



Minutes for Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Normal Heights Community Center 4649 Hawley Blvd/Zoom

Attendees:

X = in attendance

X	Paul Coogan (C)	X	Kenny Patrick	X	Emilie Colwell
X	Allan Harjala (VC)		Dan Soderberg		Sierra Orsinelli-Rivers
	Sami Burrows (S)	X	Mark Lawler	X	Brian Adams
X	Frances Prichett (T)	X	Nancy Lawler		Madison Stevens
	Julia Corbett				

*Denotes Virtual Attendance

Paul called the meeting to order and read the opening reflection along with meeting agenda modifications and meeting rules.

Community Attendees

Estimate: 1 zoom participant, 10 attendees in person.

August Minutes approved

Kenny 1st, Emilie 2nd

Yes: Allan, Kenny, Brian, Mark, Nancy; No: None; Abstain: Paul, Emilie, Frances

Non-Agenda Public Comment

- Normal Heights Fire Safety Council, Susan Redlings, announced that the group will have a booth at the Adams Avenue Street Fair. She also announced that the San Diego Fire Department will conduct fire safety "Home Risk Assessments" for \$163.00.

Elected Representatives Reports & Updates

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

- Graffiti on fencing at the Ward Canyon Park has been painted over.
- Cleanup in September at Ward Canyon Park on September 13th 9:30 to 11:30.
- The budget process begins again in September.
- Question about plans/design for area of Ward Canyon Park previously occupied by the Mock Building.
- Question (from an attendee) about the huge number of Airbnbs in Normal Heights and about a recent city event concerning increased housing that was sponsored by Airbnb.

Report from Fatima Maciel for Mayor's Office

- San Diego's wildfire season is now year-round, and the City is taking proactive steps to stay prepared. New investments include brush rigs, a replacement fire helicopter, and expanded brush management services. Homeowners can request a Home Risk Assessment for \$163 to learn how to create defensible space and protect their property from wildfires. More info at sandiego.gov/wildfire.

- The City has also launched a Community Recreation Needs Assessment. Residents are encouraged to take a short survey at sandiego.gov/parksurvey by the end of February. The assessment will include surveys, workshops, and public meetings.

Presentations

Due to the projector not working, the Mid-City Communities Plan Update: Ideas Report by Morgan Ruby, Sr. Planner, SD Planning Dept. will be in October.

Actions/Decisions

Letter to the city regarding paving crews was authored and distributed by Emilie. The board voted to send it as is.

Emilie 1st, Allan 2nd

Yes: Allan, Frances, Kenny, Brian, Mark, Nancy, Paul, Emilie; No: None; Abstain: None

Board voted to have the Traffic Safety Subcommittee request new data from the city.

Brian 1st, Frances 2nd

Yes: Allan, Frances, Kenny, Brian, Mark, Nancy, Paul, Emilie; No: None; Abstain: None

Filling of any empty seat on the board (1) by Matthew Chaffee

Emilie 1st, Brian 2nd

Yes: Allan, Frances, Kenny, Brian, Mark, Nancy, Paul, Emilie; No: None; Abstain: None

Filling of any empty seat on the board (2) by Kim Pham

Allan 1st, Emilie 2nd

Yes: Allan, Frances, Kenny, Brian, Mark, Nancy, Paul, Emilie; No: None; Abstain: None

Reports/Updates

Standing Committees

Community Planners Committee - Paul

No meeting was held in August.

Adams "Community Recreation Advisory Group" - Nancy

Adams Avenue Business Association - written statement from Scott

The Adams Avenue Street Fair is on 9/20 - 21. A sign-up sheet for board members to staff the NHCPG booth was passed around.

Joint Mid-City Communities Plan Update Committee - Emilie

The committee is continuing to work on 'Draft Ideas Report' with ideas for what the community plan update will look like. "Ideas Report" is available online. Next meeting in November.

Normal Heights for Smart Growth – Paul

The community garden is in the solarizing phase. John Selby is working on getting a plumber for the installation of water and the city is working on the Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Emilie offered to help with the CUP. San Diego Master Gardeners are helping with planting advice. Sponsors are being sought for help pay for the irrigation system.

Advisory Committees

Utility Undergrounding & Street Lighting MAD - Emilie

Committee is pushing to get a presentation to the community from SDGE and the City, including an opportunity for residents to see detailed maps and ask questions.

Adjournment

Paul called the meeting to adjournment at 7:30pm.