



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

Meeting Minutes – September 4th, 2018

Board Attendance (x means “present”):

X	Gary Weber (C)	X	Linda Case (in at 6:12)	X	Mark Lawler
	Vacancy	X	Zephen Specht	X	Scott Kessler
X	Jim Baross	X	Alison Flynn	X	Marty Graham
X	Caroline McKeown (T)		Dan Soderberg	X	Michael Chandler
X	Rose Kelly	X	Thomas Lovell	X	Adam Deutsch (S)

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

Administration Items

Call to Order - Start of NHCPG Meeting

1. Introduction of planning group members.
2. Agenda Modifications/Setting. No changes were made.
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes – Adam sent out a draft of the Minutes from last month, received comments from the board, made edits accordingly, and sent out the Minutes again.
M/S:Marty/Jim. All approved, except, who Caroline abstained because she was absent.
4. Treasurer’s Report – Caroline M. No change.

Public Comment

5. Non-agenda public comment may be limited to two minutes per person
 - a. Ralph Teyssier from KenTal Planners: thanking us for the efforts we’ve made to communicate with SANDAG about the bike plan on Meade. They’re also trying to get SANDAG to listen to the community to implement a project that compliments the neighborhood and advances the Communities Plan.
 - b. One resident is concerned about break-ins north of Adams, drug use, and waste left by people overnight (making the area sound like some horrorscape). She’s glad Jenny Hall is here to hear these concerns, and hopes to get more SDPD coverage for that area, some of which is poorly lit. Jenny Hall talked about what kinds of things to report on Getitdone vs. nonemergency vs. 911. Caroline reminded people to *light the heights* (see the big graphic at the end of the minutes).
 - c. Jim reported that the gates at Normal Heights Elementary were locked again all weekend. There is still no response from the district about adhering to the Joint Use Agreements they have with the city and people who depend on these open spaces.
 - d. Britt Jones commented that maybe the city can do some kind of cost sharing to help people install lights in poorly lit areas (specifically in the context of the blocks around the schools).

Reports

6. Government Representatives:

Councilmember Chris Ward: Came to give us an update (and tell us about the recent addition to his family). Police raises just started, and the academy has large classes of recruits finishing and starting up. Homeless issues are still a priority, and he gave an update on the HOTeam, and services that are available for those who want to take advantage of them. He's also pushing for more affordable housing, and supportive transitional housing opportunities.

Neighborhood projects have some growing pains (roads, undergrounding, water pipes, etc.). Keep calling the office, and using the Getitdone app to express concerns. Data points matter when they make arguments for us, and calling and reporting creates data. Keep the data coming.

He's also proposed Styrofoam/One-time-Use Plastic regulations for the City of San Diego. It's about keeping trash out of the oceans and other natural environments. The old fearmongering about how ecofriendly options are too expensive don't apply anymore, as options are available without high costs. This is a move toward zero waste in San Diego. However, it's not a total ban, as some communities still need access to options, and the regulations are mindful of those populations. This passed out of the Rules Committee, and will go to full council in October.

The community asked some questions about various projects, from homelessness, to climate action ideas for the city, and state regulations of electric scooters.

Gary asked about takes on upcoming ballot measures, and Chris talked in favor of Prop 1 (\$4 billion in bonds for housing programs and Veteran's home loans) and Prop 2 (Progressive Tax to Support Mental Health Services / Revenue Bonds to Support Homeless Prevention Housing). He's opposed to Prop 6 (Gas Tax Repeal), and talked about how much the city has benefited from funds from that source.

We're going to evaluate the Polystyrene Foam Ban and Restrictions in an action item at the Oct. Meeting.

7. Community Groups

- a. **Adams Avenue Business Association:** The Adams Ave. Street Fair is coming up, Sept. 29th-30th. The free wifi hotspots are being installed in the next month or two. They've contacted CalTrans to widen the sidewalks over the 805 freeway. There's also been a reported uptick in homelessness activity according to business owners. The AABA is also applying for new business loans for start-up capital, and you can contact Scott about that program.
- b. **El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association:** Nobody from that group here tonight, but Gary spoke about various pop-up events they've been doing, and they hope you can get out to those events! Details are at <http://theboulevard.org/>
- c. **NH Urban Arts:** They're talking to the owner of the building south of Adams Ave just over the 805, and they're excited about a mural to help designate the neighborhood to people driving east into the Normal Heights. They're taking ideas for mural design. They're also still exploring doing street murals. They're also open to other ideas. They're also taking ideas, on Oct 9th from 6-8pm in this community space, to take ideas for how to redesign Adams Ave. Park with the Rec Center.

The Mid-City Communities Plan calls for “Entry monuments, special landscaping, identification signs, urban plazas or other places that enhance pedestrian movement” at locations including 805 and El Cajon Blvd and the 15 and Adams Ave. The city is obligated to do this, but a mural on a private building will have to do.

- d. **Adams Rec. Advisory Group:** Bob Keiser reviewed their recent conversations about what to do with the Rec Center Park. He also gave a play-by-play of the frustrating transition from the Rec Council to an Advisory Group. After the money they raised to reinvest in this neighborhood was taken by the city, and a meeting they had where they agreed to give over \$1800 to the NH Urban Arts group, the Area Manager ruled that the meeting was invalid, but then the chair wrote a check for the amount anyway, and that money is in the NH Urban Arts account for future use at the Rec Council.

Scott asked about when the grass (now long dead) will be handled there, and Brett will get a timeline on that from Parks and Rec.

- e. Social Media & other communications – Adam D. & Caroline M.: Lots of coyotes (or just one that people are seeing all over) around the neighborhood. Packages are being stolen. Police said not to call 911 if you just see a coyote. Nancy Lawler mentioned that some people get spikey armor for their dogs.

8. Chair Report

- a. Gary is suggesting moving the Nov. meeting to Oct. 30th, and wants Scott to check the availability; it’s not available that night (there’s a Tango class). We’ll figure it out next month, possibly having the Nov. meeting at another location.
- b. Planning group seat vacancy – Ralph Enriquez resignation/replacement will be filled in actions items.
- c. Understanding ECB zoning: Gary’s working with a member of city staff about what our options are, and how we can achieve our goals. We hope they’ll come to a meeting soon.
- d. Report on BYOBike community tour – Details about that are in the agenda.
- e. CPC Report: Conversation with the new planning director, Gary wants us to write our own Parks Master Plan for Normal Heights. We have experts who can help us create this.

Action Items

- 9. Filling planning group vacancy. Adam emailed who were eligible. Alison/Michael nominated Gautam Dey, who told the board about himself, his professional background, and the open source app he’s working on (more details at scoutred.com). Jim asked if projects he’s talking about might create conflicts of interest, but since it’s all open source it’s not. **Board Vote: all in favor.**
- 10. Consideration of accepting BYOBike tour plan recommendations. It’s a list of conclusions drawn from the community ride.
M/S:Adam/Michael: To distribute the conclusions to appropriate offices to get support for implementing our communities plan. **All in voted in favor.**
Caroline thinks a ride like this should be at least an annual event, and Bird has said they’d donate scooters for the event.
- 11. Prepare displays, staff joint booth with NHCA/NHUA/ARAG. Adam designed a brochure to distribute at the Street Fair. Caroline will coordinate a volunteer schedule. The Rec Center will be selling water.

Discussion Items

- 12. NH Canyon access and preservation – Michael Chandler. He’s having a meeting at 33rd and Mountain View at 6pm in two weeks, on 9/18/18.

13. NH Parks Master Plan – Normal Heights segment. Gary is emphasizing that we need to make it clear what we want as far as parks in this area. We have a landscape designer who is happy to help us render plans if we can communicate our priorities.
14. Projects with 45 year rule applied:
 - a. 5034 Raymond Pl
 - b. 5009-5011 34th St
 - c. 3619 Madison AveThere was nothing of note this month.

Information Items

15. City of San Diego Community Needs Survey – helps determine how tens of millions of dollars of federal entitlement grants are spent in San Diego through 2024
 1. Here is the direct link to the survey: <https://datasd.typeform.com/to/ckKo5u>
 2. Here is the info: <https://www.sandiego.gov/cdbg/general/consolidatedplanmaterials>
16. Additional Bike Lanes: Gary asked Jim if we might identify and request additional bike lanes and pedestrian crossings. Especially if it's just paint jobs, hopefully we can get some progress.
17. The following topics are candidates for further discussion:
 - a. History & Preservation. Zephen is talking to people about this, and would like to make a historic book.
 - i. Archive responsibility and location
 - ii. Content – please email photos and info to normalheightshistory@gmail.com
 - iii. 70 year NH demographic trend lines
 - iv. Bicycles
 - b. Schools
 - i. Joint Use agreements
 - ii. Community impacts & mitigation
 - c. Undergrounding
 - i. ID location & timing
 - ii. Alley vs. Street process?
- a. Arts & Culture
 - i. Gateway structures, signboards, lighting
 - ii. Statuary, sculptures & murals

Adjournment 7:52

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 Vice Chair, Rose Kelly at rosemargaretkelly@gmail.com, 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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