken into a lot of zones/regions, and the first one is set for 2018, and go until 2047. Details can be found at <https://www.sandiego.gov/undergrounding/overview>

### **Committee & Ad Hoc Group Reports**

- Community Planning Committee: Bobby will send email to Jim about other community plan updates. Mid-city might be broken up so Normal Heights would have its own plan. Scott asks why it's going to be broken up, and Bobby says it's based on models of population density, infrastructure, and other factors. Gary warns to "be careful what you wish for," as a change in the community plan might change zoning in ways we might not want.
- Project Review Community: Nothing new.
- Historical Property Review: The properties reviewed contained nothing of note. No updates on the Tire Depot renovation didn't happen.
- Transportation/Traffic Calming: New crosswalk installed at Adams and East Mountainview & Adams. In regard to 33<sup>rd</sup> and Adams, Ryan has requested no striping on the historic decorative pavement. City is studying the corner.

**Adjourned at 7:42pm**

**The Next Meeting is on 6/7/16, Location TBD due to Election Day use of 4649 Hawley.**

## 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](mailto:jimbaross@cox.net) or 619-280-6908, or the City of San Diego Associate Planner, Bobby Mordenti at [BMordenti@sandiego.gov](mailto:BMordenti@sandiego.gov) or 619-446-5064.*

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<http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/normalheights/agendas.shtml>

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