

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

Normal Heights Community Center at 4649 Hawley Blvd

Tuesday, January 6, 2009 6:00 p.m.

A G E N D A

Welcome & Introductions – (though not required, please sign-in on our attendance sheet)

Donation Opportunity – “above the norm – Normal Heights” buttons available for \$1 donation; supporting the Normal Heights web site at www.normalheights.org.

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

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Acceptance of or Modifications to the Agenda

Reports from Government Representatives or others may be heard

3rd City Council District Office – Steven Hill

City Planning and Community Investment Dept. – Victoria White

76th Assembly District Office -- Melanie Cohn

Updates from other Normal Heights or Mid City organizations

Adams Ave. Business Association – Jim Schneider, Director

Adams Ave. Recreation Council –

Friends of Normal Heights Canyons – Kevin Johnston

Information Items

- 1.
- 2.

Action Items

New Business

1. Project Review – none received
2. Request from City Planning and Community Investment, for a letter of recommendation from the NHCPG in support of the City’s application for SANDAG Smart Growth Incentive Program grant funds for a land use mobility, and economic study related to the planned 1-15 CenterLine BRT stations. The grant application is due at the end of January.
3. OLP expansion issue discussion; this may be moot if there is not a current discretionary OLP project at the City.
4. Assigning NHCPG representative to the City Heights Redevelopment Project Area Committee. Normal Heights pays property taxes into the City Heights R/D/ Project and fairness dictates that NH be represented. The PAC meets each second Monday at 6:00 PM in the Metro Career Center, 3910 University Avenue.

5. Discussion and potential action regarding processes for filling NHCPG vacancies – nominating committee established.

Old Business

6. Discussion/review of Bylaw and other guidelines for conducting meetings.

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

1. Housing – (Nancy Wolfing) – Received from Tricia Olsen, Associate Planner, Historical Resources, DSD/CPCI; “Section 143.0212 of the City of San Diego Municipal Code requires that City staff review construction and development permit applications involving parcels with structures 45 or more years old before the issuance of a permit. City staff housed in the Historical Resources Section of City Planning & Community Investment is responsible for these reviews. The purpose of this review is to identify potentially historic resources and determine the need for a site specific historical report. These permit reviews are conducted within a strict timeframe, 10 working days for a construction (ministerial) permit and 30 calendar days for a development (discretionary) permit.”

“In order to benefit from the knowledge of people who are familiar with the history and architecture in their neighborhoods, the Historical Resources Guidelines section of the San Diego Land Development Code recommends that City staff consult with local individuals and groups during this review process. The NHCPG has Nancy Wolfing designated as contact person for this review.”

1. Community Needs – (Morris Dye)
2. Facilities – (inactive committee)
3. Transportation -- (Morris Dye, Jim Baross)
4. Bylaws -- (Morris Dye, Susan Redelings)
5. Canyons -- (Kevin Johnson)
6. Normal Heights Library – (inactive committee)
7. City Heights PAC – (vacant position)

New Business/Agenda Items for the next meeting, January 6, 2009.

Adjournment - Happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Season!

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

MINUTES

Tuesday December 2, 2008
6:00PM
Normal Heights Community Center
4649 Hawley Blvd.

Call to Order by Chair Jim Baross at 6:02

Members present: Richard Rios, Nancy Wolfing, Dino Serafini, Earlene Thom, Art Harrison, Susan Redelings, Kevin Johnston, Holly Ritter, Morris Dye and Jim Baross

Members absent: Larry Hofreiter, Jeff Parsons

Guests: Connie Musser, Connery Cepeda, Dan Soderberg, Geoff Barrett

Welcome and introductions

Public Comments/Information:

Geoff Barrett announced that Alternative Healing Network, 3412 Adams Ave. (non-profit integrative health center) is holding an open house on Dec.13 from noon to 4:00 pm.

Question about long-awaited El Zarape Restaurant on Adams Ave: reports are that renovation/remodeling is still in progress.

Approval of November 4 Minutes:

Correction to item regarding the off-leash trial period at Ward Canyon Neighborhood Park: the Recreation Council actually voted to add the item to their next meeting agenda.

Art believed the minutes should provide more detail on the discussion over the Quarry Falls action. In particular, it should be noted that the issue was the subject of a previous agenda item and constituted continued business which should not require notice in order for more discussion to occur.

Kevin corrected the date of the next Friends of Canyons event (will provide more detail later).

Nancy moved, Richard seconded; 8 approved minutes with corrections with Art disapproving and Morris abstaining.

Reports from Government Representatives: None present

Information Items:

Friends of the Normal Heights Canyons regular meetings are conducted at Café Cabaret 7:00 on 2nd Wednesday of each month. The next event is Dec 13 (not Nov 15 as stated in Nov. minutes) for the Phase II Native Plant Restoration planting at the

end of Eugene Place. A suggestion was made that students from Hoover High School could be recruited to help with the planting for their community service activity.

A follow-up meeting in the neighborhood of the Normal Heights trail-head is being discussed. The topics will be security and fire safety.

Jim reported on the Council Meeting held in Balboa Park where the issue of planning group indemnification was discussed and where Jim delivered the notice of support for the CPG-proposed Ordinance language, which differed from the City Attorney's version. The Council adopted the Alternative "B" version proposed by the CPG. If a group is sued, the City Attorney's office would investigate and support the group, until evidence indicates that group acted improperly.

Holly attended the Adams Ave. Recreation Council the previous Tuesday where the Council voted to allow an off-leash trial for dogs at WCNP. The off-leash hours are 6am to 9am on weekdays, starting Dec. 1st. Holly will check with Ted Ewing to verify that the Police Dept. is aware of the trial period. Holly did not believe there would be a conflict with the proposed Community Garden at the south end of the park.

Continuing Business: None

Action Items/New Business – None on Agenda

Committee Reports:

1. Housing/Historic Preservation – Nancy attended the Neighborhood Historical Preservation Coalition where the following were discussed
 - 1) Revisions to the Mill's Act acted upon earlier that day by the City Council - Nancy felt the Council action could be considered a moderate victory – the cap for city-wide annual aggregate new property tax revenue loss was raised to \$200,000 (from the recommended \$100,000) as the threshold before a reevaluation would occur through the budget process, also any investment made in a designated property prior to designation may now be applied to the minimum reinvestment requirement. The nomination fee was raised to \$1,185 from \$500, but properties "in the pipeline" will be charged the previous fee;
 - 2) The expansion plans proposed at Our Lady of Peace Academy campus - The "Between the Heights" group presented their concerns regarding alterations to historic structures. Jim asked for verification that OLP is located in Greater North Park which is an adjacent planning group area. Jim will place an item on a future agenda to address the alterations. Both sides will be given a documented invitation to make a presentation.
2. Community Needs – nothing to report
3. Facilities – nothing to report
4. Transportation – SR 15 Mobility Project: community-forum discussion moving forward, the alternative which includes the stop on Adams Ave. is still in the running.

5. By-laws – Morris made a motion that the Group not re-visit the issue of whether the Chair shall designate an alternate chair prior to presenting information items until a review of the By-laws and Council Policy on the subject is conducted and the full Group considers the findings; Susan seconded.

Art's concern, what led to his objection at the last meeting to Jim retaining the Chair while presenting the information items, is with the impact that unregulated public information presentations have on the length of meetings.

Susan had checked the By-laws (Art. 2) and CP 624 for provisions on order of authority in conduct of meetings and use of Robert Rules of Order, in particular. RRO should be used when CP 624 or the Administrative Guidelines do not address an issue.

Holley remembers when meetings would continue for hours, dealing with all the details of various projects and action items presented to the Group, lately meetings have been much shorter.

Jim called for the question, all, except for Art, approved the motion.

By-laws Report Continued – Susan is reviewing the superseded By-laws and comparing with the new set for language changes and the significance thereof. She will prepare a summary highlighting the changes. Jim gave a brief explanation as to why the By-law approval process has taken so long and that we still do not have official recognition of the approval of our By-laws.

6. City Heights PAC – Art asked if he could volunteer for NHCPG representative.

Other Items:

Susan indicated that there are 3 vacancies to fill on the board. Jim said we need to reach out to residents, business owners, renters and landlords for potential candidates. The Group has fairly good geographic representation, but by other measures of diversity – not so much. Eligibility requirements will be reviewed at the next meeting when a nominating committee will be named. Kevin asked that eligibility requirements be e-mailed.

Art asked a series of questions about the nominating process, whether the balloting is secret and if they are pre-printed or blank.

Susan quoted Art. 5 relative to write-ins: not allowed. Also, reminded that candidates need to submit a General Membership Application.

Next Meeting: January 6, 2009 at the Community Center.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24