



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

Meeting Minutes – May 1st, 2018

Board Attendance (x means “present”):

X	Gary Weber (C)	X	Linda Case	X	Mark Lawler
	Vacancy	X	Ralph Enriquez (VC)	X	Scott Kessler
X	Jim Baross		Alison Flynn	X	Marty Graham
X	Caroline McKeown (T)	X	Dan Soderberg (in at 6:10)	X	Michael Chandler
X	Rose Kelly	X	Thomas Lovell	X	Adam Deutsch (S)

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

Administration Items

5:30 Project Review Subcommittee Meeting - 3226 Madison Ave.

Request variance to reduce the required rear yard to 11.9 feet for a 144 sq ft one-story addition

Interested parties did not show up for the review.

6:00 Call to Order - Start of NHCPG Meeting

1. Introduction of planning group members.
2. Agenda Modifications/Setting *(Note that items may be addressed out of listed order).*
 - a. We haven't addressed the money from the city in for the treasurer's report. M/S:
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes – Adam D. M/S: Caroline/Marty. Scott Abstains.
4. Treasurer's Report – Caroline M. \$2341.71, which doesn't including \$500 for operating expenses. Caroline proposing webhosting, but we're good on that for 3 more years. Other suggestions were made. Ralph suggested filing cabinets, but Scott has room in the AABA office filing cabinets that we can use. Caroline suggests printer, toner, and paper for printing in the Community Center AABA office printer. There's also a suggestion for a microphone/speakers, and Caroline says they're available for under \$500.

M/S:Ralph/Thomas to buy an microphone/speaker system. The projection screen in house is both “small and shitty,” but a new screen would cost over \$500. There was also consideration of getting a projector, as we've been using Jim's; we can keep using that and AABA has one we can use, too. Adam suggests we skip the projector, and go with the first motion for office supplies and microphone/speaker system. **All approve, except for Dan who abstains because he was late to the meeting.**

Public Comment

5. Non-agenda public comment may be limited to two minutes per person:

- a. Mark Roland from Mid City Little League: He gave background and history about the league and who it serves. They do everything they can to supply any child who wants to play with the gear they need, and it's only \$90 (the lowest in the city) to join a Little League. He also shared the challenges they face with our limited park area in Normal Heights, only one (the joint-use agreement with Adams Elementary) has just one usable field. He'd like to see Central Middle be developed to create fields, and he says it can hold up to 4 baseball diamonds. That campus is in City Heights. Gary thanked him and encouraged him to keep promoting this idea.
- b. Carolyn from Rock 'n Roll Marathon: Thanked us for being a great location for the marathon to run through. This year's is Sunday, June 3rd.
- c. John Watson, a candidate for the SDCC District. He came to share details his candidacy and encouraged the crowd to read the ballot and vote for him.

Reports

6. Government Representatives

- a. Brett Weise from CM Ward's D3 Office: Budget review starts next week, and will be looking line-by-line at the budget, and input is welcome.

Informational meeting with IBA is on May 9th at the Banker's Hill Club from 6pm to 9pm. It's a good place for background on how the whole budget process works. On May 14th to 6pm to 9pm is for public input at City Council for the budget.

They voted yesterday to lower fees to renovate detached structures into residential units. It passed 8-0 to waive a number of fees associated with that process, from about \$30k to closer to \$5k.

They also voted on a contract for Animal Services: <https://www.sdhumane.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Carlsbad-City-Council-Unanimously-Votes-to-Award-Animal-Services-Contract-to-San-Diego-Humane-Society.pdf>

The newsletter can be found at: <https://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd3/newscenter>

Earlene asked about parking requirements on those detached structures, and Brett explained that they were not part of the legislations passed. Thomas asked about dangerous intersections in the neighborhood, and we'll communicate about that later in the meeting (scroll away!). Caroline asked about how a decline in permit fees will impact the services the city creates from those fees; Brett said the state mandated this change, and there are opportunities to find additional funding from other sources, but this will have a negative fiscal impact on the city and neighborhoods. Earlene mentioned that it will raised assessed value, but Brett points out that Prop 13 keeps those taxes the same for current owners. 87% of our property tax money goes to the county. But the point was then made that when properties are sold, they will be at higher prices, generating more tax revenue.

- b. Javier Gomez from Assemblymember Todd Gloria's Office: They're pushing for \$1.5b to go to housing and homeless issues in the state. Check his site and newsletter for all the details on legislation they're working on. The county has \$185m of unspent money for mental health care, and there's legislation proposed to make it so counties can't just sit on money given from the state, and must be spent within 3 years of receiving it.

June 24th, Community Coffee in this room from 8am to 11am.

7. Community Groups

- a. **Adams Avenue Business Association:** Scott talked about Adams Unplugged last Saturday, with over 16,000 website visitors from Friday to Saturday. June 2nd is Art on Adams. This Saturday at the Mason Lodge Lot is a new pop-up market from 11am to 5pm. June 24th is Taste of Adams Ave. 45 restaurants are participating.

He wants to share about ADA renovations on this building, which will include putting a lift on the stage, with no stairs. They couldn't just take the wall from the south side of the building to build a ramp, so there's that.

The SD County Bike Coalition wants to use Adams for a Ciclos Dios event, they're talking about.

- b. **El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association:** Ralph reported on several summer events along the Blvd. At 3450 ECB, the new owner of the building intends to build a community tavern. There's also a local interview series they're hosting.
- c. **NH Urban Arts:** Their meeting is tomorrow, at the Rec Center from 6pm to 8pm. Gabriel Dice has put up the mosaic in front of Art Form; dedication is May 8th. The Rec Center has approved redoing the art on the north side of the Rec Center. They also have totes made from old Adams Ave. Banners, they'll be selling them for \$10 each.

A question was asked about painting the Mock Building, but since it's slated to be demolished, they won't do that.

- d. **Adams Avenue Rec. Council:** they recently passed actions for themes for art on the Rec Center.; there are no funds for that. They also approved a plan for drought tolerant plant, and an herb garden and more benches are also approved, and there are funds for those.
They've been letting the grass die in preparation for installing new desert-scape.

8. Social Media & other communications – Adam D. & Caroline M.: Same old stuff, nothing new. A local resident has been making sure that when Normal Heights is used in local reporting, it's not being misused (the way good things that happen here seem to be attributed to "North Park," and when there are negative reports from surrounding neighborhoods, they attribute it to Normal Heights). Journalists: check neighborhood boundaries, please!

Chair Report

9. Planning group seat vacancy – Bill Conway's resignation: nominating committee to fill that seat at the next meeting is going to be Adam, Rose, and Linda. This is a board election. We will elect someone at the next meeting.
10. Proposed meeting dates thru July: Gary proposes moving the meeting in June to the 12th. He also proposes moving the July Meeting off of July 3rd, to July 10th. Debate about the July move ensued. Adam asked if we can bring fireworks to the meeting, and Gary suggested we always try to have fireworks at these meetings! We'll move meetings (or not) over in Actions Items.
11. Sign up sheets for each CPG activity: Gary wants to have a single place where people can sign up for stuff they're interested in.
12. Special meeting suggestion: Do we want to have special meetings on other dates to just focus on single issues? It would be a non-action item meeting, and would be meant to

have a public conversation about specific things (so we don't run out of time in these monthly events). Gary proposes a meeting in 3 weeks, on May 22nd, from tonight for open discussion to organize our ideas. Marty suggests setting up some kind of survey or prep message to establish context for the meeting.

Action Items

13. Filling planning group seat vacancy: **M/S:Ralph/Caroline:** Adam will run the nominating committee, and will have the election at the June Meeting. **All approved.**
14. CPC positions: Currently Gary and Jim represent NH at the CPC meeting. Gary attended the last one, along with Jim. Ralph is interested in that position. Conversation ensued about whether Gary wants to do that, and if Jim wants to continue. **M/S:Caroline/Jim: Chair is designee, and VC is the alternate, and we can always change this later with a new action item. All voted in favor, Ralph abstained because it pertains to him.**

The new planning director is actually not a city planner, but is a lawyer, and the Grand Jury says there shouldn't be planning groups anymore. We'll send the Grand Jury Report out, as it's amusingly bad. They also discussed city staff at all meetings, and it would be wonderful if the Planning Department rep was here each meeting. There's also an orientation coming up that people should attend on May 5th.

15. Adjusted meeting schedule: June 5 (election day) & July 4. **M/S:Jim/Michael: Postpone the June 5th to the 12th, and not move the July Meeting. All voted in favor.**
16. Status of actions taken at previous NHCPG meetings:
 - a. Density response: they said they don't know, and won't know until we revise our community plan. Rose can do a basic calculation of area by current zoning. We want these numbers to demonstrate that we have more density than the services we should have to meet the needs of those residents.
 - b. Schools – unmet needs, joint use: Adam gave a background on the communications he's had with our District Trustee and other SDUSD staff. Scott then gave background on promises the SDUSD has made, and have broken repeatedly. **M/S:Scott/Thomas: Please send us designs for the fence for park adjacent to the community center, and allow for community input as agreed on in previous community taskforce meetings.** Jim wants us to also have details on when any fences will be locked and when they'll be accessible. Norma asked about the wall with the handprints, and hope it will be saved. There was discussion about fencing and security, and just how complicated all these things are. All voted in favor.
 - c. Park & Rec. – Park development , maintenance & operations: We still want Ward Canyon Park completed, and we want more parks in our community. Rentals of our fields from other groups makes about \$3,000, and that money is not being put back into our community, while taking the land from the residents' use.

Marty suggests we go beyond the school, and communicate with other public entities, like the City Attorney advocating for our needs, and the obligations they have to serve our community.

17. **M/S: Rose/Ralph: May 22 - special non-voting meeting proposal, at 6pm, all voted in favor.**
18. Canyons: Michael thinks we have to have more conversation at the 5/22 meeting.
19. **Project Review – recommendations on 3226 Madison:** Residents didn't show up to the 5:30 meeting. A representative spoke up in this item, talked about how difficult it's been for them to get a 3 ft. variance. **M/S:Jim/Linda that we do not oppose this project.** Caroline asked about the plan, and historically the house already extends into the variance. There are no adjacent neighbors. All voted in favor.

Discussion Items

20. Joint NHCPG/NHCA handout: Adam and Ralph made revisions to it. Ralph suggests we do an action next month about it.
21. High accident intersections in NH: 36th and ECB is slated and funded for construction, but 33rd st. and ECB isn't being addressed yet.
22. Gateway markers (hopefully we can get those done with the SANDAG bike project).
23. Historic Review
 - a. 4383 Cherokee Ave
 - b. 4586 – 4588 34th St
 - c. 4884 33rd St
 - d. 3440 Cromwell Place
 - e. 4358-4360 Felton St
 - f. 4556-4554 Wilson Ave
 - g. 4471-4471 ½ Bancroft St
 - h. 3586 Adams Ave

Upon review, there was only one, h, at 3586 Adams Ave. It meets at least two requirements for historic review. The rest were too severely renovated for concern.

Information Items

24. None at this time

Activity Reports (These will be hashed out at the May 22nd meeting):

(Note: The following are listed to determine interest only, not for full discussion at this time)

25. History & Preservation
 - a. Archive responsibility and location
 - b. 70 year NH demographic trend lines
26. Density & Zoning
 - a. Corner lots status – 40th & ECB
 - b. Boulevard development potential under existing zoning
27. Traffic & Circulation
 - a. Signalized intersections
 - b. Crosswalk marking upgrades by type and location
 - c. Sidewalk issues
 - d. Traffic control upgrades
28. Parking
 - a. Maximizing on-street parking – Curb colors & time limits
 - b. Evaluating off-street parking for compliance
 - c. Curb restoration feasibility
29. Bicycles
 - a. Early action – painting lanes?
 - b. Lanes and safety improvements
 - c. Storage methods and locations
30. Library
 - a. Location determination
 - b. Ancillary uses
 - c. Financing options
31. Schools
 - a. Joint Use agreements
 - b. Community impacts & mitigation
32. Parks: Adams, Ward Canyon & Mini-parks
 - a. Design and Development process
 - b. Maintenance & Operations issues
 - c. Equivalencies explained
 - d. Finish Ward Canyon + Caltrans ramps
 - e. Rescue Adams – parking + drop off + lost green space
 - f. MC Little League permanent home

- g. Mini-park site selection process
- 33. Canyons
 - a. Urban Trail to Mission Valley and the SD River Park
 - b. Reasonable canyon access issues
- 34. Undergrounding
 - a. ID location & timing
- 35. Arts & Culture
 - a. Gateway structures, signboards, lighting



- b. Statuary, sculptures & murals

Future Items...

7:55pm Adjournment

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