



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

Meeting Minute – April 4th, 2017

Board Attendance (x means “present”):

x	Gary Weber	x	Nancy Lawler	x	Mark Lawler (arrived at 6:05)
x	Bill Conway (arrived at 6:10)		Ralph Enriquez	x	Scott Kessler
x	Jim Baross (C)	x	Ryan Zellers (arrived at 6:03)	x	Joseph Fombon (VC)
x	Caroline McKeown (T)	x	Dan Soderberg (arrived at 6:08)	x	Khalisa Bolling
x	Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg (arrived at 6:03)	x	Thomas Lovell	x	Adam Deutsch (S)

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

Administration Items

1. Meeting Called to order at 6pm by Chair Jim Baross
2. Election of Board Officers: Joseph Fombon, the most senior member of the Normal Heights Community Planning Group in terms of continuous years of service, was given the “gavel” (which is comically small) and conducted the election of the new Board Officers. Jim self nominated without opposition and was voted for unanimously, Joseph nominated himself for vice chair without opposition and was voted for unanimously, then Caroline nominated herself for treasurer, and without opposition was voted for unanimously, and it was the same for Adam, who remains Secretary. Jim took over the meeting as the newly reelected Chair, and we moved forth into other tasks.
3. Agenda Setting: The Meeting Agenda was modified to reflect that the meeting will start, with board elections...obviously. Gary made the motion, Ryan seconded. Vote was unanimous.

4. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: The Minutes of the 3/7/17 NHCPG meeting were distributed prior to this meeting. Adam made edits in response to feedback from board members. Caroline moved to approve the minutes and Joseph seconded. The approval was unanimous. Jim abstained as he wasn't here.

5. Treasurer's Report: Caroline reports that the balance to date is \$1787.66. We haven't even gone near funds from the city for operating expenses, which is \$500, and we're considering how to best utilize those funds, which must be used by June. Caroline will propose an item in May we could use that money to purchase. Joseph made a motion to accept, Ryan seconded. All approved.

Communications

6. Reports from Government Representatives:

- Chloe Madison spoke about new council actions from D3 Ward's office. Ward is raising an equal pay ordinance (https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/cd3_memo_020817_equal_pay_or_dinance.pdf); there's also going to be a special meeting on March 20th regarding homelessness, which Ward has prepared proposals to address (https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/cd3_release032017.pdf).

April is also budget season, and the city is looking at short fall, and budget proposal comes on April 14th. The Mayor will bring it to council, and on April 15th there's a meeting open to the public. Ward's goal is to maintain city services.

The Beer with a Council Member was a success in North Park. Next event like this is going to be downtown at a coffee shop.

Caroline asked about public comment at the city council budget meeting, and Chloe will send the schedule and details about that to Adam to share with the planning group.

Rebecca asked why the city has a shortfall, and Chloe said that it's due to changes to the credit line in 2012; we probably won't see a surplus again until 2020.

April 27th is Coffee with the Councilmember.

- Report from Toni Duran, from State Senator Toni Atkins office: has introduced 17 bills, and coauthored 27 others. Housing Affordability is a top priority (SB 2); there's also Human Trafficking and programs for victims (a few bills including SB-230, SB-767, & SB-270), and Universal Single Payer Healthcare in CA (SB 562). Find more here: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml?session_year=20172018&house=Senate&author=Atkins&lawCode=All

Bob Keiser asked about housing and homelessness, pointing out how serious the problem is. He was told her bill on the issue was supported by every city except San Diego. Toni clarified that Mayor Faulkner supports it.

Joseph asked about the bills to reorganize the board of supervisors and the board of governments. Toni said that there are meetings about those issues in the coming weeks.

Rebecca asked about the San Diego River Park Conservancy bill, and certain language that moves certain authority to the county, and if Senator Atkins had responded to input from the San Diego River Park Foundation. She's asking as a member of the local Autobahn society (this is SB-214).

Jim asked about statewide changes to the Accessory Units rules on the state level ("granny flats," etc.), and she'll get back to us about that.

Adam asked about a lack of specific language in SB-562, and Toni mentioned that language has been recently added to that, and more details will follow.

Gerald asked about the recent Gas Tax Proposal (which Todd Gloria spoke about on KPBS earlier in the day). She said she'd look into it, and Gerald suggested a "gas tax" might be inadequate, considering technology and mileage advances. Toni suggests that options are being explored so everyone is paying a "fair share" for wear on the roads. There's also details on the governor's website: <https://govnews.gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=19741>

Daniel Tittle, Project Manager, with City of San Diego, about damage to pavement in the alleys: he's going to the council for more funding for that project soon. 619-533-7468.

Gerald asked about specific areas near 35th St. Tittle explained that there are multiple departments, and the dept. that puts down cold patch needs previous work to get approved by another department before more work can be done (thus illustrating the cluster that contributes the lack of maintenance to our roads).

Nathan asked about how projects were being prioritized. Tittle said that all areas with sewers and water will be addressed. He also explained that SDG&E has a blanket permit to do work, and they don't have control over those projects.

- Non-agenda Public Comment (may be limited to 2 minutes each)
 - Ryan wanted to comment and respond about the gas tax, and the Road Charge Program, which will report out in July for how that program went. As for the budget meeting on the 14th, he suggests people go to that meeting, and speak our neighborhood priorities. Ward Canyon park is not finished, and there are plans that have been approved that need to be completed (and we hope money will be allotted for that).

- Chloe encouraged people to show up to public meetings. Perhaps we can also advocate for more parks in Normal Heights, since we have a deficiency of parks compared to our approved Community Plan (more on that in this meeting).
- Rebecca asked if we could have more SDPD representation to come to the meeting. Jim suggested that it's best to call SDPD's Jenny Hall when we have issues, or when she has issues, and know that she's using time away from the meeting patrolling the streets. Gerald suggested there's a crime map on the city site we can review (<https://www.crimemapping.com>).
- Caroline suggesting inviting the new Mid-City Capt. to attend our meeting.
- Gerald also repeated the desire for the Streets Dept., and Water Dept., etc. to all show up at once (perhaps the Street Department might not want to come out to see our faces, but the looks on our faces are merely a metaphor for the state of the streets in our neighborhood). Chloe mentioned they only have 10 2-worker teams to fill potholes city wide. (Chloe and Chris Ward filled some pot holes themselves.)
- Chloe also advocated taking photos and sending them so there's a visual about the issue. Also, if issues are closed about from the GetItDone app, take note of that, and send the number to Chloe.

7. Reports from Community Groups:

- Adams Ave. Business Assoc.: Scott reported April 29th, Adams Ave. Unplugged with 32 businesses and 100 performances. Last Sunday in June is Taste of Adams, Sept 30th and Oct 1st is the Street Fair. AABA also approved the Off the Grid food truck events (which will be a 3 month pilot program). Also, there have been upgrades to the community center, so enjoy the new paint, new doors, and new LED lighting.

Bill wants to thank the AABA for grinding down the trip-and-falls last month.

- Adams Ave. Recreation. Council: There's an Easter egg hunt this year coming up, with a bouncing house and face painting; adult yoga on Saturdays, and a cooking class. Also, Movies in the Park are coming in June. United Methodist Church is also doing Movies in the Park this summer. Bob Keiser added that Officer Jenny Hall reported to their meeting, and said that crime seemed to be down in the last month. An officer from the Homelessness Outreach Team was also there.

8. Communications Other:

- Sewer and Water Group 767A projects will include water line replacement, Asphalt Resurfacing Group 1704.

- Web & Social Media - Caroline McK &/or Adam D: Not much this month. Adam posted looking for a belt sander, but nobody replied.

Action Items

9. Resolution reaffirming NH need for additional Public Park Space – Gary W.
Gary pointed out that our plan requires parks, and we need to help advance those plans. One idea is to expand the school cite, to tie Joint Use spaces together. The city has listed 30 new cites for parks, and none of them are located in Normal Heights. We need to make it known that we need these spaces that are required by our Plan.

The NHCPG needs to actively identify land space that should be used for Parks in Normal Heights. Gary proposes a comprehensive plan to get more parks in NH. He wonders if we have the funds to get a landscape architect to draw up plans to have a visual to present.

Jim suggested making a motion to reaffirm our dedication to increasing park spaces in Normal Heights (there are already plans to finish Ward Canyon Park).

As it happens, Gary has a motion crafted: Move to increase the amount of active and passive recreational space in Normal Heights through the acquisition of additional land in accordance with the recommendations of the Mid-City Communities Plan (August 1998) and the Mid-City Public Facilities Financing Plan (FY 2014).

Caroline seconded the motion. Conversation ensued:

Rebecca suggested that we should have specific language about finishing the parks we already have, like Ward Canyon Park, and develop the lands we acquire. Gary replied that the goal is to look beyond Ward Canyon. We're added "and development" to the motion. Adam suggested that keeping it broad allows us to speak to acquisitions and development of land all over the Normal Heights.

Marianne Green suggested we green our parkways to make the neighborhood more walkable. Jim mentions that there are differences between active and passive greenways.

Caroline asked about taking back alleys after undergrounding, as the SDG&E will no longer need them for their current use.

Claire asked if a library would count as this kind of recreation space, and Jim said it's not the same city department, but Caroline reminded us that those projects would actually come from the same funds.

The final language of the motion, to send this Resolution on letterhead to Chris Ward: Move to increase the amount of active and passive recreational space in Normal Heights through the acquisition and development of additional land in accordance with the recommendations of the Mid-City Communities Plan (August 1998) and the Mid-City Public Facilities Financing Plan (FY 2014).

Vote in favor, unanimously in the affirmative.

[If you want to geek out on the park land in Normal Heights, it's in the Community Plan on page 125:

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

Bill suggests identifying specific plans, and they talked about community outreach efforts to prioritize things.

10. Clarification of which new Board member will be filling the vacated one-year term of Marianne Green: Nancy only is eligible to serve for one more year, so Caroline suggested that Nancy volunteers to take that seat. Nancy agreed to that. No motion was required.
11. Request investigation: The vocational school on 37 ECB has apparently reneged on their commitment to create a community accessible green park space. Reportedly the area that was to be the "parklet" has become a fenced in parking lot. Marianne reported that due to budget short falls, what was going to be open space will now be parking because other land for parking wasn't where they initially planned. We don't have all the facts just yet, but it would be helpful to get clarification on the public space incorporated in that project.

Rebecca asked about someone who spoke to them last month. Gary responded that we should speak to Danny Fitzgerald, the contact for that project. They seem to still be in construction, and it's taking longer than anticipated. Caroline found the initial plan on the KPBS report on it that has a plan (<http://www.kpbs.org/news/2015/sep/28/long-time-city-heights-business-become-san-diegos-/>). Scott nominated Gary to contact the developers about that, and Gary will do that with the help of Caroline.

12. Review and approve a flier/pamphlet info pamphlet & how to report illegal dumping and other negative side-effects of homeless encampments. Neither the Community Associate nor Ralph are present, but Caroline has been in communication, and that flier is being developed.
13. Board nameplate design and acquisition? The paper nameplates seem adequate (and an ecofriendly option), so we'll stick with those.

Information/Discussion Items

14. Jim mentions that there are plans from the development at Bancroft and Adams, and that one specific diagram includes parking lifts in their garage, and we'll consider if those are adequate to fulfill parking requirements for the development in our next meeting.
15. Roadway condition concerns: how to expedite repairs? This was discussed previously, and we'll take it up at the next meeting with city officials in our capacity as squeaky wheels.
16. Rock 'n' Roll San Diego Marathon & ½ marathon, taking place on Sunday, June 4th. The course has not changed from last year. Natalia Mendez, Lee Collenberg

was filling in. She shared literature about the event, and the route is exactly the same this year as it was last year. It's the 20th Anniversary of this event. There will still be a band located on San Diego, and the wear-blue stretch on North Mountain View in remembrance of fallen military service members (<http://www.wearblueruntoremember.org/>). Hopefully by 10am the street will be cleaned and reopened for traffic, followed shortly by the cleaning and opening of Adam Ave.

17. Updates - Wilson Middle School Improvements, and construction progress at Adams Elementary: Nobody is present to give updates on that.

Marianne wanted to have a trail created through Wilson's campus, so one could run from North to South from Ward Canyon to Park De La Cruz in a natural setting.

18. Update on alleviating "Homeless"/Vagrant issues: Some park benches and picnic tables were removed near the Rec Center. Rebecca asked if it's strange to make our own parks less useful and pleasant for us, in order to remove people. Bob Keiser said that Parks & Rec made the decision. Jim explained a battle between making the space attractive, and also promoting use. Rec Council meets on the 4th Tuesday at 6pm.

Chloe explained that they've had a meeting with Capt. Hastings about options to help the space be welcoming to residents, and less desirable for people who camp, etc. The removal of pieces is only temporary, and those will be eventually replaced. There are a lot of options being explored, and ethical issues that we aren't getting into the weeds about right now.

Caroline mentioned that, with regard to the park on Adams, it would benefit from a small fence so families with children use it more for things like picnics, without fear of children using the existing tot-lot play structure running into Adams Ave. Nancy will bring it up at the Rec Council meeting and there will be a city staff member at their next meeting. There's a similar fence at the library park further down Adams. The more activity in the park, the more loitering will be discouraged.

Claire suggested having social event at park on Adams, as part of the initiative to get community to go to City Council meeting to advocate for parks.

Tim wondered if more park space is just more space for homeless people (but our neighborhood need for parks and open space seem to be recognized as separate issues for most people).

19. Discussion of Ideas for increasing community involvement and use of social media: Jim is thinking about an event like an ice cream social where we invite people. Thomas supports Gary's idea of having visual elements, but wonders if we can use the city funds for outreach and advocacy for the Ward Canyon Park project. He's suggested making a flier to attend the city meeting to advocate for our park wants. Thomas will bring the flier draft and details before the group in May for vote

on content and budget in time for it to be distributed prior to the May 15th Council meeting. Caroline suggest we can boost social media costs for minimal funds, (something like \$20). We agree that's a good use of funds, not to exceed \$200.

Ryan made a motion to approve that; Caroline seconded.

Rebecca suggested we make a social park event as preparation for community action the City Council Meeting.

20. Redevelopment of Qualcomm Stadium area may offer remediation opportunities: Jim explained that development at the stadium site could give us opportunities to develop a walking/hiking/biking trail from 33rd.

Gary put it on the agenda, so he explained: we want to promote our Mid-City Urban Trail with this project. We should be able to (in 600-24) that we have input on this project since it's in an adjacent community. They did expansion on Texas St., after all. Further discussion included, "For what it's worth, the Soccer City plan is dumb," and isn't going to help our efforts in this community.

Rebecca mentioned that if it goes to the ballot box, they bypass environmental review (which sounds completely insane). We only get things like mitigation paths if they go through environmental review, and we don't get any incorporation of a path unless we get developers to plan with us.

Again, April 27th is Coffee with the Councilmember, if you want to take it up with Chris Ward at that event. Mission Valley is D7, represented by Scott Sherman.

21. Reminder that Board members are to have attended/go through online COW training.

Committee and Ad Hoc Group Reports

22. Community Planners Committee – Accessory Dwelling Units – Statewide rules, Councilmember/SGLU recommendations for CPGs discussed (move to get rid of them was squashed quickly), CPG training & diversity of membership ideas discussed. I asked if community event Social/Workshop events are eligibility for City reimbursement. (asking people who would run to prepare information for the community to be informed). Gary added that the city would be fine with removing planning group input, so they can do what they want. We should be forceful, and not let them silence us. Adam commented to Jim at the meeting that the other neighborhood groups don't seem to use the internet to keep track of membership, attendance, social media, or other outreach tools.
23. Properties reviewed for historical significance – 4626-4628 Wilson Avenue. Nothing here.
24. Project Review Committee – no new projects requiring review
25. Transportation/Traffic Calming; – Ryan left.

26. NH Canyons, developing a Friends of group – Alberto Foglia &/or Eric Bowlby info of Canyon Enhancement Planning process to work with the community on some official access and/or resurrect the SD River Canyon Tributary Trail plan.
27. NH Library - Ralph E isn't present.

Meeting cut at 8:05pm

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, Naomi Siodmok at 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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