

# **Normal Heights Community Planning Group**

## **DRAFT**

## **MINUTES**

April 5, 2011

6:00 PM

Normal Heights Community Center

Meeting called to order with quorum at 6:04 P.M.

Members present: Jim Baross, Joseph Fombon, Art Harrison, Ben Moore, Mark Rowland, Earlene Thom, Nancy Wolfing

Members absent: Aaron Allen, Nancy Lawler, Richard Rios

Community Members/Guests: Ryan Altman, Lois Bach, Bill Conway

Welcome and introductions

Non-Agenda Public Comments/Information from Community Members:

Mr. Bruce Coons and Ms. Alana Coons of the Save Our Heritage Organization (“SOHO”) made a presentation to the Group and its assembled guests to discuss the proposed reconfiguration to Balboa Park as a result of eliminating motor vehicles from the Plaza de Panama. SOHO advocates for the removal of cars from the Plaza but also for the preservation of the front entrance to the Park at Laurel Street.

Approval of March 2011 Minutes

Mr. A. Harrison moved to approve the March 2011 minutes with a correction. Ms. N. Wolfing seconded the motion to approve the revised version of the minutes. The revised March minutes now state that a house at 4479 38<sup>th</sup> Street has been recommended for *review* for historical designation. The Board unanimously approved the revised minutes.

Modification to Agenda:

Mr. J. Baross commented that Ms. E. Thom had been mistakenly omitted from last month’s election ballot and requested an action item to rectify this situation later in this meeting.

Reports from Representatives of Elected Officials:

Mr. Dion Akers briefly addressed the Group of some recent goings-on from the San Diego City Council. Specifically mentioned was the recent approval of an ordinance regulating medical marijuana dispensaries.

Presentations from Municipal Employees:

Community Relations Officer Jenny Hall, San Diego Police Department, made a short presentation to the Group and its audience and discussed a recent spate of burglaries that has occurred within Normal Heights and Kensington-Talmadge. Officer Hall reminded all present that the San Diego Police

Department may be reached at (619) 531-2000 for non-emergency calls and 911 for emergency calls.

Other Old and New Business and Informational Items:

- 1) Jim Baross reminded the Board that the Community Orientation Workshop (“COW”) is available both online and at periodic in-person events and that all Board members must take the COW within one year of being seated on the Board.
- 2) Mr. J. Baross remarked that the Centerline project to install bus rapid transit lanes in the median of SR-15 has identified alternative #2 as the preferred choice to pursue. Alternative #2 does not include a station at SR-15 and Adams Avenue.
- 3) Mr. M. Rowland discussed further actions on the plans to upgrade Ward Street Park and the generally-positive the current plans have received.
- 4) Mr. J. Baross commented that the community garden plan—specifically forbidding the cultivation and/or promulgation of marijuana and requiring any storage facilities to be locked—was permitted to advance in the planning process at the latest CPC meeting.
- 5) Mr. Kevin Johnson, via Mr. J. Baross, reminded the Group and its audience of the continuing work of the Friends of Normal Heights Canyons team.

Action Items:

Appointment of Earlene Thom to the NHCPG Board:

Mr. J. Baross sought to appoint Ms. E. Thom to a two-year term on the NHCPG Board in order to rectify the omission of her name from last month’s ballot. Mr. J. Fombon moved to accept the appointment of Ms. Thom; Mr. A. Harrison seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Congratulations, Earlene!

Concerns Regarding Composition of NHCPG Board:

Mr. A. Harrison expressed concern that the Group is not fulfilling the enrollment requirements of its bylaws by not possessing the 12-member minimum roster size. The Group acknowledged this as a valid concern but did not make any motions regarding this concept.

Election of Officers:

Mr. J. Baross, citing the need for the Group to possess Officers, presented a list of candidates and asked the Group and the audience for additional input and/or suggestions on potential Officers. Hearing no further suggestions, Mr. J. Baross presented the following slate of potential candidates to the Group for approval:

- Chair: J. Baross,
- Vice-chair: M. Rowland
- Secretary: J. Fombon

- Treasurer: A. Harrison

The Group approved the slate of officers on a 5-1 vote with Mr. A. Harrison opposing the motion and Mr. J. Baross abstaining.

Other Action Items:

- 1) Discussion and a possible action on decorative street lights was deferred until the May meeting.
- 2) There was no action taken on community gardens.
- 3) Midori Wong, Chief of Staff for the San Diego Redistricting Commission, made a presentation to the Group and its audience regarding the ongoing redistricting process being undertaken by the City of San Diego. Handouts were distributed. The Group was urged to become familiar with and get involved with the project.

Committee Reports:

The concept of holding a community dinner in conjunction with the Adams Avenue Business Association was briefly discussed.

Next meeting: May 3, 2011 at the Normal Heights Community Center.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 P.M.