



NORMAL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

4649 Hawley Boulevard San Diego, CA. 92116 (Conducted via Zoom)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86163627338?pwd=N21ma25HRWN3bHAwckZiZkE2MFBjQT09>

Meeting ID: 861 6362 7338

Passcode: 913640

Minutes for Tuesday, February 2nd, 2021, 6:00pm until about 8:00pm

NORMAL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

Board Attendance (X means “present”):

X	Gary Weber	X	Linda Case	X	Mark Lawler
X	Gautam Dey (arrived at 717)		Richard Valentine	X	Scott Kessler
X	Jim Baross (VC)	X	Alison Flynn (C)	X	John Hartley
X	Dan Soderberg	X	Alberto Foglia (T)	X	Adam Deutsch (S)
	Eric Tamayo	X	Nancy Lawler	X	Vickie Everich

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. Everyone introduced themselves, and John Hartley announced he no longer lives in the neighborhood, so is no longer on the board.
2. Agenda Setting/modifications (Note: items may be addressed out of listed order). No changes were made.
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes – Adam Deutsch. Adam sent them out earlier in the month, and made changes as people suggested. M/S: Gautam/Jim. All approved, except Vickie and Dan abstain because they weren’t there.
4. Treasurer’s Report: Our budget has \$2085.99, and we have \$475 from city funds that we haven’t allocated yet, and \$25 will go to Jim Baross for Zoom’s account.

6:10 Public Comment

4. Non-agenda public comment may be limited to two minutes per person
 - a. Dan followed up on a historical permit comment, at 5039 Mansfield St.
 - b. Caroline mentioned that the Adams Rec Group seems to be pushing for a second interim dog park in Ward Canyon Park.
 - c. Vickie is now the point person between us and Adams Rec Group and can speak in the agenda.
 - d. Adam mentioned that the San Diego Unified School District recently flew a Black Lives Matter flag for Black History Month, and that’s wonderful. While they fly that flag, Adams Elementary has 8% Black student population and 76% Hispanic student population, and

the district has neglected to provide a Joint-use Agreement for our schools to serve those children and our community.

5. Social Media & other communications – Adam, Alison, & Alberto: Nothing really new.

6:20 Reports

6. Government Representatives

- a. Benny Cartwright for D3: He's been studying up on our local concerns and issues, and will try to make things happen where others have not been able to. They've also been talking about COVID, and Parking Enforcement is coming back soon. Adam told him that he really hopes they can help us get progress in this neighborhood. Jim thanked Benny for he GetItDone responsiveness, and Benny said that if there's ever anything that the app isn't covering to contact him about it. 619-510-6883, and bcartwright@sandiego.gov.
- b. Jayme Anderson from County Supervisor Fletcher's office: Vaccines are open to 65 and up and healthcare workers. Vaccines are running low, and he's advocating for more supply. Recently, the county released a climate action plan, declared Racism a public health issue, and other important resolutions for equity. Contact her at 619-531-5525, and jayme.anderson@sdcountry.ca.gov

7. Community Groups

- a. Adams Avenue Business Association: our businesses seem to be staying open. New banners are going up on the Avenue this week! He contacted Norma from the Urban Arts group about turning the older banners into bags again. No big events are schedule for the short-term. There are about 20 street lights out on the Ave., and the city has only repaired about 5 over the course of the last few months. AABA is also maintaining the street frontage of Adams Elementary because SDUSD can't seem to handle their own maintenance work.

Vickie asked if there are any chances of virtual events, like preordering a package online, and taking it away. They're promoting restaurant week at the moment, but they're still working out details. It's tough to coordinate virtually.

- b. El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association: John O'Connor, President of ECBBIA. Thanked Adam and Gary for attending the walk-about. They do weekly walks to keep abreast of what's going on along the Blvd. There's a virtual town hall coming up to help get feedback and raise awareness about opportunities on the Blvd between the 15 and 805. The zoning changes just east of the 805, and the city hasn't listened to the NHCPG or other parties about updating that zoning so it adheres to our community plan.
- c. NH Community Association: they're planning virtual events. More at normalheights.ca
- d. NH Urban Arts: Nobody present from that group. Nancy reported that they got approval for a mural on the Rec Center.
- e. Adams Rec. Advisory Group: There's a new chair, and a vacancy for a secretary. They're looking to build relationships with the other community groups. They've made progress on some landscaping on sidewalk on 40th. Park and Rec is having a meeting to create another interim dog park in the park. Linda asked about a dog park by the basketball hoops, and doesn't want to see basketball players lose space. Adam mentioned that the last idog park cost over \$100k, and if something is going to be installed, it should be where the final plan calls for the dog park. Also, the curb on 40h from Adams to the barrier doesn't have a ramp and is not ADA accessible. Gary mentioned that all of the issues within the park are interrelated, and the city/district/whoever needs to hire security so that space can be open, people can use it, and projects can get done. Hopefully we have a school district rep again, and the mayor's office can help. Alison said that the space taken needs to be chosen carefully.

6:50 Chair Report: Alison reminded us that she's moving out of the neighborhood, and will not continue after March. She's been thinking about the decline in parking and how it goes with the decline of affordable housing, how low-paid workers in the area could afford to live here without cars. By 2015, that was no longer possible. As housing prices have gone up, people are not walking to jobs in the neighborhood, and parking has gotten tighter as a result.

6:55 Working Group Reports

9. Transportation Group: They have not had a meeting recently. Jim relayed a piece of legislation to allow cyclists to treat Stop signs as Yield signs in certain circumstances. There are also some possible programs to incentivize ebike purchases.
10. Parks: Jim gave an update from the CPC, where he requested a day to the City Parks plan so we can learn more about it and discuss it. It passed the CPC, and they sent a letter to city entities.
11. Undergrounding (to potentially be established): no progress has been made on this, but Gary spoke to a rep, and we don't have a clear contact to come and talk to us. He's afraid they're just going to do it, without talking to us. Adam wondered if Benny could talk about that with the councilmember, but he didn't respond in the meeting.

7:10 Action Items

12. Ballot for March Elections: Because of pandemic, it's been very difficult to conduct meetings and attract people. There will be more seats up for ballot than people who have expressed interested. **M/S:Adam/Gautam: Suspend elections in March, and allow filling vacancies according to the process of filling seats in non-election months, and suspend term limits for the time being.** Caroline says that since we're in an emergency situation, we can fill those as needed by board appointees. **All approved.**
13. ECB and 40th: John O'Connor has acquired more land at ECB and 40th, and would like to propose some changes to the space, including modifying the dead-end over there. He shared a presentation about possible redevelopment of that space. He's asking for a letter of support to vacate the circle to install a hammerhead turn around. **M/S:Adam/Gautam: Approve the vacation of the cul de sac in favor of a new hammerhead turn around to the north.** Jim asked about proposed height, and it would be hopefully 10 or 11 stories. Gautam hopes for some paint to separate pedestrians from a bike path. Vickie expressed support. Alison asked questions about bollards, affordable housing, and green space, which are removable, completely affordable housing, and a net gain of green space. Caroline spoke in support. **All voted in favor.** Adam is going to write a letter in support.
14. Safe Routes to Parks: no action taken at this time.

7:40 Discussion Items

15. COVID Relief Programs Knowledge Share: Alison spoke about some of the vaccination sites, and how they'll give you a vaccine if you're volunteering there. There seem to be other sites popping up all over the place, including a new one possible at Cuyamaca College soon.
16. 40th St. Barricades: we sent a letter in a previous month, but did not get a response. No further discussion at this time, but it would be great to get a response about that.
17. 805 Freeway: No updates have come from city staff.

7:50 Information Items: No information items at this time.

7:52 Adjournment