

# **Normal Heights Community Planning Group**

## **APPROVED MINUTES**

November 5, 2013, 6pm  
Normal Heights Community Center

Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M.

Board members present: Jim Baross, Art Harrison, Scott Kessler, Mark Lawler, Nancy Lawler, Caroline McKeown, Alison Moss, Mark Rowland, Dan Soderberg, and Earlene Thom. Joseph Fombon arrived at 6:10pm.

Members absent: Frank Stappenbeck

Community Members/Guests: Additional community members were present, including Jean-Louis Coquereau, Marianne Greene, John Hartley, Bob Keiser, Conni Musser, Gary Rose Weber, Ron Ferrero, and Suzanne Ledebor.

Welcome and introductions

Non-agenda Public Comments

- Ron Ferrero of the Normal Heights Community Association informed us that interim-mayor Todd Gloria will be present at their next CA meeting on Tuesday Nov 12 at 7pm.

Approval of September 2013 and Oct 2013 Minutes

- The draft minutes of the September 2013 meeting was distributed prior to the meeting. Art Harrison made a motion to argue for removal of all mention of his late arrival from the September minutes. Chair Baross explained why the minutes should reflect Board members' late arriving and early leavings from a meeting. The motion received no second. Art Harrison made a motion to remove from the September minutes the description of the presentation given by Dena Harris of the San Diego Global Vision Academy because he said it was too long and thought it suggested support of the school by the board. Secretary McKeown explained that she gives thorough descriptions of any presentations put before the board and that all of the local schools are welcome to get on the agenda and present at the monthly meeting. The motion received no second. Alison Moss moved to approve the September minutes as is, Earlene Thom seconded, the motion passed with a vote of 9-1-0.
- The draft minutes of the October 2013 meeting was distributed prior to the meeting. Art Harrison called for a Point of Order about the previous decision to have the secretary take note of late arriving board members. Chair Baross again explained why the minutes should reflect any Board members' late arriving and early leavings from a meeting. Art Harrison then commented that he wanted the record to show that "Art Harrison is offended by this". Mark Rowland moved to approve the October minutes as written, Mark Lawler seconded, the motion passed with a vote of 9-1-0.

Government Representatives

- Vicki Burgess of the San Diego Dept of Developmental Services and Facilities Financing spoke again about updating the Mid-City Facilities Financing Plan and the possibility of getting neighborhood projects funded by this mechanism. She informed us that we should be prepared to submit our prioritization list in January and asked for an update on our subcommittee formation. The subcommittee volunteers are Mark Rowland, Earlene Thom, Alison Moss, Marianne Greene, Nancy Lawler, and Ron Ferrero. Alison Moss volunteered

to organize the meetings. It was suggested that the subcommittee get the support of the board, so Caroline McKeown made a motion that the Mid-City Fund Prioritization Volunteer Subcommittee continue meeting and discussing the prioritization list and report back to the NHCPG Board at the December meeting, Mark Rowland seconded, the motion passed with a vote of 11-0-0.

Treasurers Report:

Art Harrison reported that when he became treasurer 3 years ago, the treasury consisted of \$6.50 and 24 buttons, but through the work of Suzanne Ledebor and countless volunteers selling t-shirts the treasury grew to approximately \$800. He noted that the money was then spent on license plate frames (\$431), a sign/banner (\$?), and a powerpoint presentation reimbursement (\$300), emptying the bank account. He noted that the recent license plate frame sales have brought the NHCPG account back up to \$530. But at this point Art Harrison tendered his resignation as treasurer because he “does not wish to be responsible for questionable use of our funds”. Alison Moss moved to accept his resignation as treasurer, Mark Rowland seconded, the motion passed with a vote of 11-0-0. The chair asked if anyone volunteered to be acting treasurer until the next election, Earlene Thom volunteered. Art Harrison called for a Point of Order, then Art Harrison made a motion that Earlene Thom be recognized as interim treasurer, Caroline McKeown seconded, the motion passed with a vote of 11-0-0. Caroline McKeown added to the treasurer report that she sold an additional 13 license plate frames which adds \$65 to the NHCPG funds. The \$65 cash was given to Earlene Thom who handed it to Scott Kessler of the AABA who will transfer it into the NHCPG account.

Action Items and Committee Reports:

- **Historical Reviews:** The NHCPG aids in the historical reviews of properties when the city receives a permit request for any property over 50 years old, in particular, what do we know about that property that the city needs to know. Properties submitted for historical review this month were: 3321-3323 N. Mountain View, 4629 36<sup>th</sup> St., 4476 35<sup>th</sup> St., 4553 35<sup>th</sup> St., 4795 Mansfield St., 3362 Madison Ave. Community member Gary Rose Weber commented that in addition to knowing that a permit has been requested, it would be beneficial for the community to know what the projects entail so that we can keep on top of what is going on in our neighborhood. This generated some discussion about what is provided to us by the city (address and photo only, sometimes a 1 sentence description of the project); normally very little information is provided unless there is a code variance requested in which case we would see the entire project plans.
- **Board Vacancies:** Two eligible community members have expressed interest in joining the NHCPG Board. They are resident/homeowner Jean-Louis Coquereau and resident John Hartley. The chair proposed a vote for their appointments to the board and both members were approved with a vote of 11-0-0. Welcome to Jean-Louis and John!
- **Food Trucks:** There are current city plans underway to change the permitting process for mobile food trucks which could affect the “Tasty Truck Tuesdays” events at Smitty’s on Adams Avenue. Scott Kessler reported that the AABA BID supports the food truck event because residents love it, the local restaurants approve of it, and it has significantly increased business in the neighborhood.
- **Judy Moore Memorial:** There was a discussion about properly honoring former community member Judy Moore. It has been 2 years since her passing and her sister reached out to the NHCPG and the NHCA about making a small donation in Judy’s honor.

Nancy Lawler reported that the Recreation Council is in support of a memorial, and had considered the possibility of a memorial bench at Ward Canyon Park. Scott Kessler informed us that the City has a “Memorial Bench Program” which we should look into. After some discussion, it was decided that the board is in favor of a memorial in honor of Judy Moore and in favor of using our treasury to hold any possible donation funds, but that further research would need to be done on the specifics of a memorial. Caroline McKeown, who has been in discussion with Judy’s sister and community member Suzanne Ledebor on this topic, offered to do more research on appropriate memorials and costs and will present her findings at a future meeting.

- **Traffic Calming Informal Working Group Update:** Alison Moss reported that, despite requests, the city will not conduct a traffic calming study of Adams Avenue. The committee had requested a study of Adams Ave in Normal Heights, however a previous study at Adams/Hawley showed that this one block did not experience excessive speed at the times analyzed. Other potential locations earmarked for a traffic calming study requests are West Mountain View/Hawley, East Mountain View/Collier, Adams/805, and Adams/Texas. Community member Gary Rose Weber commented that they have put in a request for a study to install a stop sign at 36<sup>th</sup>/Madison and will have an engineer response in January. Art Harrison asked about accident statistics for the neighborhood and was directed to the city website. Interested community members who have additional location ideas for a traffic calming study are encouraged to email [Lvijayakumar@sandiego.gov](mailto:Lvijayakumar@sandiego.gov).
- **Undergrounding Project Subcommittee:** Mark Rowland reported that the Land Use and Housing Dept is going to recommend that the City Council establish a Task Force to address utility undergrounding issues.

#### Other Old and New Business and Informational Items

- 1) An announcement was made about Board Vacancies. With the addition of 2 new board members (see above), we currently have 14 Board Members, and just 1 vacancy on the board. Qualifying community members can be appointed to the Board by a Board Vote, where they would serve the remainder of the term (currently 4 months) and then be up for re-election at the March meeting. In order to qualify for the Board, you must be a registered community member (homeowner, renter, business owner, or representative from a non-profit organization, located within the boundaries of Normal Heights), have filled out the application form to be a recognized community member, and have attended at least 2 NHCPG meetings in the previous calendar year (with the appointment meeting counting as 1 attendance). Interested, qualifying community members are encouraged to contact Jim Baross or any board member for information.
- 2) A reminder was made about Board Member attendance. Board members missing 3 meetings in a row, or a total of 4 meetings in a term year (defined as Apr-Mar) can be relieved of their seat on the Board.
- 3) Jim Baross reminded the Board that the Community Orientation Workshop (“COW”) is available online and that all Board members must take the COW within one year of being seated on the Board.

Next meeting: December 3, 2013

Meeting Adjourned at 7:22 P.M.