

# **Normal Heights Community Planning Group DRAFT MINUTES**

August 2, 2011

6:00 PM

Normal Heights Community Center

Meeting called to order with quorum at 6:11 P.M.

Members present: Jim Baross, Joseph Fombon, Art Harrison, Nancy Lawler, Ben Moore, Mark Rowland, Earlene Thom

Members absent: Aaron Allen, Richard Rios, Nancy Wolfing

Community Members/Guests: Dion Akers, Charles Bradford, Connie Garrison, Mark Giandoni, Maria Koter, Mark Lawler, Suzanne Ledebor, Kate Marsalek, Connie Musser, Michael Prinz, T.C. Porter, Joshua Renner, Carol Roldan, Dino Serafini, Dan Soderberg, Rebecca Tabatzky

Welcome and introductions

Non-agenda Public Comments

Mr. Charles Bradford addressed the Board and its assembled audience to issue a general comment regarding the lack of information available to residents on the 40<sup>th</sup> Street Promenade project. As the 40<sup>th</sup> Street Promenade project is an agenda item, a response to Mr. Bradford's comments was deferred until later in the evening.

Approval of June 2011 Minutes

The June 2011 minutes were submitted for approval. Mr. Art Harrison requested a correction to the draft of the minutes stating that he voted against approving June's minutes. The Board voted to approve June's minutes and the correction submitted by Art.

Modifications to Meeting Agenda

Mr. Art Harrison volunteered to chair the Community Garden subcommittee and received positive acknowledgement.

Government Representatives

SDPD Sgt. Christopher Knighten presented the Board and its audience on public safety issues within the Normal Heights community.

- There was a brief discussion of possible drug activity on Cherokee St.
- Sgt. Knighten apprised the group of gang activity in the area, specifically a gang known as MDLS (Mexican Demon Locos Sur).
- There were other brief discussions on goings-on within the neighborhood.

- Sgt. Knighten distributed the direct telephone line to the Mid-City police substation: (619) 516-3000 but cautioned that 911 should be called for any and all emergencies requiring police, fire, or medical services.

Councilmember Todd Gloria's representative, Dion Akers, made a brief presentation.

- The San Diego City Council is on legislative recess as of 08/02/11.
- There was a brief discussion on Councilmember Gloria's newsletter, Sunday library hours, and road paving.
- The San Diego City Council will begin reviewing Environmental Impact Reports ("EIRs") in approximately nine months on the Balboa Park parking reconfiguration.
- After hearing a comment from a community member, Mr. Akers stated that Council representatives will not typically ask a caller if he or she is a registered voter.

Michael Prinz, now with the City Planning Division of the Development Services Department, briefly addressed the Group on the Bus Rapid Transit project currently under development.

Other Old and New Business and Informational Items:

- 1) J. Baross reminded the Board that the Community Orientation Workshop ("COW") is available both online and at periodic in-person events and that all Board members must take the COW within one year of being seated on the Board.
- 2) Mr. Mark Rowland commented on the recent actions of the Adams Ave. Recreation Council. AT&T has begun work on the Adams Avenue Recreation Center (the light standards are being replaced). Special mention was made of the recent Little League victory.
- 3) Mr. T.C. Porter, representing a group called Adams Ave. Crossing, presented an opportunity for the Community to use the assistance of 10 to 15 youth workers who will be performing various (light) maintenance tasks. Mr. Porter requested that any interested parties contact him directly for further information at [adamsavenuecrossing.org](http://adamsavenuecrossing.org).

Action Items:

- Mr. Joshua Renner presented the Board with plans for a potential project at 4836 Mansfield St. After Mr. Renner presented the Board with the site's history and the desired improvements to the site and receiving feedback and answering questions from the Board on the project, Mr. Mark Rowland moved to approve the project; Ms. Earlene Thom seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve the motion on a 6-0-1 vote with Mr. Ben Moore abstaining due to a conflict of interest on the matter.

- During the conversation of the project review at 4836 Mansfield St., Mr. A. Harrison inquired about the time and location of the Planning subcommittee. Mr. Harrison was reassured that he is on the subcommittee's information distribution list.
- Mr. Mark Giandoni, Project Manager with the City Public Works & Engineering Department, spoke on the 40<sup>th</sup> Street Promenade Project. The project, which was conceived and approved by the City Council in 2005, had its preliminary design approved in 2007. Mr. Giandoni stated that the City proceeded with the project as it felt that the project had been provided to it by the Community Group (the project was apparently an agenda item of the NHCPG sometime in the past).
  - A comment regarding trees within the project site resulted in the statement that 20 magnolia trees are to be planted. The project's contractors will maintain the plantings for one year with the Parks & Recreation Department assuming responsibility for the plantings thereafter.
- During the discussion on the 40<sup>th</sup> Street Promenade project, Mr. A. Harrison made a point of order to request that community members' comments be brief. Mr. Jim Baross then requested brevity from the all comment makers.
- Mr. J. Baross requested of Mr. Giandoni that written notice be sent to all residents whose property may be directly affected by any City-run projects.
- Mr. A. Harrison formally objected to the perceived shortened length of time that he felt he received whenever he wished to tender a comment.
- Mr. J. Baross ruled Mr. A. Harrison out of order for his interruption of a comment being issued by a community member.
- A discussion was held on the matter of crosswalks at E. Mountain View Dr. and Cherokee St. Ms. Nancy Lawler moved to formally request a crosswalk be installed across E. Mountain View Dr. near the school. Mr. Mark Rowland seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion on a 5-1-1 vote with Mr. A. Harrison objecting and Mr. J. Baross abstaining.
- The Board discussed the possibility of writing a letter to the Mayor and City Council requesting a City-wide task force on the utility undergrounding issue. Mr. M. Rowland moved to support such a letter with Ms. Earlene Thom seconding the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

#### Committee Reports:

There were no committee reports.

Next meeting: September 6, 2011 at the Normal Heights Community Center.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 P.M.