

North Park Planning Committee (NPPC)
Urban Design-Project Review Subcommittee Meeting
Minutes: September 2, 2025 – 6:00 pm
www.northparkplanning.org info@northparkplanning.org

Attendance: Jay Robinson-Duff, Lynn Elliott, Malachi Bielecki, Roger McClish, Johanna Mall, Bob LaRose

Expressive Arts, in person: Tish Sjoberg, Michael Robinson

Members of community, on Zoom: 1

I. Parliamentary Items (6:00-6:05 pm)

Meeting Called to order: 6:06

Agenda approved (McClish/LaRose/6-0-0).

August minutes approved (Bielecki/LaRose/6-0-0).

Was emailed out, will be posted to the website.

II. Non-Agenda Public Comment, Announcements, Event Notices (6:05-6:15 pm)

Lynn: Clarification on airport announcement: new road was open last month, half of terminal itself is now open. Mini Park will be closed through the end of the year to install shade structures, potentially lighting. Reminder to respond to Balboa Park survey about paid parking issue. Meeting upcoming on this issue.

Bob: Expressed hope that shade structures were taken into account during planning for lights.

Malachi: Taste of North Park is October 4. Also looking for volunteers, information is on their website.

III. Action and Informational Items (6:15-6:45 pm)

A. Informational Item 1: Public Art Project on 32nd Street and Thorn Street

Video shown to meeting about the safety benefits of street murals in intersections. The City has a mural toolkit that has been sent to Expressive Arts. Next, the idea will have to be presented to the city and community support will be gathered. The city has a specific process outlined that needs to be followed.

Tish, Expressive Arts: Expressive Arts has been at current location at 32nd and Thorn for 15 years. Idea had been presented to city councilmember years ago, but didn't go anywhere. Got involved recently after meeting with Terrence Morrissey. Suggestions have been made to the city, but definite response has not been received. Plan would be to put out call to neighborhood artists, have the neighborhood vote on which design they wanted, hold a fundraiser to pay for it. Proposal and plan would be sent to the city for approval.

Idea to incorporate McKinley Elementary School and Saint Augustine's. Vote could potentially be attached to the Chili Cook-off. AARP may be interested in sponsoring project through North Park Main Street as well. The city has approved multiple privately-sponsored intersection murals downtown. City's Cultural Affairs office will need to approve design, should be reached out to.

Brought up that the state requires insurance for the artists doing the painting. Lynn can look into this with contacts.

Currently there are no crosswalks at this intersection; they are being requested. City rules stipulate that crosswalks can't be interfered with, but thinking in the room was that street murals wouldn't be considered to be doing so. Clarification on city's definition of "artist": some stipulations, but seems likely that designs will be approved.

Step 1 in the process is to reach out to the city to have the site approved. After approval, call out to artists can be made for designs.

Question on how long paint will last, whether the intersection had recently been repaved. It may not have been, but intersection seems to be in good shape. Asphalt paint would presumably last a decent amount of time.

- B. Informational Item 2: Discuss process for pilot locations based upon previous daylighting letter**

Context of daylighting and previous letter explained to meeting. Development Services Department will likely be involved under the category of “placemaking”. Official guide from the city exists on the process of getting permission to use the private right-of-way for projects. Will have to be privately funded, perhaps through North Park Main Street. Permits are valid for five years, after which they can be renewed. These sorts of projects are not usually allowed in single-family-zoned areas, so it would likely need to be in a commercial area. Congregation of people in the street area wouldn’t be allowed, so that removes some of the previously discussed ideas. Legal liability will likely be concern for the city, especially concerning how it affects the efficacy of daylighting. Scope and possibilities may need to be reduced, but ideas like curb bulb-outs could be pursued and would be beneficial to the community. Petition will be discussed in the Communications Subcommittee meeting. This could discuss general idea and possibilities, would look to demonstrate buy-in from the community to convince the city to look into the possibilities on this.

AB 413 specifically does mention bike corrals as a possibility in these daylighted zones. Curb bulb-outs do influence and potentially increase daylighting zone, but painted bulb-outs may not have this effect.

Could also be funded through AARP program. Moving forward, petition could start to be circulated while presentation is made to help inform potential partners.

IV. Unfinished, New Business and Future Agenda Items (6:45-6:55 pm)

Malachi: Request to place an item for next month’s meeting to follow up on progress on daylighting project.

Lynn: Paper street east of Georgia. Property owner wants to build a staircase, but it technically is in the city’s right of way. Will come before the board in the future.

V. Adjournment (7:00 pm)

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 (Robinson-Duff/McClish).

Next Urban Design-Project Review Subcommittee meeting date: October 7, 2025

For information about the Urban Design-Project Review Subcommittee please visit northparkplanning.org or contact the Acting Chair, Jay Robinson-Duff, at urbandesign@northparkplanning.org or (203) 964-7388.

**** Subcommittee Membership & Quorum:** When all 15 elected NPPC Board Member seats are filled, the maximum total of seated (voting) UD-PR Subcommittee members is 13 (up to 7 elected NPPC Board Members and up to 6 seated North Park community members). To constitute a quorum, a majority of the seated UD-PR Subcommittee members must be elected NPPC Board Members.*

***Community Voting Members:** North Park residents and business owners may gain UDPR Subcommittee voting rights by attending three UDPR Subcommittee meetings. Please sign-in on the meeting attendance list and notify the Chair or Vice-Chair if you are attending to gain Subcommittee voting rights.*



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