



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

Meeting Minutes – January 2nd, 2018

Meeting Called to order at 6pm by Chair Jim Baross

Board Attendance (x means “present”):

X	Gary Weber	X	Nancy Lawler	X	Mark Lawler
	Bill Conway	X	Ralph Enriquez	X	Scott Kessler
X	Jim Baross (C)		Ryan Zellers	X	Joseph Fombon (VC)
X	Caroline McKeown (T)		Dan Soderberg		Khalisa Bolling
X	Rose Kelly	X	Thomas Lovell	X	Adam Deutsch (S)

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

Administration Items

1. **Call to Order:** Board introduced themselves.
2. **Agenda Setting:** Items might be taken out of order.
3. **Approval of Last Month’s Minutes:** Adam distributed the minutes from last month’s meeting to the board prior to this meeting, and took feedback via email, shaped the commentary into a new draft, and shared them again prior to tonight. **M/S: Joseph/Caroline. All approved.**
4. **Treasurer Report:** Total at \$1956.73 in our account. We’ll have an additional \$500 operating expenses for 2018, which are not part of this total. As per the agenda, the total is going to change today. **M/S: Adam/Joseph. All approved.**

Communications

5. **Reports from Representatives:**
 - a. **Brett Weise from Chris Ward’s Office:** Happy holidays, recess, etc. Committee assignments have changed. CM Ward is now chair of the Select Committee on Homelessness, and the Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (a full list of committees and who is on them can be found at <https://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/officialdocs/legisdocs/cccm meetings>)

When Brett said, “Budget priorities are coming up,’ Adam deadpannedly handed him our CIP recommendations. Here’s how the whole budget thing plays out: the Mayor makes a proposed budget, after which point the council weighs in.

Caroline wants to make sure it includes the capital improvement projects. Ralph wants more for street sweeping, and that's a recommendation that can be made.

Homelessness: still an issue that's being addressed. Two tents are operational. The last will go up by the end of the month. They're excited about that. The annual Point in Time Count is on ...and it provides a lot of data about how to address the nuances of the issues. January 26th. People can sign up to help with that at the RTHF (?) website. The count goes to getting some federal funds, too.

Omar Passons asked about the various task for efforts. Implementation is still up. January 11th is the mayor's State of the City address. Will be on City TV (video feed via the city's website).

Brett's doing a ride-along with Ward tomorrow to show him around some major concern areas. If you have specific places, send them to Brett by late morning tomorrow.

Finally, if you have budget ideas, send them to the office.

Joseph asked about stopping the mayor from doing line-item cuts to the budget. There isn't an official revision of the policies about that. The only way to override the mayor is a 6-3 vote.

John Hartley asked about what to do to get help for someone, claiming he tried to call the Homeless Outreach Team, but didn't get a response. He wants the city to create a whole other outreach program. At the moment, concerns like that go through SDPD. Brett suggested offering 211, to help communicate services and shelter availability.

Another resident asked about new policies that have passed at the state level, and Brett thinks other reps should cover that.

- b. **Scott from the AABA:** They're getting busy trimming 80 trees on the Ave. this month. They're also getting the Unplugged event ready.

Unfortunately, the snow didn't arrive for the Winter Festival (the machine broke), but they still had Santa, coco, and holiday merriment.

The next meeting of the AABA is on 1/30 at El Zarape at Adams and 32nd, 8am. Everyone is welcome to attend, and it's \$5 to participate in breakfast.

There's an upcoming event on 2/17 at 1-4pm: Alley Activation Demonstration project between Felton and 34th. Caroline says that promotes green space, and our Community Plan's commitment to those spaces.

Jim thanked Scott for all the Holiday efforts on behalf of the rest of the board. New banners are going up on the Ave, as well.

- c. **Nancy reported for the Adams Ave. Rec Council:** Went dark last month. Jim asked about mulch in the idog park. We've been getting complaints, so hope the Rec Council should pay for it. #mulchgate2018
- d. **Norma Stafford from the NH Urban Arts Council:** Still around, meeting tomorrow night, working to improve the Rec Council building. They also want to redo some utility boxes. They're still looking for building owners to allow murals on their walls, and they're still fundraising. Come on out, and contribute!

Jim asked if they've made a map to help people find the public art, and that would be helpful.

- e. **Ralph for El Cajon Blvd. Business Improvement Association:** Ralph mentioned that they also have an arts group, and would like to collaborate with Norma from Urban Arts. 3rd Monday at noon is when they meet.

The Housing Commission just closed on 38th and ECB will be transitional housing by early 2019. More details will be included in the Minutes as we look at this plan come along.

- f. **Communications from Web/Social Media/Other sources:** As usual, there were concerns about homeless issues, package thefts, but the other big thing is the closing of Discount Fabric. Scott says an estimate of 6 months for them to sell out, then they don't know if it's going up for sale or will be re-leased. Jim would like the ability to continue publicizing events on the marque.

g. **Non-agenda Public Comment (may be limited to 2 minutes each):**

- i. Omar Passons is running for D4 County Supervisor's Seat, and a lot of the budget that board controls is for public health, and that's his Masters Degree. He's a land use and construction attorney, so is prepared. He gave his background in the SD foster system, and he's running for the board of supervisors.

Text 50500 with Omar4SD, and you'll get an automatic response with his personal email and cell number, and he will follow up with everyone within 48 hours!

More information can be found at <http://www.OmarPassions.com>

- ii. Oscar Pedilla from "Safe Neighborhoods," says his "members" want him to share crime stats. Homeless activity has "almost disappeared" in Ward Canyon Park. He then gave broad coverage of recent crime, like "some assaults, burglary, car theft."

Though "members" were mentioned, it's not clear who those people are, when this group meets, nor where.

- iii. Captain Art Harrison: He wants to point out the road work on Monroe, and how rough the road from sewer repair, in hopes that the city might come back to make it smooth. Brett asked which stretch exactly, and Adam said that he'll know which part by how his car is bumping all over the place instead of riding smoothly.
- iv. Gary: it drives him crazy when we hear about the idog park, and how insufficient it is. There must be a sensible way to have it fixed with the city. Bring a chipping machine, and grind up the wrong chips that were put there in the first place. (Completion of the entire Ward Canyon Park includes moving the idog park to a permanent area.) #mulchgate2018
- v. Earlene (self-identifying as "the contrarian"): She thinks the idog park is fine. Park & Rec objected to finer bark because of the slope of land nearby. Gary says that there are dog parks all over the world that have solved this problem. Jim asked Brett about Rec Council spending, and the councils don't currently have access to those funds, and can't choose how that money is spent. But Park and Rec can decide how to spend it. Caroline points out that *our* rec council set up a 501c3, and their funds might be in there, but Bob points out that there isn't much in there. Park and Rec has rejected grinding what's there.
- vi. Michael Chandler is concerned about traffic safety at 35th and East Mountain View. Jim will make sure Ryan is aware of that. Caroline has also been trying to get that done for a long time, and gave some background.

Norma is also talking about doing a street mural at that intersection for street calming.

Scott: "Brett, call Gary Pence, and have them rebuild that intersection."

Nancy complained about 36th and Cherokee. Earlene disagrees that it's a problem.

Action Items

- 6. **Reimburse Treasurer for costs associated with recent expenses:** Invoice for \$1557.94, but she's trying to negotiate a lower shipping pricing.
M/S: Joseph/Scott: reimburse Caroline for the invoiced amount, and have any refunded money from shipping cost put back into the budget. **All approved.**
- 7. **Election Committee:** We need a committee nominating to set up ballots for March Elections. Adam, Rose, and Joseph all volunteered and are eligible. That's the committee.

Information/Discussion Items

- 8. The Lots at 40th and ECB:** Brett has an update. They're owned by Civic San Diego, and they're currently up for sale. There are other lots also up for sale nearby. At Real Estate Assets, they're reviewing policies. They will not go through RFP, and will be sold, according to the City offices. A likely bidder is Price Charities, and they want to develop affordable housing units/high density projects.

Thomas asked about the relationship between the council and civic SD, and it's "collaborative," rather than oversight.

Caroline wants to know where we should sent that letter, and it's to Civic San Diego. Caroline wants us to make sure they have that letter, and Adam will send it to them.

- 9. Joint Use Agreement Status at NH Elementary:** Brett also reported that the principal has found drug paraphernalia and used condoms, etc, so he's been keeping it locked on weekends. But there is a joint use agreement, and that must be honored. There are a number of gates, so it's a bit complicated. They're still looking for a long-term fix.

Thomas mentioned that there's not a lot of lighting there, so perhaps more should be installed. Nancy also said it's dark.

Jim's found the gates required to be unlocked to be unlocked. But they've been shut, and he thinks they should be open. He recommends more appropriate use to discourage inappropriate use.

- 10. A Library in Normal Heights:** Three options from Ralph: Community plans calls for us to have a Library, and they want to liaison to work with the Kensington Library. It's been done in the past, but Ralph is authorized and encouraged to keep doing that. Caroline suggests talking to the librarians, then the KenTal community Planning meeting.

Ralph also suggests going to the various business associations to make them known we want to make these efforts for our own neighborhood library.

He also wants to join efforts for the library to be considered along with affordable housing. He wants us to draft a resolution to put that in order. Brett suggests having a site in mind before we do that.

Ralph and the Library committee also want "Normal Heights" taken off the Kensington Library sign to make it know that it's not actually our library. That could be an Action Item at the next meeting.

Library committee is dark next month, but then will come back in Feb.

Committee and Ad Hoc Group Reports

11. **Community Planners Committee:** Jim B. (no December meeting)
12. Properties reviewed for historical significance: 5156 Benton Pl, 3562 Sydney Pl 4511 - 4517 34th Street, 5090 Mansfield, 4890 33rd St/3285 Copley.
Regarding 5090 Mansfield: it's not historic, but it had a devastating fire, and they need the permits to get approved for them to rebuild. It's going through the process, but needs to get pushed through faster.

4511-4517 34th Street. Gary's concerned about it, because it's a big lot. It would be great if we got the permit context along with these notifications. Apparently we can't do that.

13. **Project Review Committee:** no new projects requiring review.
14. **NH Canyons/Friend of the Canyons Action Group:** Michael Chandler is the liaison for this group. NormalHeightsCanyons.org. Scott suggested some people who used to be involved, and will put people in touch. 1/27 9am. End of Ellison Place. Walk-about.

Meeting ended 7:26 pm

Anticipated/Requested Future Agenda Items

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 Chair, Jim Baross, at jimbaross@cox.net or 619-280-6908, or the City of San Diego Associate Planner, Naomi Siodmok at NSiodmok@sandiego.gov or 619-446-5064.

Past Agendas and Minutes are available at <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/normalheights/agendas.shtml>
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