



NORMAL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP  
 4672 35th St, San Diego, CA 92116 (due to Election Day)

**Meeting Minutes – 6/7/16**

**Meeting Beginning Time. 6:15pm by Jim Baross**

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

x	Gary Weber (left at 8:27)		Nancy Lawler		Mark Lawler
x	Khalisa Bolling		Dena Harris	x	Scott Kessler (left at 8:00pm)
x	Jim Baross	x	Ryan Zellers (left at 7:55pm)	x	Joseph Fombon
x	Caroline McKeown	x	Dan Soderberg	x	Gretchen Eichar
x	Marianne Green	x	Earlene Thom	x	Adam Deutsch

**Administration Items:**

**Modifications to Meeting Agenda:**

- Edit the meeting place to show Madison, instead of Monroe.

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes of the 5/3/16 NHCPG meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. No edits were made. Caroline moved to approve the minutes and Ryan seconded. The approval was unanimous.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

\$1903.94 to date. Also, we still have license plate holders for sale. Marianne moved to accept the report, Joseph seconded. All approved. \$500 from the city was used to buy a pop-up tent, for \$564.20, and Caroline will be reimbursed \$64.20 in July. Unanimous approval.

Keep your plates in the shade with a “Why Be Normal” frame.

**Information & Communication:**

**Reports from Government Representatives:**

- Officer Jenny Hall: suspects in recent pedestrian robberies (May 9<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>, 8 events) were arrested after people reported the crimes and suspicious vehicles, which police used to investigate. Two individuals were arrested, and police are still investigating possible related connections in other areas. 619-531-2000 (or the Mid-City number, 531-3000) is for non-emergency reports if you see something suspicious in the neighborhood. Scott relayed that the AABA is very thankful for the citizen and police efforts that help these concerns get resolved by local law enforcement. Marianne makes a motion to write a thank you letter to the arresting officers/detectives on the case.
- Adriana Martinez, Todd Gloria's office: There is a District 3 NextDoor page. Meanwhile, people are still complaining about the iDog Park (ground cover, etc.). Martinez is always available to hear concerns. Regarding homelessness: prior to going into recess, the council issued a ban on "Spice," a relatively cheap and easy-to-acquire substance. It will shortly be illegal to sell, in addition to possess. Audience member asked about the bike plan, and parking issues; the councilman is very much a fan of the bike plan, and is working to mitigate issues with parking. We will be discussing that later in the meeting.

**Planning Department:** They communicated to Jim that that Adams Avenue Rec Council has a new president, but no representative from the Rec. Council was present.

Scott: Taste of Adams is on June 26<sup>th</sup>, for \$35-\$41 dollars. Purchase tickets at [TasteOfAdams.com](http://TasteOfAdams.com) or [AdamsAvenueBusiness.com](http://AdamsAvenueBusiness.com). There will be shuttle service running from 11-3pm. Last weekend there was Art on Adams and the Rock 'n Roll Marathon, and those were a success.

**Non-Agenda Public Comment:**

- Elliot Dutnall (age 9, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade student at SD Global Vision Academy) Concerned about disrepair of sidewalks. Asked the public to sign a petition to have the city fix our sidewalks.
- Matthew Boomhower—Concerned about the Meade-Georgia Bikeway, and the streets that might become nose-in parking; concerned about the process involving residents and the city council. Making this group aware of efforts that might be happening on those wider streets off of Meade, based on concern about loss of parking.
- Another resident: Swift just voted No on head-in parking.
- Earlene: the iDog Park pergolas still need shade. Caroline clarifies that the Adams Ave. Park and Recreation Council is handling that process.
- Earlene: wants to remind the council that we should recuse ourselves if issues come up where board members have a vested interest.

### **Social Media Update:** Caroline reports:

- We had over 10K hits on posts about the robberies
- Lots of posts about the passing of Dick Van Ransom of Mariposa (the Ice Cream Man). “This neighborhood has lost a legend.” The public is invited to the memorial service.

### **Discussion Items:**

- **Karen Bucey & Francisco Mendoza:** here to discuss the Development Permit Process for different types of projects. All information can be found at <https://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/devprocess> .  
Gretchen asked about applications that the public is concerned about. Mendoza said that decision letters are also given to the NHCPG, and applicants usually have 90 days to respond, and a dialogue happens with applicant, depending on the scope of the project. If no response is given after a set amount of time, their project is cancelled, and they have to resubmit applications. Caroline asked what happens when applicants don't come back/follow up with the NHCPG. The responsibility is on applicant to follow up with the planning group. As for Historic Review Process, we would like to know more information than the address and year built. Savvy developers might find ways around the historic review process. Jim asks about how the Meade Ave. Bikeway might need to be reviewed against the community plan, and it *is* required to be reviewed by a multi-group organization that meet monthly. Additional, they are going to look at the changes to the old O'Connor building.
- **SANDAG Meade Ave. Bikeway:** First, those who were at the public meetings, what concerns are there:
  - Jeff Hamlin, lives on 34<sup>th</sup> and Meade, mentioned that it's a wide, busy street with small houses, mostly with only on-street parking, and the impact of this project is problematic. Also impacts property value and safety.
  - Marty Graham at 34<sup>th</sup> and Meade handed out a letter from realtor Nancy Wolfing, in position to the project, and the resident lives on Meade, and is concerned that the property value impact from loss of parking and driveway access will ruin her retirement investment; also, it seems to decrease pedestrian safety with less north/south crosswalks than there already are. Would love traffic calming and biking, but it seems to harm the neighborhood in a number of ways. Wants balance between bike rights and neighborhood character.
  - Paul Jameson from local bike organization and Kensington resident, claims studies show people use bikeways once their installed; also hopes for head-in parking, and slowing. Claims there's no bike lane in

- the neighborhood (but Adams has Sharrows). Says that it helps the Climate Action Plan.
- Angela, lives north of Adams, and walks a lot: understands the parking issues, and supports the Climate Action Plan, but is worried about how we help residents with things like Parking today. Concerned about different traffic calming measures at different intersections. There's too much variety of for people to know what to expect; wants more consistent measures, for more aesthetics and safety.
  - Another resident at 38<sup>th</sup> and Meade: wants more neighborhood considerations, and more bus and trolley access. Right now is walking down the middle of streets at night to avoid getting attacked. Has lived there for 36 years, and needs to be able to park close by home.
  - Aaron, on 38<sup>th</sup> and Monroe: loves the bikeway, but understands loss of parking etc. Loves the speed of Meade, but raises El Cajon as an alternative. Overall: loves it.
  - Jim Baross comments, but then was asked by resident to disclose association to this plan before speaking. Jim has been involved as a bike activist, but does not earn an income from this project, though he teaches bike safety broadly. Resident is also concerned that SANDAG was added to the agenda late (check on that!).
  - Scott points out that the AABA wanted Adams Ave. to be the designated bike path, but SANDAG wanted to look at other roads.
  - Jim has answers to questions that were anticipated, and these are answers based on what SANDAG relayed to him:
    - ☐ The City has a mandate for no parking within 20 ft. of a crosswalk
    - ☐ We reviewed difficulty with changing parking on wider streets. If residents want to help provide more parking, we'll approach that.
    - ☐ Volume changes are attempts to reduce dependence on motorvehicles.
    - ☐ There are no firm numbers about who will use it
    - ☐ Safety impacts: traffic circles are safer than 4-way stops; traffic circles might be ugly, and irrigation and electricity can be added if the neighborhood is willing to maintain them with a landscape maintenance agreement.
    - ☐ Tree cover: we're concerned with aesthetics as well as safety, and SANDAG plans to replace trees that would be removed during construction.
    - ☐ Street lighting: key intersections with features for traffic calming will have additional lighting.
    - ☐ What does this cost: \$250m to get people out of cars. The entire stretch from Park to 44<sup>th</sup>, and down to Robinson and Georgia is

\$8.4m. The most expensive elements are hardscape elements like bump outs and elements.

- Danny Veeh, Project Manager for this project from SANDAG: Addressing north/south crosswalk and pedestrian crossing; the city has expressed similar concerns as the residents. Now planning 4-way yield control at all traffic circles, which allow for north/south crosswalks. Project is at 30% design, so it's a good time to make changes. They're looking at reducing parking impacts.
- Ad hoc committee report about this: Gary drafted letter asking for Meade Residents to be surveyed, and a list of cost of various elements so we can evaluate elements; Community Plan calls for a number of things that don't seem consistent with this plan. We put the letter on hold until we heard people's thoughts. It seems that people are not currently on the same page, so we should consider that. Khalisa was happy about the public meetings last month; a door to door survey would be costly, but avenues for feedback are welcome. She also looked at community plan, and thinks it fits with the plan, citing "Visions for 2020." Adam is pleased to learn, just tonight, that this should be reviewed by the Development Services Department. Developmental Services Department won't look at it until it's 100% designed, so we have a lot of opportunities to make preemptive changes.
- Jim would like notices to be sent to residents as well as property owners.
- More comments from board members:
  - ▮ Adam: wants what's best for everyone, and the turn lane to 32<sup>nd</sup> to be preserved.
  - ▮ Joseph: all needs should be addressed.
  - ▮ Earlene: wants to widen the whole road.
  - ▮ Caroline: traffic is way too fast, but wonders if traffic calming would be enough to slow traffic and make it safer with just Sharrows and calming measures. Also concerned about landscaping and lighting to make it inline with community plan.
  - ▮ Gretchen: in favor of safety and progress. There are a lot or problems to solve, but hopefully there is room to work for everyone, reasonably.
  - ▮ Marianne: concerns about parking and landscaping. Thinks parking could be addressed with an ordinance that would ban garages being used for storage instead of cars. Open carports for apartment buildings.
  - ▮ Gary: Spend millions on Meade to improve it, and encourages everyone to communicate directly with SANDAG. We want the best solution.

[[ Dan: looks forward to design changes. Seems city plan is going to eliminate parking spaces anyway, so we might not want to blame this plan. Looks forward to more research and report on findings of similar projects. Also concerned about visibility from alleyways.

- **Utility Undergrounding:** Recent Kensington-Talmadge hearing: SDG&E told them about initial steps and plans. Gary was at the meeting, and they expressed ability to move things around in the planning process. Earlene was also at the meeting: there's not a clear plan for what sections will be done when. Some believe poles in canyons create hazards. Boundaries seem to be shifting/changing as the plan is developed. There is no new information for us to consider at this time.

#### **Actions:**

- Response/Requests to SANDAG regarding Meade Ave. Bikeway Plans: No action.
- Response/Requests to SANDAG regarding upcoming utility undergrounding: No action.

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

- **Community Planning Committee:** Community Planners committee: Jim reports that new criteria for the Community Action Plan has been created that our Community Plan will need to adhere to.
- **Project Review Community:** No Projects.
- **Bylaw Update:** No new updates
- **Historical Property Review:** Properties on agenda did not have issues.
- **Transportation/Traffic Calming:** No updates.
- **City Infrastructure Oversight:** No projects.

**Adjourned at 8:31pm**

**The Next Meeting is 7/5/16**

#### **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](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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