

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

Normal Heights Community Center at 4649 Hawley Blvd

Tuesday, August 5, 2008 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

A G E N D A

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

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

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

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

Reports from Government Representatives or others may occur:

- 3rd City Council District Office – Steven Hill, was Monica Pelaez,
City Planning and Community Investment Dept. – Victoria White, was Max Stalheim
- 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. Suzanne Ledeboer reported that the five Normal Heights Centennial signs are up... and in all the right places!
2. Friends of Normal Heights Canyons held “meet-and-greet” at the home of Susan Redelings July 18.
3. San Diego River Conservancy’s Jim King and Michael Nelson to present information about the Tributary Canyons Project authorized in May and about to get underway.
4. Community Planners Committee – Chair attended.
 - a. G
 - b. Indemnification Ordinance still delayed
 - c. Council Policy 600-24 administrative guidelines (64 pages) to be reviewed
 - d. P
5. Open House for my Mid-City project, SDSU to Downtown Rapid Bus Line on Sept 11, 3-7 p.m. at the Lafayette Hotel, 2223 El Cajon Blvd. For more information: Miriam Kirshner Senior Transit Planner, SANDAG, 401 B Street, Suite 800, San Diego, CA 92101, mki@sandag.org, 619-699-6995

Action Items

1. Project Review –
 - a. No requests for project review were received in time for this agenda.
 - b. Potential projects for review in future
 - i. #156896. 4939 E. Mtn. View Dr., 395 sq ft previously constructed addition

2. Election to fill two vacancies. Committee members will vote to fill vacancies from candidates qualifying for the positions.
3. Shall the Committee “go dark” for September? It has been customary to have a month “vacation” during the summer.
4. Position regarding Quarry Falls? Should we rescind our July decision?
 - a. Notice to all Community Planning Chairs from the Mary Wright, Deputy Director of the City Planning and Community Investment Department: *“Recognized community planning groups have been formed and recognized by the City Council to make recommendations to the City Council, Planning Commission, City staff, and other governmental agencies on land use matters, specifically, concerning the preparation of, adoption of, implementation of, or amendment to, the General Plan or a land use plan when a plan relates to each planning group's planning area boundaries.” Therefore, acting in accordance with Council Policy 600-24, community planning groups should not place development projects on their agenda which do not relate to or are outside of their community planning area boundaries.”* (I will attempt to attach a copy of the letter to the agenda.)
 - b. From our July 2008 Minutes: *Motion: Susan to support SDRP in their effort to: 1) bring Quarry Falls into compliance with the current Mission Valley Community Plan, in terms of project density; 2) assure that all traffic mitigation improvements identified in the project EIR are completed (not merely invested in); and 3) seek a redesign of the Quarry Falls plan to include at least 23 usable acres of park space on-site. Holly seconded. Approved Jeff opposed; Morris abstained due to job-related conflict.*
5. Review, discussion and potential prioritization of projects on our “comprehensive” list.

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

Housing –

1. Housing – (Holly Ritter)
2. Community Needs – (Morris Dye)
3. Facilities –
4. Transportation -- (Morris Dye, Jim Baross)
5. Bylaws -- (Morris Dye and Susan Redelings)
6. Canyons -- (Kevin Johnson) –
7. Normal Heights Library –
8. City Heights PAC – (Rudy Burlin)

New Business for the next meeting

Adjournment

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

MINUTES

Tuesday July 1, 2008

6:00PM

Normal Heights Community Center

Call to Order by Chair Jim Baross at 6:05

Members present: Nancy Wolfing, Dino Serafini, Earlene Thom, Kevin Johnston, Jeff Parsons, Susan Redelings, Morris Dye, Holly Ritter and Jim Baross

Members absent: Richard Rios Kerry Sheldon and Rudy Burlin.

Guests: Suzanne Ledebor, Elizabeth LaCosta, Tana Titus, Daniel Pontier, Gary Weber, Bank Dawson, Art Harrison, Bob Kaiser, Jim Schneider.

Welcome and introductions

Corrections to June minutes: Public information item on street sweeping frequency: "Streets seem only to be swept on the odd third Thursday of the month" should have been recorded to the effect: "Streets are swept only every odd month" – i.e. only 6 times per year. The correction to the June minutes is hereby noted. Kevin moved, Holly seconded to approve June minutes as corrected. May minutes were not approved in June due to lack of quorum. Holly moved and Susan seconded to approve May minutes, approved with Jeff abstaining.

Public Comments: none

Reports from Government Agencies/Representatives

Melanie Cohn – 76th Assembly District. Lori Saldana's office is beginning work on the new budget cycle. At this time, a 10% across-the-board cut seems likely – impacting many programs and services. Assembly Democrats continue to seek a mixture of revenue increases and budget cuts to pass a balanced budget this year.

Steve Hill – introduced himself, 3rd Council District representative, returning to work in Toni Atkins' office as ambassador to Normal Heights. His contact:

shill@sandiego.gov. Explained why Toni lead the veto of the Mayor's proposed cuts to Library and Parks and Recreation budgets. Steve was happy to be able to participate in the ribbon-cutting for the new Ward Canyon Neighborhood Park comfort stations. Directed our attention to the: "e-waste Recycling" event flyer enclosed in the current Toni Times: takes place on July 11 at the North Park Theatre parking lot. Steve was asked what Toni's plans are after leaving the City Council? Not sure – she's interested in taking a language immersion course. Steve was asked about what issues remain between Parks and Recreation Dept. and School District regarding joint-use site adjacent to WCNP. He agreed to check into it.

Updates from other Normal Heights or Mid-City Organizations

Friends of Canyons – Wanted to thank Lori Saldana and Toni Atkins for the mentions of FOC activities in their respective publications. Invitations issued for the NH Canyon Heights Trail Open House/Workshop Planning event on July 18. Since space is limited, attendance primarily reserved for residents of Ellison Place/34th.

Informed that Eugene Place Canyon restoration project is beneficiary of \$1000 from Toni Atkins' office. Next FOC meeting: Wed. July 9th at Café Cabaret.

Member's Comments: None

Information Items

1. Gang Prevention Commission information – no representative in attendance.
2. Pedestrian Master Plan for Normal Heights – Exhibits and other information on this project are available on-line:
http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/transportation/pdf/normalhts_cmmtymap.pdf
3. Jim congratulated Jim Schneider and the Adams Avenue Business Association on a successful and very impressive Taste of Adams Avenue. The event effectively showcased the diverse eating establishments along Adams. Jim Schneider reported that attendance was up over 1,000 from last year.
4. NHCPG vacancies- Jim announced that there are two vacancies on the Board and that nominations were now open to eligible members of the community. Jim asked Jim Schneider to invite nominations from the AABA and for Nancy to promote the nominations. Elections would be held at the August meeting. It was suggested that Jeff Underwood be officially notified that he is no longer on the Board.
5. Community Planners Committee – Jim attended the last meeting, wherein the following items were discussed:
 - a) Green Buildings – part of new General Plan (a proposal/info. item – no action taken);
 - b) All members of planning groups in good standing are protected from liability if acting within limits of authority and conduct themselves in accordance with the Bylaws. City Attorney reserves the right to decide when to provide legal protection;
 - c) Land Development Code update hearing dates provided;
 - d) Council Policy 600-24 (Community Planning Groups) shall be reviewed and discussed at the next CPC meeting;
 - e) Suzanne, Holly and Pat Meyers are acknowledged for their work on the NHCPG Bylaws.
6. Safe Routes to School Projects – project requests forwarded to City.

7. Normal Heights Sign over Adams Avenue – Morris asked about the rumors that have circulated regarding redesign of the sign. Jim Schneider reported that the sign has been discussed at the AABA (sign is their responsibility) and that plans to refurbish/replace sign have been pondered but nothing definite. A next step was decided that morning to go forward with an evaluation of the situation (structural, safety, maintenance and aesthetic issues). A brainstorming meeting is scheduled for July 15 at 8:30 in the AABA office, NHCPG members are welcome to attend. No funding will be provided/available and the funding process won't begin until a specific course of action is decided and a project defined. Nancy and Holly volunteered to attend brainstorm session.
8. Morris reported that a number of banners are being stored behind the stage; they may be of interest to someone. The banners were funded by CDBG and it was thought had been offered to the artists who created them; Pete Evaristo is most familiar with arrangements for their disposition.

Action Items

1. Project Reviews – None
2. NHCPG position on Community Gardens on Public Property –no plans pending or under consideration by City Parks & Recreation Dept. for the lots on 40th street adjacent to WCNP; but they would have a say in what activities occur on the parcels. Jim thought it appropriate for the Group to make a recommendation. Obtaining suitable liability coverage was mentioned as one possible problem, waiver and disclaimers would be required. What happens to the gardens, and the temporary possession, if and when a formal plan for the lots comes to fruition? The NH Park and Recreation Committee had indicated that wouldn't be a problem so long as there is an agreement in place to abate the gardens upon notification and under certain stated circumstances.

Motion by Jeff: to issue statement: “The NHCPG supports the use of the City-owned parcels on 40th Street adjacent to WCNP as a community garden if garden is operated in the same/similar manner as Community Garden on city property located on 34th Street is currently operated and managed with regard to standards, procedures and practices.”

Morris seconded. Motion approved, Nancy opposed; Kevin and Holly abstained.

3. Quarry Falls Mission Valley – Group addressed by Katie Keach, representing San Diegans for Responsible Planning. Ms. Keach started by stating SDRP was not opposed to a green, mixed-use, transit-oriented project such as Quarry Falls, which is being promoted as such. They are seeking a re-design (downsize) and inclusion of more park acreage. SDRP is concerned that, with all the projects contemplated for Mission Valley (total 12,582 units according to a brochure produced by SDRP and handed out by Ms. Keach), the Mission Valley Community Plan is being compromised and that a comprehensive planning effort is needed to address all of the cumulative impacts to circulation and parks. Ms. Keach informed the group that SDRP is partially funded by H.G Fenton, another

Mission Valley developer/landowner who is on record as not wholeheartedly supportive of the Quarry Falls project.

Motion: Susan to support SDRP in their effort to: 1) bring Quarry Falls into compliance with the current Mission Valley Community Plan, in terms of project density; 2) assure that all traffic mitigation improvements identified in the project EIR are completed (not merely invested in); and 3) seek a redesign of the Quarry Falls plan to include at least 23 usable acres of park space on-site. Holly seconded. Approved Jeff opposed; Morris abstained due to job-related conflict.

4. Mission Valley Overlook - One parcel currently on the market is located at the end of Cromwell Ct.. Jeff has asked Jeff Tom of Toni Atkins' office about the procedure for acquiring this or other parcels for public purposes. There may be a tax benefit associated with a sale to the city. There is concern about whether adjacent property owners would object to acquisition, or expressed interest in acquisition of potential overlook parcels by the city for public use.

Motion: By Dino to support any effort by the City to acquire parcels located anywhere on the rim of Mission Valley for use as a public overlook as they become available. Susan seconded. Approved; Morris opposed.

Other Items –

Tana Titus and Daniel Pontier are new homeowners in Normal Heights at 4440 Cherokee and came tonight to find out what could be done about unsafe conditions in their alley and tagging. They were told about Safe Neighborhood meetings and its goal to address these and other safety and crime problems.

Suzanne passed out Neighborhood Awards 2008 nominating ballots and urged the group to submit award nominees for consideration.

Committee Reports:

1. Housing – Holly reported on May 8 meetings of the Historical Resources Board and Historical Preservation Coalition.

The HRB meeting included Tricia Olsen of Development Services Dept. and Cathy Winterrowd, liaison from Planning. Discussion of current review process in DSD for historical resources: what properties are/should be reviewed. Demolition permits are now issued within 14 days of an application. However, properties older than 45 years should be given site-specific review by City Manager (?) and subjected to discretionary review in accordance with CEQA. Sites are identified as sensitive on the Historical Resources Sensitivity Maps. However, many of these maps of Mid-City are incomplete. Members of the Board are encouraged to contact Ms. Olsen with locations of qualifying properties so that they may be mapped. In addition, DSD plans to begin notifying community members by e-mail of any applications for structural change to any potentially sensitive properties.

The NHPC meeting was attended by representatives of various preservationist societies all over San Diego. A mission statement was drafted: "To advocate for measures that preserve our established neighborhoods and protect

NHCPG July 2008 Minutes

historical resources for future generations”. Concern was expressed that the Mayor and City Council must act to save the Mills Act. NHPC research revealed that the membership of the Technical Advisory Committee [on preservation issues] to city Land Use and Housing is comprised, except for two members, by the development community. No representation by neighborhood interests. The next meeting of the Land Use and Housing TAC on demolition issues is scheduled for May 2; NHPC members plan to attend. City Attorney’s office is working on a legal opinion that would identify when a demo. permit is ministerial and when it is discretionary and whether the city is in compliance with CEQA in the issuance of such permits. The next meeting of NHPC is at Grace Lutheran Church on June 12.

2. Facilities – nothing to report
3. Bylaws – assigned to Morris and Susan

Next meeting is August 4th 6:00 in the Community Center

Adjourned at 7:45