

# Normal Heights Community Planning Group

## MINUTES

Tuesday April 7, 2009

6:00PM

Normal Heights Community Center

Call to Order by Vice Chair Susan Redelings at 6:04

Members present: Holly Ritter, Richard Rios, Dino Serafini, Earlene Thom, Susan Redelings, Art Harrison, Larry Hofreiter, Bank Dawson, Rosanna Harrison and Morris Dye

Members absent: Jim Baross Nancy Wolfing Kevin Johnston

Guests: Mark Rowland, Angel Hernandez, Suzann Ledeboer, David Van Pelt, Judy Elliott, Lindsey Masukawa, Vicki Estrada, Joe Jones, Bob Keiser, Dion Akers

Welcome and introductions

Minutes of March meeting

Correction: Off-leash not “lease”. Question about timeline for the Normal Heights Community Plan Update: Dion Akers responded that all CP updates do have a specific target date, and will find out when NH’s is. Dino noted a correction regarding use of the word “cluster” in referring to the set of CP updates now underway – North Park, Uptown and Golden Hill – while the Plans are being done at the same time they are each separate, tailored to each community.

Holly moved for approval, Larry second, unanimously approved with corrections.

Modifications to Agenda

Art asked that we consider creating the Board officer position of Parliamentarian. After discussion it was suggested to place the item on the Agenda for next month’s meeting.

Reports from Elective Officials:

Third District Councilman Todd Gloria – Representative Dion Akers passed out previous issue of “District 3 Dialogue”, a new issue will be published next month, check Todd Gloria’s website for the online edition. Announced allocation of funding to bike routes through San Diego Bicycle Coalition, Kathy Keon, Chair. March was an active month in the District 3 office, handling a lot of sidewalk, street sign, street light, and pothole requests. Council voted to approve the indemnification of CPG members. The extension of such protection to sub-committee members is still an issue. Todd Gloria fully supports the CPC’s position of extending indemnification to non-member, sub-committee participants. The City budget and water conservation are still outstanding issues. Not resolved is the determination of penalties for

excessive water use and the threshold at which the penalty is assessed. The Stage 2 water emergency – called a “water crises” requiring a higher level of conservation -- is imminent. Look on the District 3 website for a link to the City’s Water Conservation webpage for details of the program.

Assembly Speaker Pro-tem Lori Saldana – Lindsey Masukawa passed out the latest Saldana Sun, which includes an invitation to submit nominations for Veteran’s Recognition Ceremony.

#### Planning Department Representative

No representatives this month. Victoria White had e-mailed to notify that since there are no projects on the Agenda she wouldn’t be attending.

#### Information Items

Referred to Agenda

Susan reminded members of the requirement to attend a COW one is scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

No other discussion on Information Items

Special Presentation – Vicki Estrada of Estrada Land Planning, representing the Community Forest Advisory Board.

Presented a powerpoint on the importance of a healthy urban forest to the urban environment. Ms. Estrada enumerated the benefits of a healthy tree canopy: mitigation of the urban heat island effect, reduction of glare, traffic-calming, absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere (50 lbs/year by a mature tree), reduction in landscape water consumption, extending life of pavements and more. Children learn better in an abundant urban forest. The Heritage Tree program is promoted by the CFAB, trees are nominated for protected “landmark” status. Other nomination categories are parkway resource trees and Preservation Grove. Arbor Day is April 18, the Mayor is scheduled to attend Balboa Park. 2,000 trees are to be planted along Chollas Creek. San Diego is tree-canopy deficient, with much less than the minimum recommended percentage of canopy coverage. Things we can do:

- Review our Community Plan and see to it that an Urban Forest/Master Street Tree Element is included with the next update;
- Encourage more trees in the landscape plans of projects we review
- Register our support for the City of San Diego Urban Forest Program, we will receive a Tree City USA award if it is implemented.

#### Action Items

##### 1. Board Officer Elections

Names entered into nomination for offices:

- Chair: Jim Baross nominated by Dino; Art Harrison nominated by Art.

- Vice Chair: Susan Redelings nom. by Holly
- Secretary: Dino Serafini nom. by Susan

Nominations were closed, secret balloting commenced. Election results were as follows:

- Chair: Jim Baross
- Vice Chair: Susan Redelings
- Secretary: Dino Serafini

## 2. Bylaw Modifications

Susan referred to memo in the Agenda from Planning Dept. regarding potential Bylaw modifications as suggested by Vicki White. Two modifications would correct deviations of our draft bylaws from the Council Policy 600-24. The first is in regard to Article II Section 4 pertaining to the Planning Group taking a position on a ballot measure. The suggestion is to change the language to conform to the wording of the shell bylaws. Second instance is Article III, Section 2, having to do with eligibility for general membership to include “not-for-profit owner, operator or designee at a non-residential real property address in the community planning area”. Suggestion is also to change the language to conform to the shell bylaws.

Motion made by Art to adopt the changes in the Normal Height Community Planning Group Bylaws suggested by Vicki White that would bring the Bylaws into conformance with Council Policy and the shell bylaws. Second by Rosanna; passed unanimously.

## Committee Reports

1. Housing – no report
2. Community Needs – no report
3. Transportation – no report
4. Friends of the Canyon – “Creek to Bay” clean-up on April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting at 3110 Camino Del Rio South at the foot trail from Ellison Place. Next meeting of Friends of the Canyon next Wednesday at 7:00 at Café Cabaret, they will discuss the Fall 2009 restoration project. I Love a Clean San Diego scheduled a Bay. Dumpsters will be placed on Ellison Place.

## City Heights PAC

Larry reported that the PAC is working on the dedication of the University Avenue "Tower" at the corner of Univ. Ave and Euclid. Community Development Block Grant funding was used to restore the Tower which had been removed for seismic reasons.

New Business

Art asked that we move forward with his proposal to add the office of Parliamentarian.

Next meeting is May 6 in the Community Center

Adjourned at 7:35