



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

**Meeting Minutes – 7/5/2016**

**Meeting Beginning Time. 6:02pm by Jim Baross**

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

x	Gary Weber	x	Nancy Lawler	x	Mark Lawler (in at 6:21)
x	Khalisa Bolling		Dena Harris		Scott Kessler
x	Jim Baross	x	Ryan Zellers	x	Joseph Fombon (in at 6:08)
x	Caroline McKeown	x	Dan Soderberg (in at 6:11)	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 6/2016 NHCPG meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Caroline moved to approve the minutes and Marianne seconded. The approval was unanimous.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

No change from last month: \$1913.34 to date. Also, we still have license plate holders for sale. Keep your plates shaded this summer with a “Why Be Normal” frame. Stickers are also available for \$5, money for a new screen. Marianne motions to approve; Nancy seconds. The approval was unanimous.

**Information & Communication:**

**Reports from Government Representatives:**

- **Assembly member Toni Atkins:** Going to as many community meetings as she can, and is happy to be here. Also met with the AABA this morning. She will be returning to San Diego after August’s legislative

session. Highlights for the budget is education, and Prop 55 will be on the ballot in November, to continue the efforts passed by Prop 30 in 2012/4 (Atkins gave background on Prop 30 funding). The purpose is to promote diversity and continue reinvestment in education. The budget is also making efforts to improve healthcare access in California, as well as other projects.

The proposed budget also includes details to promote affordable housing, looking to community plans for guidance in the process, letting communities decide where density should be focused.

It hasn't passed yet, but she hopes it will.

Marianne asked about affordable housing; Ryan asked about changes to the gas tax/transportation funding.

- **Naomi from City Planning Department:** Introduced herself, and handed business cards to the board.

**Reports from Neighborhood Groups: Nancy for the Rec Council:** forming a committee to find solutions to people's concerns about the iDog Park. Earlene mentioned that people from Kensington can't be on the committee since they're in a different district; they also received details about what would be needed to change iDog Park ground cover.

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

Gretchen might have a change of circumstances that would cause her to leave the NHCPG.

Khalisa: concerned about litter in the community, and would like for us to discuss how the issue has been addressed in the past.

Dan: the major is bringing up the Jacob's plan in Balboa Park again. We previously voted against it.

Earlene: wants to talk again about board members identifying themselves at the meetings, and those identities should be on file and available to the public. Jim clarifies that rules require us to recuse ourselves if there is a conflict of interest at the time of a discussion, but financial disclosure is not required of planning group members. This item was discussed in previous months, and settled by the board.

Norma: mentions that the Community Association used to have trash pick-up days, but it's not clear if that's still in effect.

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

- **Caroline:** Two big things on social media this month revolved around the façade of 37ECB, and a lot of people hope they keep it; the other issue

was the mulch/ground cover in the iDog Park. Everyone wants the animals to be happy and healthy. #mulchgate2016

### Discussion Items:

4. **Urban Land Institute Technical Advisory:** Gary has a report and is explaining efforts being made to change the vacant lots at ECB and the I-15. The assessment is that those corners can't handle robust development on the lots that there. The land might be ideally used for small affordable housing units, but Gary believes we can do more than just that. Currently they're negotiating to use the space for pop-up events, and possible Rock Church parking on Sundays. They also suggest the community can pay 400K for a consultant to study the land, but these parcels have been studied excessively over the years, and hopefully we can build something useful there soon.
5. **Updates on sidewalk, curb, and gutter work being done:** Gary is wondering if there is a map of these projects, as none seems to be available at this time. No council rep is available to comment at this time. Naomi will look into it, and email Jim.
6. **Rock N Roll Marathon Event:** Apology was issued for vehicle access north of Adams during the event. Comment: this year's path allowed those who live between Adams and Meade to get in and out of their block. This past year's route seemed to be preferred by most people.
7. **Street Lighting Installation Notice for Bancroft south of Meade:** residents on that block initiated the installation in response to the attacks in North Park last year. The resident who broke the case (by looking at the photos of the suspect, and identifying the t-shirt, etc. (you missed a great story if you weren't there)) is married to an SDPD officer, so in lieu of the reward money for breaking that case, they opted to ask for street lights on their block. So, that's why they're being installed.
8. **New Stop Sign Approved for Sidney to East Mtn View Dr.:** Ryan has no report on that. Residents on Sidney have requested a Stop sign for those on Sidney turning on to East Mtn View Dr.
9. **San Diego River Tributary and Trails Study:** Jim: while the river is not part of Normal Heights, we have long wanted access to the valley through some kind of path/trail from North Adams down the hill. Gary strongly recommends inviting Kevin Johnson in developing a trail, as a continued effort that some were involved in in the past. Gary would love access to the Mission Valley, then under the 8, and up another path to the north side. Dan says that the project stalled because of issues with some property owners. Gary has many good ideas to make a trail work. More information at <http://sdrc.ca.gov/docs/sdrtcpts.pdf>
10. **Street Art for Normal Heights:** Norma brought a sample of a program from Eugene Oregon where a mural was put at on intersection's pavement. She would like to have one in Normal Heights (these exist in other areas).

Ryan mentions that another will be going in at Ulric and Eastman, and Chavelle mentions that another one is in Pacific Beach, even though we might have to wait for another cycle for certain grant funding. Caroline has a list of organizations that has grants for things like this. Carline and Gretchen will work with Norma on possible local resources. The conversation continues at <https://www.facebook.com/EugeneIntersectionRepair/videos/228567137536043>

### **Action Items:**

- 11. Response to SANDAG Meade Ave Bikeway proposal:** Jim asks if we would like to provide a list of details from the NHCPG for what we want in this project. Some residents of Meade have sent a letter to the NHCPG with details on their feelings (they support the bikeway, but are opposed to some of the traffic calming concerns). Jim proposes we combine the details in the letter, and the opinions expressed in last month's minutes. Gary feels we should communicate with SANDAG about having a workshop with the community. Khalisa would like to see our ideas sent, and the community to send the letter independently from a board sanctioned communication. Gary is opposed to a regional agency dictating what the neighborhood should decide for themselves. There is community concern, and we would like it addressed. Gary still wants residents of Meade surveyed.

Ryan makes a Motion: Send SANDAG a letter asking for additional community outreach via workshops and direct contact with residents/property owners, even though as a community we generally agree on the concept of the project, but want more input on the details and design of the project. Gretchen seconded. All approved.

- 12. Expenditures:** Naomi reported that the City cannot approve expenditures that aren't frequently used, but Caroline has been told that the tent has been approved and has been reimbursed; the projection screen has also been approved, but not ordered yet, so perhaps we can add that for next year.

**Motion:** Reimburse Caroline for \$64.20 for additional cost to tent. Ryan seconded. All approved.

- 13. Response/Request to SDG&E/City regarding upcoming utility undergrounding:** Earlene has been looking into details and has been talking to people. No action is proposed at this time.

**Motion:** The NHCPG should conduct a survey of the first phase of the block.  
**Joseph raises a substitute Motion:** Request SDG&E to have us approve the wording to any survey they give to residents.

**Earlene makes another Motion:** We survey residents (in a two-member teams), agree as a group on the questions that will be asked, and information be brought back to the group, and based on that information to act on that in the future.

Nobody seconds these motions.

**Caroline makes a Motion:** Post the map of the project on 3DD on social media, and we measure feedback about that. Joseph second's the motion. Gary says, "Stay out of my neighborhood. When SDG&E is ready to have that conversation, we will deal with it." All in favor, except Gary, who was opposed.

Gary makes motion to adjourn. Adam seconds. A vote was preempted by the following action, upon which we adjourned.

**Jim reminded the Board that in past years the Boards has taken a "vacation" from an August Meeting. Jim made motion to go Dark in August.** Ryan seconded. Dan, Marianne, Ryan, and Nancy and Mark Lawler approved. Gary, Earlene, Gretchen, Caroline, Khalisa, and Adam objected. Motion denied.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55pm  
**The Next Meeting is on 8/2/16.**

#### **Anticipated/Requested Future Agenda Items**

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