



Minutes for Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Normal Heights Community Center/Zoom
4649 Hawley Blvd

Attendees:

X = in attendance

X	Paul Coogan (C)	X	Kenny Patrick		Emilie Colwell
X	Allan Harjala (VC)	X	Dan Soderberg	X	Jacob Koopman (P)
X	Sami Burrows (S)	X	Eydie Kaufman	X	Brian Adams
X	Frances Prichett (T)	X	Nancy Lawler		Madison Stevens
X*	Julia Corbett	X	Scott Kessler (AABA)	X	Mark Lawler

*Denotes Virtual Attendance

Paul called the meeting to order at 6:03 and read the opening reflection. Then Paul gave a brief overview of the meeting procedure.

Community Attendees

Estimate: 8 zoom participants, 17 attendees in person.

Non-Agenda Public Comment

- Jacob: did canvassing in front of Vons today for a few hours to talk about the meeting and promote it; promoting fire safety - spoke with firefighter, police officer, residents. Common theme was frustrations around reporting illegal camping in parks and inability to take action as firefighter and police officers – need to hold elected public officials accountable.

Annual election of board executives

Voting on board officers.

• Chair (required)

Nancy nominated Paul. Kenny seconded.

Unanimous board approval with Paul abstained.

• Vice Chair (required)

Frances nominated Allan. Kenny seconded.

Unanimous board approval with Allan abstained.

• Secretary (required)

Paul nominated. Kenny seconded.

Unanimous board approval with Julia abstained.

• Treasurer (required)

Paul nominated Jacob. Kenny seconded.

Unanimous board approval with Jacob abstained.

• Parliamentary (optional)

Jacob will continue.

• Time Keeper (optional)

Parker will continue.

Affirmation of DEI principles

Paul reviewed the DEI principles from the City and the NHCPG goals related to DEI.

Presentations

Normal Heights Fire Safe Council - Susan

Susan, Chair of Normal Heights Fire Safe Council—the formation was approved last month. Held meeting 2/23/25 to review fire safety, walk the neighborhood and invited fire station engine #18. Fire Safe Council boundaries follow the Normal Heights neighborhood boundaries. Susan reviewed some of the learnings and partnerships planned for the Fire Safe Council—community engagement will be a key component. Call to action for 6 community member positions: email normalheightsfsc@yahoo.com for more information. 40th year anniversary for the 1985 fire approaching June 30th—would like to host a dumpathon, street fair, something to raise awareness and commemorate. The full presentation is available on the normalheightscpg.org.

Kensington Fire Safe Council - Judy

Judy presented projects that have worked for Kensington: 1) Annual dumpathon (now twice a year), rent dumpsters and get some free dumpsters from D9 Office and do ~15 tons of flammable greens. 2) Presentations & Educational Resources. 3) Fiery Questions Column, opinion columns related to fire safety. 4) Advocacy on fire safe policies. 5) Administration, community wildfire protection plan, grants/donations. 5) Learnings, recruitment after fires, council formation. 6) Partnerships, Fire Safe Council of /sD County & Other /fsCs, Mid-City Homeless Coalition, City Agencies. Celebrate Earth Day Event, April 12th 12-2PM. The full presentation is available on the normalheightscpg.org.

Urban Wildfire Risk – Paul Coogan

Paul presented urban wildfire risk in light of the recent Palisades fires and what San Diego can learn from it. State created one map for all of California, but cities can expand zones from the map. Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) are the most concerning areas, and San Diego has many areas classified in this range. Paul reviewed some of the planned ADUs in the Normal Heights area and the associated high fire hazard zone based on their locations. CPC requested CPGs to write a letter to the City to place an emergency moratorium on all infill construction projects in VHFHSZ where dwelling unit density more than doubles. The full presentation is available on the normalheightscpg.org.

Actions/Decisions

Shall the board send the Summary of Findings–Mobility Safety in Normal Heights letter as written? (refer to PDF in email)

Scott had comments and several issues related to the process. Further discussion took place.

Motion to send the letter with amendments—move the Statement to officials to the top and add disclaimer these are reflections expressed by audience members and do not reflect the opinions of the Board.

Jacob motioned. Brian seconded.

Yes: Jacob, Kenny, Brian, Allan, Nancy, Mark, Sami 7

No: Scott, Frances, Edyie, Julia, Dan 5

Abstained: Paul 1

Letter passed with amendments.

Shall the board include a letter to the City similar to the one sent by CPC in regards to a construction moratorium on residential infill development where the parcel would more than double in density? (refer to CPC letter from Jan in email)

Motion to create a similar letter with the addition of water pressure, specific for water infrastructure, in the letter. Allan motioned. Jacob seconded.

Yes: Unanimous approval for present.

Abstain: Eydie

The CPC has requested letters regarding trash fees from the CPG, shall the NHCPG send a letter to the CPC? (info sent in email)

Motion to send a letter based on the trash collection fees, remove the privatization comment and ask the City Council if it approves the fee—does the fee cover only the continuation of current service levels? Allan moved. Brian seconded.

Yes: Unanimous of those present except the abstains below.

Abstained: Eydie & Julia.

Reports/Updates

Elected Representatives

Officer Jenny Hall

SDPD heavily rely on the Fire Department and look at them for direction on who to evacuate. SDPD knock and notice based on Fire Department recommendations on evacuation of homes. Then, SDPD takes people to elementary school, library or open field pending on fire and safety.

Sara Al-Agha from District 9 Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera's office

Ward Canyon mock building scheduled to be demolished this month, cleared all the permits last month and will begin construction this month and be completed by the end of May. Office hosted community cleanup a few weekends ago and had over 30 attendees who helped clean up trash, debris and repainted the playground. Looking to host more in the future in late spring/early summer. Budget season is coming up—mayor's proposed budget will be released ~April 15th. D9 Office hosting budget and analysis meeting sometime in May. Price transparency ordinance was recently passed; ensures that grocery stores are always transparent about prices, more info is available on the D9 website.

Mayor's Office – Fatima Maciel

Full update was printed out for attendees. Mayor is sponsoring encampment bill, freeway onramps tend to be state property so bill will help streamline encampment abatement on state property for city. Still in the process of Measure B trash fees; residents will receive a pamphlet in the mail if they are impacted. If 50% send back and are against the proposed trash fees, then they will go back to review trash recycling services. Remaining meetings: Friday April 4th 9-11 AM & Monday April 7th 5:30 PM, Tuesday April 8th 5:30 PM.

County Supervisor Montgomery Steppe or representative

No representative present.

State Senator Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson – Sam

No representative present.

Assembly Member Ward – Christopher Gris

No representative present.

District 51 U.S. Congressmember Jacobs or representative

No representative present.

Adjournment

Paul called the meeting to adjournment at 8:44.