

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

APPROVED MINUTES

January 6, 2015, 6:00 P.M.

Normal Heights Community Center

Board Members present: Joseph Fombon (arrived at 6:15), Marianne Green, John Hartley, Scott Kessler, Joe Kissell, Phil Kramer, Mark Lawler, Nancy Lawler, Suzanne Ledebor, Caroline McKeown, Mark Rowland, Gary Weber, Ryan Zellers

Absent: Dan Soderberg

Community Members/Guests: Beth Antons, Khalisa Bolling, Matthew Boomhower, Alison Flynn, Katelyn Hailey, Colin Jemmott, Bob Keiser, Jim Kennedy (AT&T Wireless), Francis Marquez, Hutton Marshall (San Diego Uptown News), Adriana Martinez, Eva McCarthy, Michael Ninh, Sandra Pimentel (DecoBike), Earlene Thom

Welcome and Introductions

- The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Caroline McKeown, at 6:01 P.M.

Modifications to Meeting Agenda

- Marianne asked for last month's absence to be excused, but according to Suzanne, the bylaws do not allow any excused absences.
- Item #20, Utility Undergrounding Working Group—next meeting will be held January 20th, not January 12 as stated.
- Item #9, Kath Rogers (Climate Action Campaign)—will be postponed until next month.
- Item #14, Electric Charging Infrastructure—Mr. Chirazi has been non-responsive, so that item will be tabled until a future date.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of the December 2014 NHCPG meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Several corrections were requested.
- Marianne moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Suzanne seconded. All board members voted to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

- Mark R.: We have had no activity over the last month. He did contact Lois and request the balance but hasn't received it yet.

Non-agenda Public Comments

- John H: Two items. First, we're initiating a campaign for clean elections city-wide on the 2016 ballot. We now have 18 town council endorsements. Two, he plans to step down from the board because he'll be going full-time into the campaign. Resignation will be effective immediately. (He then left—at 6:11 p.m.)

- **Caroline:** Jean-Louis Coquereau resigned yesterday by email. So we now have two openings on the board. Must have attended two meetings since the last election (since April).
- **Scott:** Can we elect more people before the election? **Caroline:** No.
- **Marianne:** She'll be giving a presentation on CEQA.
- **Caroline:** The Normal Heights Community Association is going to have a dog park block party at Ward Canyon Park. Feb. 15 from noon–2. Planning meeting for the party Tuesday January 13 at 6 P.M.

Reports from Government Representatives and Community Groups

- **Katelyn Haily (Marty Block's office):** New legislative cycle has begun—governor and legislators sworn in this week. Marty Block now chairs the Banking and Financial Institutions Committee. We're still taking legislative ideas. Our office is always open for issues with state agencies.
- **Adriana Martinez (Todd Gloria's office):** Still on legislative recess until next week. Sheri Lightner was elected as new council president. Todd is still chair of Budget Committee. Ward Canyon will be a priority. Next budget meeting will be in April.
- **Scott (AABA):** Annual meeting on January 27 from 8–9:30 A.M. \$10 for a nice breakfast, public is invited. Getting ready to mail out annual report.

Information Items

- **City of San Diego Public Works Dept. Sewer Group 767A Replacement Project Presentation:** Mike Ninh spoke. 2.75 miles of sewer replacement will occur. They're trying to lift the profile of the sewer lines so there's less excavation. Special shoring will be used. There will be brand new streets over replacement sewers (but previously unpaved alleys won't be paved). Won't begin construction until October. All handicap ramps will be upgraded if not already up to latest standards. Passed out information sheet and answered questions.
- **Jim Kennedy (AT&T Wireless Technology upgrade at Adams Park site Pre-Proposal):** About two years ago, AT&T Wireless installed a system at Adams Park. Now the technology needs to be upgraded. Certain equipment needs to be installed which will change the appearance of the poles. Wanted to submit the idea to us and get feedback before getting permits/zoning approval. Showed photo mockups of proposed changes (various options). Didn't get much feedback from the audience.

Action Items

- **Establishment of an Election Nominating Committee for the NHCPG Board:** NHCPG Board elections occur every March. A Nominating Committee formed in January identifies eligible and willing candidates from the community. In accordance with the Bylaws, the Nominating Committee proposes a ballot of candidates at the February

meeting. There are 7 board members who are up for re-election in odd years (8 in even yrs). It has been proposed that all members *not* facing re-election form the Nominating Committee. Those members are: Fombon, Greene, Kissell*, Kramer*, Lawler, Lawler, and Zellers.

**Note: Following the meeting, Joe checked and verified that he and Phil Kramer had been elected to complete one-year terms. They're thus eligible to run for re-election and ineligible to serve on the nominating committee.*

Marianne asked to opt out unless required by the bylaws to be part of the nominating committee because she already serves on six committees. Mark R. Moved that the NHCPG form an Election Nominating Committee consisting of all currently seated board members not facing re-election in 2015. Ryan seconded. All members voted in favor except Marianne, who was opposed. The nominating committee will need to provide a list of candidates who have accepted next month.

- **Adams Avenue Speed Limit Reduction:** The NHCPG Traffic Calming Working Group discussed the issue of the current varying speed limits along Adams Avenue. Currently in Normal Heights, the speed limit is 25 mph from the I-805 bridge to 35th St., then it increases to 30 mph from 35th St. to I-15.

Ryan wasn't opposed to changing the speed limit, but the proposed basis was extending the business district. Rite Aid and Vons don't qualify as being in the business improvement district because they're too far from the road. Scott and Joe said maybe we don't even bother mentioning the business improvement district, just make it consistent. Ryan: Maybe have them test whether the business district (not business *improvement* district) could be applied for the whole length. If it's not, then it has to be assessed with a traffic speed survey. Ryan moved to have the working group contact the city toward reviewing the designation of Adams Ave. between 35th and I-15 as a business district in the hope of having a 25 mph speed limit, and if not, to do a traffic speed survey. Scott seconded. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously. Ryan will draft and send an email to the city.

- **DecoBike Bike-Sharing Program:** Sandra Pimentel, DecoBike San Diego Rep. presented the proposed bike-sharing locations on Adams Ave in Normal Heights (34th St. and 36th St.) and discussed the benefits of the project to the community. Scott (AABA rep.) discussed their role and recommendations. The NHCPG Traffic Calming Working Group has reviewed the proposed sites and recommends that the board give its approval. Scott moved to approve the installation of the proposed DecoBike bike-share locations as proposed, but with the layout at 36th St. revised to put the placard on the east side. Joseph F. seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.
- **9th Land Development Code Update:** Marianne, representing the Ad Hoc 9th Land Development Code Update Subcommittee, gave a presentation and distributed a handout containing the subcommittee's recommendations on the city's 55 proposed changes in the 9th Land Development Code Update. Scott moved, and Joseph seconded, to accept the recommendations of the subcommittee. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Local Schools Projects - Editor Letter:** The Ad Hoc Schools Subcommittee Meeting was covered in the Uptown News. Caroline felt that the article was mostly positive, but some things were overlooked that warrant a brief public response. She distributed the proposed response prior to the meeting and sought the board's approval to send the letter on behalf of the NHCPG. After a lengthy and spirited discussion, Caroline decided to withdraw her proposal and send the letter as a private individual instead. No motion was made.

Committee Reports

- **Community Planners Committee:** Marianne: We did discuss and vote on the small lot subdivision ordinance. SANDAG gave a presentation. There was a discussion on Pure Water San Diego, and the CPC voted in favor of that. Discussed the land development code update.
- **Projects Review Committee:** None this month. Marianne is being omitted from that committee and requests to be included.
- **Historical Properties Committee:** Mark R. requested that the city do a little more research on the property at 3376 Copley Ave.
- **Ad Hoc Bylaws Subcommittee:** Suzanne: Marianne asked if before next meeting, Suzanne could send us all a list of things we have to vote on. She will do that in a week to 10 days. She's asking for feedback on the red items.
- **Utility Undergrounding Working Group:** Mark R: They met in mid-December with Vicki and David Moty, from City Undergrounding Advisory Board. Suzanne thought last month's meeting was the best one they'd had. Mark gave more info from that meeting. There'll be a vote at the next meeting. The working group will meet on the 20th.
- **Transportation/Traffic Calming Working Group:** Did not meet, no new meetings planned. Marianne praised the working group, especially Ryan for the work he did with SANDAG.
- **City Infrastructure Committee:** Suzanne will go to the next meeting.
- **Ad Hoc 9th Land Development Code Review Subcommittee:** This topic was covered earlier in the meeting, so the subcommittee is mostly done, but Marianne may have to follow up.
- **Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance:** Marianne prepared a presentation. Caroline wants to have a special, publicly noticed meeting to discuss this. Suzanne suggested we do this at the next Community Association meeting next Tuesday. Caroline suggested we discuss this at our February meeting.
- **Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Local School Projects:** Had first meeting in December. Next meeting will be on January 26 at 8:30 A.M. at Lestat's. Will try to come up with a

stance to recommend to the board. The AABA had a closed session with counsel about the possibility of suing the school district.

New Business/Future Agenda Items

- Marianne: She can do a presentation on the Brown Act if we like.

Adjournment

- Suzanne moved to adjourn, Mark seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. Adjourned at 8:35.

Next meeting: February 3, 2015