



NORMAL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP  
4649 Hawley Boulevard San Diego, CA. 92116

**Minutes for Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019, 6:00pm until approximately 8:00pm**  
Board Attendance (X means “present”):

X	Gary Weber (C)		Linda Case	X	Mark Lawler
X	Gautam Dey (in at 6:05)		Richard Valentine	X	Scott Kessler
X	Jim Baross	X	Alison Flynn	X	Marty Graham (in at 6:17)
X	Caroline McKeown (T) (in at 6:35)	X	Nancy Lawler		vacancy
X	Rose Newberry (VC)	X	Alberto Foglia	X	Adam Deutsch (S)

C=Chair; VC= Vice Chair; T= Treasurer; S=Secretary

**6:00 Call to Order - Start of NHCPG Meeting**

1. Introduction of planning group members and audience
2. Agenda Modifications/Setting (*Note that items may be taken out of order*). Move to accept Jim/Rose.
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes – Adam D. M/S:Jim/Alberto. Alison, Gautam, Rose, Linda abstained since they were not here, and/or didn’t read them.
4. Treasurer’s Report – Caroline M. Our total is \$1996.61. This doesn’t include \$500 in City provided operating budget funds.

**6:10 Public Comment**

5. Non-agenda public comment may be limited to two minutes per person
  - a. Chris Olsen, D3 Candidate, spoke about his campaign.
  - b. John Hartley asked if we could fix the microphone, which Adam did while Chris Olsen was speaking (our sound system is messed up, since other groups, including SDG&E, have been using it, and messing with stuff).
  - c. We need to move the March 2020 Meeting to the 10<sup>th</sup>, so as not to conflict with the election primary.

**6:15 Reports**

6. Government Representatives
  - a. Brett Weise from Chris Ward’s D3 Office is here, and wished us a happy holiday, then chilled, as Chris Ward is joining us in about 30 minutes.
  - b. Adams Avenue Business Association: Scott updated us on the Spirit Stroll, and on the lights that have gone up in the tree outside the Kensington Library.

A resident asked about CicloSDios, and the business response, and some of them don’t like it, while others really enjoyed it. The resident really enjoyed it (as did the writer of these here minutes).

He also reported that there's construction on 36<sup>th</sup> and Adams, with 14 units, and we didn't hear anything about it. A conversation ensued about how that happened without us knowing about it.

- c. El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association: Nobody present, but Gary spoke to John O'Conner about the property at 40<sup>th</sup> and ECB.
- d. NH Community Association and NH Urban Arts: Nobody present from either group.

7. At this point, Chris Ward arrived.

- a. He talked about funding to move forward on planning for Ward Canyon park, with ground breaking in around 18 months. Also, Caltrans is working with the city to rebuild the 15 ramps. He's also aware that there's tension about the idog park placement.
- b. There are dedicated bus lanes on ECB in a 1-year pilot program (it's a "bus only" and also a sharrow-bike lane, which is confusing).
- c. Normal Heights Elementary Joint Use Agreement: He "appreciates both perspectives," but the community is still going to lose that park.
- d. Undergrounding: there have been two public meetings about doing some blocks north of Adams. He's aware we want boxes in the alleys, and of ideas for decorative lighting through a MAD.
- e. Meade Ave. Bike Project: Should start in the next few weeks, and go for 18 months or so (from Georgia to the 15).
- f. The city is talking about the SDSU/Stadium site agreement. Did not mention a path up our canyon or increasing our access.
- g. Homelessness is still a thing, and as of today, there's an agreement with the United Way to align services provides with volunteers.
- h. Gary asked about the Fenton Parkway Bridge, and that's in conversation, but we have nothing definite. Marty mentioned a change to street light real-times that's been studied that lead to reduced emissions. Adam mentioned major lack of response from the school district, and he responded by proposing a meeting between people in the next few months. Gary spoke to the district taking public land away from us, and Chris wants to elevate the conversation about these concerns.
- i. Chris mentioned the budget season starting in January, and he is mindful of our priorities to work them in in April.
- j. Caroline mentioned that our priorities haven't changed, and wonders if they can just use what we gave them next year. And Caroline wants to know if the design conversation about Ward Canyon will come to us or Parks and Rec. Bob asked, and Ward outlined how the budget process works, briefly. Linda also complimented all of Brett's work for us.

8. Adams Rec. Advisory Group: Bob reported that the plaque has been replaced at Adams Ave. Park. Also, they approved removing the lower campus of NHE from the joint use agreement, but the upper field will remain in that. There's also a Park & Rec Advisor board, that will meet 1/16 at the Balboa club at 2pm (but we'll check for that). The Rec Advisory Group meets next week at the Adams Ave. Rec Center.

Jim pointed out that our priorities seem to be in conflict with the Rec Advisory Group regarding the use of public land in this neighborhood.

### **Chair Report**

9. Brief primer – The Mid-City Communities Plan: Gary's prepared a quick cheat-sheet, which was passed out to the board, and to those in attendance.
10. CPC – Task Force recommendations on planning group responsibilities. Jim reported that the last meeting was cancelled. Jim plans to coordinate with Rose about attending those meetings. They're to hear a report from the city (624) about changes to planning groups, including requiring financial disclosure statements, which is obviously a deterrent. Jim can also attend the land use meeting on Thursday at the city.

Marty asked about a "shadow planning group," but nobody had any information on that.

### **7:00 Action Items**

11. Parks planning and development – responsibilities: letter to City about Interim Dog park situation. Linda would like access to the Caltrans land along the 805 for possible use for a park.

Caroline suggested we start going to Rec Advisory Group meetings so that we can speak to clear conflicts between our group and theirs. People on this board sit on that board, but there's no clear cohesion and communication. People chuckled about that lack of clarity, and Adam made it clear that this is a huge problem, and the more people on advisory groups chuckle and throw their hands up, the more the city, SANDAG, CalTrans, and the District take things away from us. There was much conversation about how disrespected the volunteers are. The groups are pitted against each other, deliberately, but these giant entities, keeping us outside of the conversation.

Scott talked about an alley redo project behind Miraposa, to make it a park/public space. Caroline has a contact to talk to about that.

M/S: Marty/Scott: to use the NH Parks Development Options Gary created as the basis for our desires regarding parks. All voted in favor.

M/S: Jim/Marty. That we formally give it to the Rec Advisory Group, and ask that they formally adopt it. All voted in favor.

John asked for meetings for a walk-about of the Caltrans land above 805, and everyone was confused about why there needs to be a meeting to have the walk-about on the agenda. It was a long and ridiculous circular conversation, but there will be a walk about on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

12. Ward Canyon – Final plans. No actions necessary.
13. MC Little League – home field location. No action at this time.
14. School joint use - contact with the School Administration. Chris Ward talked to us about setting up meeting. Adam and Gary will follow up on that.
15. Hillside access to MV & SDSU project – Fenton Pkwy connector. We talked about that with Ward, too, so no actions at this time. Everyone knows we want it.
16. Undergrounding – enhanced lighting options & costs, alley option. A mailer is ready, and Brett will send it out tomorrow. Scott said there needs to be an

advocacy group to push that, and that group seems to be formed and working on it. It doesn't seem an action is necessary at this time.

Gerald pointed out a number of inconsistencies in the SDG&E and city paper work on this project, and is getting no response from inquiries and appeals.

17. Meade Avenue -- issues and concerns lighting and landscaping excluded, parking loss severe. Marty: Seems like construction should be starting any day now, and notices are going out to impacted residents. There's a movement to fight the traffic circles, "and just the traffic circles." No action at this time.

**8:00 Discussion Item**

18. Preservation – 3801 Belmont Avenue demolition permit: We found this, and though it was listed, it was already half-torn down. A report was sent in about that, and the city has halted construction on that property.
19. Arts & Culture: Gateway structures, signboards, lighting Statuary, sculptures & murals. There's not enough people working on make these things happen.

**8:10 Adjournment**

*Agenda order and timing are approximate and subject to change. This information is available in alternative formats (sign language, oral interpreter, and/or Assistive Listening Device). To request an alternative format, call 619-533-3650 at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting. If you have questions concerning the NHCPG, please express them at the meeting or contact the NHCPG Secretary Adam Deutsch at [NHCPGsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:NHCPGsecretary@gmail.com)*

