



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

Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, May 7, 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	Nancy Lawler		Scott Kessler
X	Jim Baross	X	Alison Flynn	X	Marty Graham
X	Caroline McKeown (T)		Richard Valentine	X	Michael Chandler (VC)
	vacancy		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 community
2. Agenda Setting/modifications *(Note: items may be addressed out of listed order)*
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes – Adam Deutsch sent out a draft of the minutes earlier in the month, received feedback, and made edits accordingly. M/S: Marty/Michael. All approved.
4. Treasurer’s Report – Caroline McKeown. \$2196.79, not including operating expenses from the city.

6:10 Public Comment

5. Non-agenda public comment may be limited to two minutes per person
 - a. Residents who border the dog park aren’t happy about noise, and they were told it was in interim solution, but it’s been there long enough to become a nuisance. The ground cover has broken down to dust, and is blowing into their backyards. People are using the dog park after dark, as well, and the closing at dusk goes for longer hours in this season. There are also no lights, not even on the signage. When they call the nonemergency number on the sign posted, a dispatcher who got the call was rude to the residents, saying “Dog’s bark. What do you expect?”

Caroline commented that we’ve been advocating for years to have them finish Ward Canyon Park, which would move the idog park from its current location (the “I” in idog stands for “interim,” since the park isn’t finished and that’s slated to be moved).

Jim requested that we get more immediate remediation on this issues (which we’ve brought up a silly amount of times).

- b. Adam approached the North Park Planning Group about coordinating an effort on getting land acquired and building a park somewhere north of El Cajon and between Ohio and 33rd St.
- c. Marty mentioned that SANDAG has released the plans for the Meade Ave. Bike Path,

And that includes 47 signs within 50 feet of her intersection.

- d. Mike Palmer mentioned the plan for the Adams Ave. Park Rec Center. They just got a design from the Center for Arts and Culture, and Kim Emerson's plan was denied, and they will not allow the community to put up the design they've created and acquired funding for. If the Parks and Rec. Department would like to communicate with us, or any other group, about issues like this, they are always welcome to speak with us.
- e. Linda wanted to thank the AABA for painting the poles. They look fantastic.

6:20 Reports

6. Government Representatives

- a. Brandon Torres from Nathan Fletcher's office: they made some symbolic motions, that didn't go the way of the left. They voted against propositions to stop police from unnecessarily using deadly force, and against transit/mobility proposed from SANDAG. Meanwhile, the county budget dropped, and that's \$6b to look through. There are public meetings that will happen, first on Thursday, June 13th at 5pm.
- b. Brett Weiss from Councilmember Chris Ward's office: They passed regulations for dockless scooters (link to those). The proposed bike lanes on 30th St. are going through the planning process with the NP Planning Group. Finally, the budget process is wrapping up, and they've been fighting for more open space rangers, and hopefully secured funding for Phase II of Ward Canyon Park Planning, which would make a design that could be used to secure funding. May 13th, Monday at 6pm at City Council to speak up in support of that. *Fun fact: Ward Canyon Park is proposed in the 1980-81 City Budget. How much do you think it would have cost then?

Adam mentioned that it's great that 30th street is getting done, but it would be great if a project got completed in Normal Heights.

Marty is concerned about the gates at Normal Heights Elementary continuing to be locked. There's a proposal for funds for security cameras. However, it's not clear why the district continues to violate the Joint Use Agreement with the city and the residents of the neighborhood.

Adam asked who is currently representing us on the San Diego Unified School District board, and it's Kevin Biser...who hasn't been responsive to our communications.

Gary says this issue points to a lack of equivalencies that an area like us should have.

Oh, and on May 22nd, in this room, there's a meeting on the development.

Nate from the Planning Department is happen to help with anything that comes to him in the office.

7. Community Groups

- a. Adams Avenue Business Association: Scott's not here, but Gary can report that Unplugged went really well. And the light polls look simply magnificent.
- b. El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association: Nobody from that group is here, but the land at 40th and ECB is currently being discussed by the developer who has acquired some of that space.
- c. NH Community Association and NH Urban Arts: Nobody is here from those organizations.

- d. Adams Rec. Advisory Group: Bob Keiser says there's good news: the marque has been up and running. The bad news is that the last meeting was a major disappointment for him (which is saying a lot, considering how long he's been involved in stuff), because of the rejection of the plans they've been working on. Meanwhile, in writing their own bylaws, but the Area Manager said they can't write that, and Parks and Rec will write those, because they want bylaws to be uniform throughout the city, and that members of the group should attend workshops about the Parks Master Plan. He went to one in San Ysidro (because the one in Balboa conflicted with the Normal Heights Rec Advisory meeting), and the 10 year plan is to have more more access to neighborhood parks.

Marty—and all of us—deeply appreciate all of what Bod does for us, and it's horrible how Parks and Rec. treats us.

8. Social Media & other communications – Adam & Caroline: There's a new amazon locker Rite Aid to use.

6:40 Chair Report

9. Parking Ordinance situation: Just because an area is designated, that doesn't not mean it's rezoned. Once parking standards are decided, we need zoning changes that including parcels. We're not clear on the process for these changes, and someone needs to discuss these things with us.
10. Working groups: Density & Parking, Parks & Schools: 7th people were in attendance. They worked from the bubble map, but it didn't have parcels. The corridor covered along the 805, which seems like a mistake, as there is no transit stop there. The take-way is that we need more information like a parcel map, and 72 hour parking enforcement details, and to survey the neighborhood about parking thoughts; Rose suggests we use census data. Meetings of that group will be sent to those who have expressed interest.

Rose explained that there are no more Parking Standards, and they've been replaced by Transit Standards, and we need data to calculate those things.

11. Alpha Lofts: This is the development at 38th and ECB, and there has been concern expressed by the neighbors about how that building is disrupting others in the area. There was a meeting there earlier in the month to help bring everyone in the area together to communicate.
12. CPC report - Capital project requests: they're seeking input. It's the same list of projects we always submit when they ask, and that they never give us.

6:50 Action Items

13. Board Appointment to fill seat vacancy: Rose Kelly is interested in filling the vacancy. All voted in favorite. Rose Kelly is on the board starting NOW.
14. State Senate Bill 50 (SB50): this would take land use away from local government, and relinquish it to some ghostly void. LA and San Francisco have rejected it; San Diego hasn't docketed it yet. **M/S: Jim/Marty. Send a communication expressing our concern about fundamentally taking away the rights of communities to address land use at the local level.** Marty says that San Diego is "ground zero" for this issue, and there seems to be a ballot initiatives that says whatever the state makes communities does should be paid for by the state. A resident named Evan is in support of it, though he hasn't read it. Adam suggested that we want to increase density, and do development he supports, but we want to make those decisions rather than the city. We want the city to take a stance against this. **Vote: unanimously in favor.** Caroline reminded the community about our desires for density along El Cajon Blvd.

15. Undergrounding – status & public input process, requesting public discussion: there should be a community hearing coming up about this. No action was taken...because nobody is really communicating with us about it.
16. Response to City's off-street parking ordinance revisions: **M/S:Caroline/Alison: write a letter to the city stating that we have concerns about changes to parking rules without appropriate analysis and evaluation of long-term impacts.** Jim is concerned that there is no "long term" impacts to study, as we need more transit, and reducing automobile traffic trips, and increase transit use. Caroline wants to amend it to say, **to include a note about transit..** Rose doesn't think development is going to come to NH without better transit, and we need to push for that. Marty talked about Portland, and how their decisions on parking 10 years ago are looking like mistakes now. **M/S:Caroline/Alison: write a letter to the city stating that we have concerns about changes to parking rules without complete transit implemented and without appropriate analysis and evaluation of long-term impacts.** All in voted in favor.
17. Letter of concern: Diminished response times for historic assessment. E.g., Item #27. We sent this last month.
18. Letter of support: Rock N Roll Marathon - June 2. M/S: Jim/Marty: to support this. All voted in favor. We love the Rock N Roll Marathon coming through Normal Heights.
19. CIP strategy – Finish Ward Canyon Park w/community input. No motion, but we're happy to hear that it's in the budget as a proposal. **M/S:Caroline/Jim: fill out the survey with our unchanged CIP priority list from the past, with Ward Canyon at the top.** All voted in favor.
20. Mayoral candidate invitations. They're welcome to approach us.
21. Budget Items
 - a. **M/S:Caroline/Adam: Authorize funds not to exceed \$500 for sound equipment enhancements. All voted in favor.**
 - b. **M/S:Caroline/Linda: Get a box to hold batteries for the microphones, and buy batteries for our own funds. All voted in favor.**

Adjourned at 8pm.

7:30 Discussion Items

22. NHCPG Survey
 - a. Analysis, refinement, increased target area
23. Mission Valley Plan Update
 - b. River Park access via an Urban Trail from Normal Heights to the valley floor.
Connecting bridge across the river

7:40 Information Items

24. Annual Report
25. Projects with the 45-year rule applied
 - a. Affected Properties in last 30 days: 4669 34th St, 4915 E Mountain View, 4724 36th St, 3295 Meade Ave

The following topics are candidates for further discussion:

Community character contributors

1. Streets - pavement, curbs, gutters, drainage
 2. Lighting – public and private
 3. Shade – amount, intensity and location
 4. Parking – on street & off street
 5. Upkeep – condition of public ROW & visible privately held property
- History & Preservation
1. Archive responsibility and location

2. Content – please email photos and info to 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

8:00 Adjournalment

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 Secretary Adam Deutsch at NHCPGsecretary@gmail.com

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Past Agendas and Minutes are available at

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

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