



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

**Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 6:00pm until approximately 8:00pm**

Board Attendance (x means “present”):

X	Gary Weber (C)	X	Linda Case	X	Mark Lawler
	Gautam Dey	X	Zephen Specht	X	Scott Kessler
	Jim Baross	X	Alison Flynn	X	Marty Graham in at 7:14pm
X	Caroline McKeown (T)	X	Dan Soderberg in at 6:19pm	X	Michael Chandler
X	Rose Kelly	X	Alberto Foglia	X	Adam Deutsch (S)

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

**6:00 Call to Order - Start of NHCPG Meeting**

1. Introduction of planning group members and audience members
2. Agenda Modifications/Setting (Note: items may be addressed out of listed order)
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes – Adam Deutsch. M/S:Rose/Linda. Chandler and Caroline have to abstain, as well as Scott, as they were not here.
4. Treasurer’s Report – Caroline McKeown. Current balance is \$2191.79, not including \$500 in operating expenses from the city.

**Public Comment**

5. Non-agenda public comment may be limited to two minutes per person
  - a. Capt. Art Harrison spoke about parking, and thinks it’s one of the main issues especially south of Adams. He suggests the city needs to do more. That’s on the agenda, and when Gary and Caroline mentioned that we were doing *non-agenda*, he said, “I’m warning you,” and continued to talk until the words faded to a variety of facial expressions.
  - b. Another resident brought up the Getitdone app, and wonders if there’s a report we can get broken down by community, so we can get a gauge for what is being reported from Normal Heights.

**Reports**

6. Government Representatives
  - a. Brandon from County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher: introduced himself, and offered to set up his attendance at the planning group.
  - b. Toni Duran from Senator President Pro Tem Toni Atkins office: the new session has begun, and Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> is the deadline for new legislation proposals, so we can contact their office about our concerns. Already ready is SB1, and a Medical bill that includes coverage for mental health issues for more than 1 visit. The Cal Earned Income Tax Credit has been extended.

Cpt. Art Harrison asked about the Medicare for All/Single Payer program for the state, and Toni explained that it's still being worked out by various people.

7. Community Groups

- a. Adams Avenue Business Association: Scott reported on the annual breakfast meeting. April 27<sup>th</sup> is Adams Unplugged. There are 5 new restaurants opening on Adams Ave (across all neighborhoods).
- b. El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association: They've unveiled their Vision 20/20 plan, focused on transit along the Blvd. They're also inline with our goals, Gary reports, about having some in-fill/positive development along Adams Ave.
- c. NH Urban Arts: Norma Stafford reported on the First Saturday Social in the Park event, which happens monthly. She mentioned the plan for the butterfly kaleidoscope design of the park. They're applying for grants and gathering details for that design.
- d. Adams Rec. Advisory Group: Bob Keiser they discussed funding for the NHUA project, and they also want a "natural playground," which looks okay, but it's not very useful as a playground at this point. They also want to restore the old plaque.

Caroline offered some old information about the plaque that was stolen. We discussed some alternative materials for the plaque.

8. Social Media & other communications – Adam & Caroline. A neighbor contacted Caroline about noise complaints coming from the church near Normal Heights Elementary.

**Chair Report**

9. Grand Jury report and City Auditor report: Gary wrote a response suggesting that we are not the menace the report made us out to be. We're labeled "obstructionists," and said it's hard for the city to handle planning groups needs. However, we're an all-volunteer board doing hours of free work constantly. The Auditor's report wasn't that bad, saying that there's not really enough staff to service what planning groups are doing. And our record keeping is allegedly problematic (the NHCPG was not mentioned in this report).
10. Record keeping – City requirements and beyond: Gary would like our records to be combined with some historical documents, so we can get an understanding of our own institutional efforts.
11. SD City Schools - Prop YY revenue expectations and availability: it generates a lot of revenue, and we're interested in how much would go to Normal Heights. Adam reported on links he received from the district when asking them about YY funding. Those links are here: <https://www.sandiegounified.org/neighborhood-school-repair-and-student-safety-measure>  
<https://fpcprojects.sandi.net/Pages/default.aspx?Filter=All>

Scott has heard complaints about the height of the new construction of the school, and talked about how the heights are not in line with the renderings that were presented. The district has not communicated clearly with us on the Adams Elementary project. Gary suggests the Superintendent should be invited to join us at a meeting one month.

12. CPC report – Response to City's proposal to eliminate required parking:

**Action Items**

13. Response to City's parking revisions: Nate brought us a Planning Department Parking Standards Fact Sheet. He is not an expert on this, and didn't work on the project, but offered to ask basic questions to the best of his ability.

Adam asked how ½ mile is measured, and it seems to be as the crow flies, rather than by proximity by actual paths to travel. Gary mentioned an editorial that spoke to this issue (and

here's a link to that: ADD LINK). Roughly, bus lines can change quickly, and it should be focused on fixed stops like trolley.

Rose asked about transit improvements and the criteria for how various things are counted. He says he can look into them and get back to us. It might go to council next week. Gary gave an explanation about how parking is looked as a demand to sell other units, and different kinds of developers. We also talked about how we've taken more in-fill than most neighborhoods, and have not gotten the amenities that should come with that, nor proper mixed-use development; a crematorium and storage hole-in-the-ground are not the kinds of developments we've outlined in our community plan.

It appears all of Normal Heights will be considered a Transit Priority Area. Nate will ask if there is staff who can come to speak with us. Caroline wants to know when there will be some kind of public outreach. Adam mentioned how the Bancroft and Adams project presented some parking options to us, that were later removed after we expressed approval for that project; we don't want to see that become a routine process.

Rose reminded us that our city transit really sucks, and maybe we should get better transit, then see where we're at.

Caroline mentioned that the bike community has been very excited about this. The point is that we don't have the details we need to understand this project the way we need to.

Adam reminded the room that the Mid-City Communities Plan includes a light rail system down El Cajon Blvd.

Action: craft a letter to the council office and planning department stating our concerns and thoughts based on the information we have TPA. M/S:Caroline/Rose. All voted in favor. Our goal is to get a note to council before March 4<sup>th</sup>.

14. Survey update and proposed expansion of survey field: Rose spent the last month fine tuning the survey. Look for that in your email in the next few weeks. It will be tested with the board, then.
15. Nominating committee report on the March election process & Candidate Forum: Caroline gave a breakdown of the election process, and reviewed the bylaws. We have 7 open seats, and a ballot of 7 people. M/S: Alison/Michael to finalize the ballot with Rose Kelly, Adam Deutsch, Gautam Dey, Scott Kessler, Alberto Foglia, Nancy Lawler, and Richard Valentine. All approved.  
There was a short candidate forum, where each person on the ballot present spoke for a moment, introducing themselves.
16. Response to SDSU/stadium site EIR scoping phase: Adam and Gary went to a stadium development meeting at SDSU last week. Responses need to be submitted by February 19<sup>th</sup>. They had a site plan there, but there is an opportunity to speak to the project in writing. We want to gain access from the neighborhood to the River Park area in Mission Valley with the process of the project. "Connectivity" is a buzz word they use for these things. We would like to find some kind of pedestrian path or gondolas.  
Michael recently spoke to Eric Bowlby from the canyon group, and the River Conservancy, and perhaps we can team up with them. There was also discussion about a possible extension of the I-15 bike path over the freeways from Camino Del Rio S to N.

M/S:Caroline/Linda: Write a response to the project reminding them of our discussion and support of our urban trail from Normal Heights to the River Park, and encourage them to build a bridge to connect to that path. All approved, except Rose, who has a conflict of interest and must abstain from this.

## **Discussion Items**

17. City staff presentations

Citywide Tree Planting Program – Lesley Hennegar, Planning Department. Didn't make it tonight. Hopefully we can talk about installing new trees to provide more shade around San Diego.

Adjustments to zoning development criteria – Nate, our planner can't really speak to this, but we hope to get more information on this soon.

18. Undergrounding – Update on public meetings & community feedback: Gerald gave an update about that, and if you want to be on that list, email Adam and he can forward your contact to Gerald. It came up at council recently, and some residents spoke out about it, like wanting the undergrounding on the canyon lines sooner to prevent fires from those lines. Some residents don't want their 100 year old trees pulled up for electrical boxes, and want the alleys used. Gerald has asked for a City/SDG&E rep to come and speak with us. He's asked twice, and he hasn't gotten confirmation yet.

It's possible that if lines are already in the alley, they might not have the easement rights to move the lines and boxes to the streets. We don't to add blight to the neighborhood.

Toni Atkins, when a councilmember, was in support of undergrounding the high voltage lines from the canyon.

Alison would like as much underground and not visible as possible. Caroline brought up possible flooding, but said Monterey did it well; Alberto talked about possible mosquito infestation that is possible with undergrounding, but that that problems can also be mitigated.

19. Determining the status of community character contributors:

- a. Streets—pavement, curbs, gutters, drainage
- b. Lighting—public and private
- c. Parking—on street & off street
- d. Shade—amount, intensity and location
- e. Upkeep—condition of public ROW & visible privately held property
- f. Others?

Alberto wanted to talk about how difficult some of our streets are to cross when it rains heavily here. We know it's rare, but in the season it does rain, it's difficult to walk for days.

Caroline asked Zephen if he plans to establish a History group in the neighborhood.

Marty attended a Circulate San Diego meeting, about how to join a planning group, and she was impressed by how inclusive it was.

### **Information Items**

20. Projects with the 45 year rule applied

- a. 4485 34<sup>th</sup> St
- b. 4809 34<sup>th</sup> St
- c. 4344 Cherokee Avenue
- d. 3733 Adams Avenue

None of these properties were of significance.

### **The following topics are candidates for further discussion:**

#### History & Preservation

1. Archive responsibility and location
2. Content – please email photos and info to [normalheightshistory@gmail.com](mailto:normalheightshistory@gmail.com)
3. 70 year NH demographic trend lines

#### Intersection enhancements

1. Crosswalks

2. Crossing signals
3. Pop-outs
4. Bollards

#### Bicycle lanes and markings

1. Early action – painting lanes?
2. Storage issues

#### Schools

1. Joint Use agreements
2. Facility deficiencies
3. Community impacts & mitigation

#### Undergrounding

1. ID location & timing
2. Alley vs. Street process?
3. Public input strategies

#### Arts & Culture

1. Gateway structures design theme
2. Statuary, sculptures & murals

### **7:57 Adjourment**

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](mailto:rosemargaretkelly@gmail.com), or the City of San Diego Associate Planner, Nathan Causman, [NCausman@sandiego.gov](mailto:NCausman@sandiego.gov).

Past Agendas and Minutes are available at

<http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/normalheights/agendas.shtml>

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