

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

MINUTES

Tuesday March 3, 2009

6:00PM

Normal Heights Community Center

Call to Order by Chair Jim Baross at 6:03

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

Members absent: Jeff Parsons

Guests: Bob Keiser, Gary Weber, Dion Akers, Bank Dawson, Mike Herrera, Rosanna Harrison, Richard Zakosky, Lindsey Masukawa, Melanie Cohn

Welcome and introductions

Minutes of February meeting

Correction: Morris and Jim spoke with Dion Akers about bike “routes” through NH not “paths”. Susan moved for approval, Nancy second, unanimously approved with correction.

Modifications to Agenda

Art asked if it was possible to open the election for members earlier in meeting and keep the voting open until the end and clear up issues regarding the registration of electors. Jim recommended staying with the order as in Agenda, conduct the election, count the ballots and declare the results all in sequence.

Reports from Elective Officials:

Third District Councilman Todd Gloria – Representative Dion Akers passed out latest edition of the Councilman’s newsletter: “District 3 Dialogue”. Mr. Akers reported on procedures for Council President selection and permanent Council rules. New times were announced for night meetings that could be “on-location” depending on the issues. Council decided on the Our Lady of Peace Academy conditional use permit: allowed expansion of student population to 750 to stand, and denied the proposed campus construction. Dion reported on the meeting with Jim and Morris regarding the SR15 bike route plan. Councilmember Gloria has Dion working with the bicycle coalition which is a top priority. The planned palm tree trimming program has been eliminated as a cost saving measure, but city crews will respond on as needed basis to abate hazardous conditions, residents were invited to call Dion who will notify Street Division. On the indemnification of CPG members, Gloria fully supports the CPC’s position. Regarding Morris’s inquiry regarding the status of any plan to reconfigure

the SR 15 on/off ramps, Dion could not find out anything. Pertaining to off-lease hours at WCNP: this would require a Ordinance.

Assembly Speaker Pro-tem Lori Saldana – Melanie Cohn, representative, introduced Lindsey Masukawa who will be the new Assembly District 76 representative. Assembly-member Saldana is working to pass the “Interstate Compact” bill that would provide portability of school credits for military dependents moving between states and AB 925: would require recycling of single use beverage containers. An open house in March was announced.

Planning Department Representative

Victoria White discussed the upcoming Community Plan updates: “Cluster Plans” involving North Park, Uptown, Golden Hill, several consultant groups are being hired. The City Attorney’s office is still reviewing the By-laws.

Art asked to be notified when consultants are selected.

Normal Heights Friends of the Canyons met with the Ellison place property owners about the proposed Mission Valley trail on Jan 24th. A range of issues were discussed including fire safety concerns and liability.

Information Items fro Agenda

1. Community Planning Committee items:
 - a) Rejected the amateur radio operator’s permit request for 80 ft. antennae height limit.
 - b) E-mail available to review Community Garden progress
 - c) Bylaws will be posted
 - d) Jim will keep us posted on Brown Act requirements
 - e) Historic review process potentially to allow procedural changes was rejected
4. Nancy and Jim remarked on the event’s success.
6. Jim reminded Board members that we are obligated to attend at least one COW. April 1st is the “go-live” date for the on-line COW. This web-version will have intermittent questions and some form of verification of completion. Jim’s interpretation of indemnification ordinance is that protection is available only to those who have satisfied attendance requirement. Mark O’Donnell of Planning & Community Investment Dept. has the attendance record.

Other :

Victoria White will e-mail the link to the specific city web-page to find the planning groups’ Agenda and Minutes

San Diego Housing Commission is doing a Housing Plan and sent out flyers describing the plan’s development. Jim asked if there is a concise delineation of neighborhoods, planning areas, etc. There are various levels of neighborhood boundaries depending on geographic need, Police for example.

Discussion on future Community Dinner sponsorships

Morris told how the Planning Group had organized the dinners in the past, getting restaurants to participate.

It's not certain how much interest there actually is among the various groups in the neighborhood.

Several things need to be worked out: schedules, how frequent, who or which neighborhood organizations will take the lead. Nancy volunteered to coordinate the organizing effort – form a committee, determine the level of interest and go from there.

Board Elections

Two general members were entered as nominees: Bank Dawson and Rosanna Harrison. Jim called for nominations from the floor, none were offered. Jim explained that elected/re-elected members will be seated at the April meeting, when the elections for officers will be conducted.

Jim asked if the Board wished to consider a reduction in the attendance requirement for Board membership from 3 meetings to 1 meeting attended in the previous year. Victoria indicated that the Shell By-laws give the Groups the ability to choose between 1, 2 or 3 attendances.

Art: moved to leave the Bylaws as they are. Morris second, Call for discussion. Bob Keiser thought the requirement needs to be relaxed since the Group is in danger of losing its quorum or its commission. Morris asked that if someone couldn't make more than one meeting in a year, would they attend the meetings. Jim asked what the Chair's authority was to appoint members to fill vacancies. Victoria read the applicable section of the Bylaws. Eligible candidates so nominated by the Chair would be voted on by the Board. Art: How many individuals would be eligible if the number was to be reduced to one and how many vacancies do we have? About 6 members would be eligible and there are currently three openings. Susan stated we have effectively been operating under a one-meeting rule. Morris is disbanding of the Group automatic? Victoria replied that the 120 day rule goes into effect when the membership falls below the minimum before a planning group needs to appoint replacements. The Planning Dept. would not immediately pull the group's commission, but would work with them.

Bylaws contain two sections that deal differently with membership: Vacancy and Election Eligibility. For appointive membership there is less restriction on attendance. Jim called for a vote on motion to keep Bylaws as it is. In favor: Art, all other opposed. Earlene then moved that the number of required meeting attendances be reduced to two, second by Holly in favor 8, opposed 3. Kevin suggested that when we vote in a Chair in April, whoever it is, we should respect that vote and live with the decision. Art commented that the Board and its officers should follow the Bylaws.

Jim called for the election, ballots with the candidates names were handed out to general members in attendance. Results were announced: five members standing for re-election: Richard Rios, Holly Ritter, Dino Serafini, Earlene Thom and Art Harrison were re-elected. The two nominated candidates: Bank Dawson and Rosanna Harrison, were elected.

Jim announced that he would not be present at the April meeting, but reaffirmed his intent to run for re-election as Chair. Susan will be present and will conduct the meeting and Board officer elections. Susan also announced that she is moving in May, will still be a property-owner (and therefore eligible for general and board membership) but feels like stepping back from at least the Vice Chair

Committee Reports

Jim reminded Board members that all committee meetings need to be noticed.

1. Housing – Nancy reported no meetings of Historic Preservation Coalition. Two properties were identified as warranting a further look but an investigation revealed no violations.
2. Community Needs – nothing to report
3. Transportation – Morris and Jim met with Dion Akers regarding bike corridors through the neighborhood. Morris asked Dion to check with Caltrans whether there has been any thought to address the dysfunctional configuration of the SR-15/Adams Ave south bound on & off ramp. Jim indicated that there may be an opportunity to make changes if the Adams Ave. transit station is the selected alternative for the SR-15 Centerline project.
4. Friends of the Canyon - Kevin Johnston announced the 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 clean-up on April 25th. Dumpsters will be placed on Ellison Pl.

City Heights PAC

Larry attended the last PAC meeting, maps of the City Heights Redevelopment Area were provided. A nice presentation of the SR 15 Transit Alternatives, one which includes the bus-stop on Adams Ave.

which provides a good overview of the department and noted further that there are fewer than 50 Code Enforcement officers city-wide. Other types of violations were discussed as well as priority of enforcement. Art stating the “

Next meeting is April 7 in the Community Center

Adjourned at 7:30