

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

Normal Heights Community Center at 4649 Hawley Blvd

Tuesday, March 4, 2008 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

A G E N D A

Welcome & Introductions

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Public Comment (non-agenda items only, limit of 3 minutes per speaker)

Reports from Government Representatives may occur:

3rd City Council District Office – Monica Pelaez,
City Planning and Community Investment Dept. – Melissa Devine
76th Assembly District Office -- Melanie Cohn
Updates from other Normal Heights or Mid City organizations

Information Items

1. Canyon destruction (construction of moto-cross track and large wooden ramps) below and north of Ellison has resulted in perpetrator being identified and penalties imposed, including restoring the damaged areas.
2. February 26, 2008 Community Planners Committee meeting
3. Auto waste recycling for “at-home mechanics” scheduled for April 5 in Balboa Park. For information call (858)694-7000. Item provided by Environmental Services Dept.
3. I-15 Mid City BRT Stations Working Group continues. Jim had to miss the Feb 26th meeting. Next meeting is likely to be March 11th in the Metro Center Community Room, 3910 University Ave.
4. Kensington Terrace project information is available. Planning Commission Report # PC-07-140 at <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning-commission/pcreports/07140.pdf>.

Action Items

1. Project Review – none scheduled
2. Committee Membership Elections: Election Committee will report of positions with terms completed; vacant positions; and nominations for filling positions. The people currently holding positions with terms ending include: Jim Baross, Susan Redelings, Steve Jareb, Rudy Burlin, Morris Dye, Jessica Oliver, and Kerry Sheldon. Steve Jareb has communicated that he will not be available to be a candidate. Elections to fill these positions with existing people and/or with new candidates will follow. All current members except Steve Jareb have indicated desire to be re-elected. Two new candidates have expressed desire to serve; Nancy Wolfing and Kevin Johnson.

Qualifications for membership to the NHCPG presenting include being a Normal Heights resident, business or property owner who has attended at least one NHCPG meeting in the

last twelve months. The meeting attendance requirement will be increased to three when the new Bylaws come into effect. (This should not affect sitting members.)

All qualified adult attendees may cast a vote to decide NHCPG membership. Qualifications for voting include being a Normal Heights resident, business or property owner who has attended at least one meeting in the last twelve months.

Confirmation of voting or membership eligibility could be documented with a California Driver license showing a Normal Heights address, a city business license showing a Normal Heights address, or a property tax bill showing a Normal Heights address.

3. Recommending specific locations for Centennial signs for Normal Heights. City staff is asking where we wish the signs to be installed. Issue involves what boundaries for NH exist. The Oct agenda had the following:

Shall we request official City signs that say across the top: City of San Diego. Second line says NORMAL HEIGHTS? Third line says 1906 CENTENNIAL 2006. Similar ones are up in Hillcrest. A letter is needed from the Planning Group to Toni Atkins asking for them. Jim Schneider of the AABA agrees, so does Gary Weber and the El Cajon BID. Five signs are recommended: Two at either end of Adams Ave., one at 35th and El Cajon Blvd., and two at Hawley Blvd.

The Oct minutes show this:

IN AGENDA (Suzanne) Hillcrest centennial committee put up signs up in Hillcrest. Suzanne wants 5 signs to put up in the community. MOVE (DYE/BURLIN) Motion to have Jim write a letter to Toni Atkins office to (10-0-0) unanimous.

The letter I sent to Councilmember Atkins included the following description of locations. "... to have five signs prepared and erected: at the entrances to Normal Heights; two at either end of Adams Ave., one at 35th and El Cajon Blvd., and two at Hawley Blvd."

"... official City signs that say across the top: City of San Diego. Second line says NORMAL HEIGHTS? Third line says 1906 CENTENNIAL 2006. Similar ones are up in Hill crest. A letter is needed from the Planning Group to Toni Atkins asking for them. Jim Schneider of the AABA agrees, so does Gary Weber and the El Cajon BID. Five sings are recommended: two at either end of Adams Ave., one at 35th and El Cajon Blvd., and two at Hawley Blvd."

4. Continuing the development of Normal Heights Planning Group "wish list" for projects and prioritization. Members and attendees will review previous and new 'brain-storm' listings and discuss a prioritization process. Should a committee convene to review and recommend changes and priority projects to the Mid-City financing plan for presentation to City Council by June? City contact person is Cheryl M. Robinson, Facilities Financing Project Manager, City Planning & Community Investment, Ph (619) 533-3679, Fax (619) 533-3687, crobinson@sandiego.gov

Committee Reports (All subcommittee meetings as scheduled are open to the public)

1. Housing –
2. Facilities –
3. Transportation (Morris Dye) –

4. Bylaws (Suzanne Ledeboer) –
5. Canyons (Jeff Underwood) –
6. Library –
7. City Heights PAC – (Rudy Burlin)

New Business for the next meeting

Adjournment

**NORMAL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP
MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 5, 2008**

Members Present: Jim Baross, Earlene Thom, Richard Rios, Dino Serafini, Suzanne Ledebouer, Holly Ritter, Rudy Burlin, Jeff Parsons, Morris Dye, Susan Redelings, Jessica McGee.

Members Absent: Jessica Oliver, Kerry Sheldon, Steve Jareb, Jeff Underwood.

Guests: Conni Musser, Shelley Mandryk, Stephen Whitburn, Brian Goeltzenle-Schyck, Jim Schneider, Nancy Wolfing.

Meeting Called to Order. Welcome and Introductions.

Public Comment:

Stephen Whitburn, candidate for Council District 3 seat, spoke of the loss of faith in local government and the loss of priorities by the City, which he would try to change. He is on the North Park Community Planning Group, will emphasize neighborhood priorities, and wants to understand Normal Heights.

The utility polls are coming down along Meade Avenue. (Ledebouer)

A guest is purchasing a home in Normal Heights and asked if there were any Mills Act homes here. Jessica McGee identified three and referred him to the Historic Resources Board for information. A second question had to do with whether or not the barricade on 40th Street at Madison was permanent. Answer: Yes.

Approval of January, 8, 2008 minutes. Moved by Redelings, seconded by Serafini. Passed unanimously without changes. Jessica McGee abstaining.

No reports from government representatives.

Information Items:

1. Neighborhood Code Compliance is investigating the destruction of the canyon below and north of Ellison Place.
2. Auto waste recycling scheduled for April 5 in Balboa Park. Information: (858) 694-700.
3. I-15 Mid-City BRT Stations Working Group update from Jim Baross. Discussed proposed transit stop on Adams Avenue and light rail in the I-15 median. Realignment is moving forward at the Cherokee, East Mountain View, Madison intersections.
4. Urban Trail project. Jim deputized to work with the City on this project and will report back to the NHCPG5. No report from those who want to make 33rd Place a dead-end at Monroe.
6. Kensington Terrace project discussed briefly. Appeal to City Council this week.

Action Items:

1. No projects to review.
2. Election Subcommittee reported two additional candidates: Nancy Wolfing and Kevin Johnston.
3. The Uptown Historic Preservation Coalition is upset with the rapid demolition, without much warning, of historical homes. They do receive a weekly list of demolition permits, but want a stronger voice in the process. An advantage to joining this group is that there is strength in numbers, and many current members are well-known in the field of historical preservation. Holly Ritter volunteered to represent Normal Heights on the Uptown Historic Preservation Coalition, and she will gather information at the group's quarterly meetings and provide it to the NHCPG. Suggest Normal Heights appear on their letterhead as "Normalites for Normal Heights."

Reports:

1. No report from AABA.

Subcommittee Reports:

1. Bylaws (Ledeboer). Word document of bylaws, with no attachments or exhibits, sent to Bernie Turgeon at the City. He was able to download and print a copy and is to go over the bylaws word-by-word with Marianne Greene.
2. City Heights PAC (Burlin). The Pilot Village at 40th and El Cajon has shrunk to 1.4 acres from the original 6.7. Parcels 16, 17, and 18 (the hotel) were removed. Parcels 12 (duplex), 13 (SFR), and 14 (apartment) were removed. After a heated discussion, the PAC voted 11-4 to go forward, but expressed disappointment in the shrinkage, since this is the only Pilot Village project remaining. The RFP goes out in February, and the PAC will review it. There are three representatives from Normal Heights on the City Heights PAC: Rudy Burlin, Jay Levine, and the El Cajon Business Improvement Association.
3. Canyons: One possible access to the Ellison Place canyon might be through the Carmelite property on Hawley Blvd. Contact Bob DeMers to smooth the way. Jim Baross would like to gather a group some weekend morning to explore canyons.
4. Morris Dye led a brainstorming session. Items suggested:

Library
Parking Structure
Farmers Market
Make Adams Avenue a pedestrian mall
Trolley on Adams
A funicular to Mission Valley
Sheltered Bus stops
Dog park
Community Swimming Pool
Skate park

Uncracked sidewalks
Street lights
Concerts
Theatre on Adams
Safe to walk around at night
Murals and public art, especially the new vaults on Meade Ave.
Banners
Historical Signage
"Meet and Greets." Bring in more people
LLC – Our own Pilot Village
Community Square
Signature Landscaping
Name the bridge over I-15
Gateways to Normal Heights – both bridges on Adams and both on Meade
A restaurant within walking distance.
Roof top ballroom
Extended bus service
Giant water slide
More diversity
Theatre group
More single family homes
More edgy/more youth
Community dinners
Second marquee on El Cajon Blvd.
Normal Heights signage at off-ramps of 805 and 15
Direction signs to the Rec Center, Community Center, etc.
Curbs painted
Infrastructure
No overarching presence – No there there, except for antique stores and used bookstores.

There was no New Business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.