



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

Meeting Minutes – March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Meeting Beginning Time. 6:00pm by Caroline McKeown

Board Attendance (x means “present”):

x	Gary Weber	x	Nancy Lawler	x	Mark Lawler (arrived at
x	Bill Conway (arrived at 6:12)	x	Ralph Enriquez	x	Scott Kessler
	Jim Baross (C)	x	Ryan Zellers	x	Joseph Fombon (arrived at 6:45)
x	Caroline McKeown (T)	x	Dan Soderberg (arrived at 6:13)	x	Khalisa Bolling
	[vacant seat] (VC)	x	Earlene Thom	x	Adam Deutsch (S)

C=Chair; VC= Vice Chair; T= Treasurer; S=Secretary

### Administration Items:

The Meeting Agenda was modified to reflect that the meeting will start, then end at item #5 for board elections to commence. Gary made the motion, Ryan seconded. Vote was unanimous.

### Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

The Minutes of the 2/7/17 NHCPG meeting were distributed prior to this meeting. Adam made edits in response to feedback from board members. Khalisa moved to approve and Nancy seconded. Approval was unanimous.

### Treasurer’s Report:

Balance to date is 1787.66. We haven’t used funds from the city for administrative expenses (\$500) and we’re considering how to best utilize those funds. Adam made a motion to accept, Scott seconded. All approved.

## **Meeting Adjourned** at 6:06pm for board elections.

Candidates' names were compiled at the February meeting, and ballots were prepared by the secretary. Because the secretary was on the ballot, the election committee consisted of Caroline, Khalisa, and Ryan. The ballot has 13 candidates: Linda Case, Bill Conway, Adam Deutsch, Ralph Enriquez, Alberto Foglia, Marty Graham, Art Harrison, Scott Kessler, Nancy Lawler, Thomas Lovell, Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg, Dan Soderberg, Earlene Thom. Linda Case, Alberto Foglia, and Art Harrison were not present; Marty Graham withdrew from consideration prior to the meeting.

Caroline explained the election qualifications and process. Eligible voters were provided ballots, and the committee collected them.

## **Meeting Reconvened at 6:30pm**

### **Communications**

#### **Reports from Government Representatives –**

1. Chloe Madison from Chris Ward's Office. Introduced herself to some new members. Things have been busy down town, including Councilmember Sherman's proposal in a memo to combine planning groups, but Chris Ward is not in favor of that. As a member of the regional task force on homelessness, he's aware of issues in our neighborhood, and we're reminded that homelessness is not a crime, but if there is criminal activity, that should be reported to the appropriate offices. Ward is also focused on the Equal Pay Ordinance at the moment, which will come to council in April, and will hopefully be address with the budget at that time. The city is expecting a short-fall, but more on that will be discussed soon. Ward has also been discussing undergrounding for Normal Heights as soon as 2020! They've also been exploring pedestrian safety, and D3 has a number of dangerous intersections, so there is a lot of communication and attention that they are hoping to respond to with Traffic Engineering. On March 21<sup>st</sup> Ward will be having a Cocktail with a Councilmember event at Hess from 5 to 6:30pm. They're also addressing issues with tickets closing in the app before the job is

actually done; it was recommended that we call them when that happens.

Rebecca thanked Ward for his strong support of endangered species in Mission Bay and for his vote to continue predator control efforts at CA Least Tern and Light-footed Ridgway's Rail nesting sites.

2. Javier Gomez from Assemblymember Todd Gloria's Office. There is an event this week, and he's looking forward to seeing the community. (check flier) He also proposed a number of pieces of legislation, specifically mentioning the bill to save the endangered vaquita and one addressing the right to wear religious garb at high school graduations.

### **Reports from Community Groups –**

3. NH Comm. Assoc.: Jessica briefly spoke about the successful mixer the NHCA held at El Zarape on 32<sup>nd</sup> and Adams earlier in the month. Keep an eye on [normalheights.ca](http://normalheights.ca) to learn about their next community event!
4. Adams Ave. Business Assoc.: Unplugged is coming up on April 29th, and it's a great event featuring musicians at a number of venues along Adams Avenue in Normal Heights. It's a single-day event, rather than over the course of two days.

Scott also reported that the 200 trip hazards from Vons to about Texas were taken care of. This was a \$20,000 project.

There are new shops, eateries, drinkeries opening on Adams, and everyone is encouraged to check those out, and support small businesses in the neighborhood.

Scott also mentioned Off the Grid (see Minutes from December 2016 for details on the presentation from that company to the NHCPG board), and their starting date will likely be in August. Adam asked if they'll be returning to speak to the planning group, and Scott thinks that they will likely come back to speak with us at some point as they make preparations and attempt to acquire permits to operate in the Mason's parking lot.

5. Adams Ave. Recreation. Council: Nancy reported that an iDog Park Committee has been formed, so consider going to their meetings (held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month from 6:00 – 7:30pm at the Adams Recreation Center) to join that committee.

They also discussed the issue of a homeless population in the community, and the park next to the Rec. Center. Bob Keiser gave an update on details about that meeting (check those minutes). The staff of the Rec Council decided to take action about the park on Adams north of the Adams Elementary field. They've removed and changed the layout of seating/tables to discourage camping in that park. Signs have also been added to give notice that there's no camping there, and that items cannot be locked up to the gate in that park. Chloe mentioned that the city is also exploring options for those spaces. Caroline asked about bike racks, since that may be an issue in the future if kids can't lock their bikes to the fence.

6. Friends of NH Canyons: Nobody was present to discuss, but the group intends to have a path created from North Mountain View down to Mission Valley.
7. NH Arts Assoc.: Nobody was present to discuss the efforts to beautify Normal Heights with vibrant art.
8. El Cajon Blvd Business Assoc.: Ralph brought renderings of the renovations at Wilson Middle School, pointing out that our joint use of the field/park at Wilson Middle, will no longer be as accessible, given that it's being moved further away from our community (towards Orange Ave). Not sure on whether it will or will not be open for public use. However, there is a plan for an amphitheater, which could be an excellent addition to our community (though, across the street from Normal Heights, in City Heights). Rebecca also asked about 37ECB, and that should be open for public use hopefully by autumn.

**Non-agenda Public Comment (may be limited to 2 minutes each)**

9. Gerald wanted to give a shout-out to Chloe from Chris Ward's office about issues with our streets addressed. Progress seems to be happening, and Gerald appreciates the attention and communication. The alley behind his house has had 3 water main leaks, and there's a lot of damage, so he hopes people will continue to voice their concerns.

10. Kiley Wallace is writing a book about Kensington, and is hoping people might have old photos that they can use in that publication. Gerald suggested he check out Smitty's Garage. Wallace can be reached at kileywallace@yahoo.com

### **Communications Other –**

11. Some City notices were sent by the Planning Department, including: (1) asphalt resurfacing, with no mention of Normal Heights at all, (2) water and sewer pipe replacements, not necessarily correlated with road repair, and (3) sidewalk repair projects (remember, we have a historic pattern that needs to be installed!).

The Rock 'N' Roll Marathon planning their event in 2017, on June 4th. More details at <http://www.runrocknroll.com/san-diego/register/>. Jessica and the Community Association are thinking about making some kind of after-Rock 'N' Roll event to keep people in the neighborhood after the marathon is ending. Scott gave some information about various kinds of permits to check into.

Bill wants to know if we can invite someone from the City Streets Division to talk with us about street repair. There was discussion of having Streets and Water/Wastewater there at the same time so they can't point fingers at each other re resurfacing/sewer updates. Chloe said she'll talk to departments about coming to speak to us about our concerns.

12. Web & Social Media – It's been quiet, aside from some package thefts and car breaks-ins. As always, take appropriate steps to plan to receive packages, and *Light the Heights* by keeping your porch light on at night.

### **Information/Discussion Items**

13. Adams Ave. Elementary School construction progress update: Nobody seems to have any updates except Caroline who has noticed that the start of the project seems to be March according to public information. (Of course, the project *kinda* started when they installed the portables on open space in the school yard

back in July, so that technically counts.) Nobody from the school has come to speak with us.

14. Update on homeless people in Parks: We've discussed it earlier. Caroline brought up an encampment that started up on the 805N on-ramp, which people started to report, and it was cleaned up within days. If you see activity that is clearly unsafe, (like camping on the freeway buffers) make sure to report that.

Scott mentioned that the AABA has hired another staffer to help with interaction with homeless people along Adams Avenue. The man who's been hired has experience with homelessness, so is hopefully prepared to handle issues that arise responsibly.

Bill shared an anecdote about communicating with those without homes about keeping areas clean, and "managing" their behavior and engaging with compassion. Residents, businesses, and the neighborhood as a whole seems to be creating a patchwork of responses, as a comprehensive solution or program hasn't been created by the city or county.

Scott brought up new efforts to keep Adams cleaner, and for bar owners about being more mindful of those who are lingering outside their establishments.

Nancy brought up the house on Mountain View next to Normal Heights Elementary where people were living until it was condemned for raw sewage. In May, that house will be up for sale. If anyone learns of people squatting anywhere, contact the city or Nancy.

Rebecca asked about the place at 4006 Meade Ave. that's been boarded up for a while (after a fire, and some illegal weed operation). Caroline suggested checking the OpenSD site: <https://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/opensd>

**Action Items** – items may be taken up out of order:

15. Action on transient issues? Ralph suggests we prepare a mailer promoting actions like light areas, lock trash cans, etc. to

mitigate issues. Adam and Jessica brought up the idea of the community information flyer again, and Jessica would like to collaborate with someone from NHCPG to do that. Ralph volunteered to work with Jessica on that. No vote was required.

16. Discussion/decisions for community enhancement/involvement expenditure plans: dinners, benches, projector screen, meeting notification signs, etc.? Board name plate design and acquisition? (Some of these items could be fund by city administrative operation funds.)

After making a donation to the Mid-City Little League last month, the sentiment is that we should have a clear fundraising goal before engaging in more fundraising, so we're not having goods manufactured and selling them without having a clear purpose.

No proposals were made, and there was no action.

## **Committee and Ad Hoc Group Reports**

17. Community Planners Committee, CIP Prioritization Process update at April CPC meeting, discussion re: Work Plan for the Smart Growth & Land Use Committee: Gary suggested that the proposals or suggested plans to combine planning groups into larger regional entities are a move by some in the city to weaken community planning groups. Gary also clarified that the Mid-City Plan is something that we already have that hasn't been implemented, so we should study that plan, and focus on projects we want, that we should have.

Want to study it on your own? Here it is!

<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/planning/community/profiles/pdf/cp/cpmcfull.pdf>

18. Properties reviewed for historical significance – 4425 Swift Avenue, 4432 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, 3189 Monroe Avenue, 5089 East Mountain View Dr. Dan noted that the ones he looked at have

had significant changes to them (windows, out of style garage doors, etc.).

19. Project Review Committee – no new projects requiring review
20. Transportation/Traffic Calming from Ryan: Nothing new.
21. NH Library – Ralph: Nothing to report.

### **Adjourned at 7:31**

The Next Meeting is 4/4/17

After the meeting, election results were announced, and a Run-Off Election was required, as there was a tie between Earlene and Nancy. After ballots were handed out again, collected and tallied, the board members who were re-elected or newly elected are Bill Conway, Adam Deutsch, Ralph Enriquez, Scott Kessler, Nancy Lawler, Thomas Lovell, Rebecca Schwartz-Lesberg, and Dan Soderberg.

### **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, Naomi Siodmok at [NSiodmok@sandiego.gov](mailto:NSiodmok@sandiego.gov) or 619-446-5064.*

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

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