



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

Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, March 5th, 2019, 6:00pm until approximately 8:00pm

Board Attendance (x means “present”):

X	Gary Weber (C)	X	Linda Case	X	Mark Lawler
X	Gautam Dey in at 6:11	X	Zephen Specht	X	Scott Kessler
X	Jim Baross	X	Alison Flynn	X	Marty Graham
X	Caroline McKeown (T)	X	Dan Soderberg	X	Michael Chandler
	Rose Kelly	X	Alberto Foglia	X	Adam Deutsch (S)

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

6:00 Board Elections

Ballots will be handed out to those eligible to vote, and will have fifteen minutes to submit the ballot. Results will be announced later in the meeting

6:15 Call to Order - Start of NHCPG Meeting

1. Introduction of planning group members and audience members
2. Agenda Modifications/Setting (*Note: items may be addressed out of listed order*). None!
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes – Adam Deutsch emailed those out and took M/S:Caroline/Michael. All approved, except Jim who abstained because he wasn't here.
4. Treasurer's Report – Caroline McKeown sold the last pint glass. \$2196.79

6:20 Public Comment

5. Non-agenda public comment may be limited to two minutes per person
 - a. Dan reported that Jacobs is pulling support for the parking structure in Balboa Park. Dan partially joined the planning group in response to how groups were speaking out against it, and at his last meeting tonight, he's happy to share this news.
 - b. Jim reported that former city councilmember Judy McCarty just died, and we send our condolences. He also attended a meeting yesterday, that he can report on later.
 - c. Caroline wanted to thank Dan for his help with review of historical properties.
 - d. Gary seconded that, and commended Dan for being a valuable asset to Normal Heights.

6:30 Reports

6. Government Representatives
 - a. Brett Weise from Councilmember Chris Ward's office: there's a community meeting on April 9th, from 5:30-7:30pm.

There have been 3 approved Utility Undergrounding District, all North of Adams, so look for communications from the city and SDG&E about that. We asked about public comment parts of the process. There was talk of communication Gerald prepared, and

what we'll be pushing for to make sure this project is done right. Jim requests an agenda item to advocate putting boxes in alleys, and taking a position on this issue. Gary asked about what will happens to lights that are mounted to power poles, and Brett will follow up with him when he gets a reliable answer. There was also discussions about MADs and other ways to trying to get things like ornamental lights. Marty wants to know if there's a process to contact people if there are problems in construction, and the contractor is the first point of contact, followed by the city if they're nonresponse.

The county voted to form an agreement, a JPA, with the city for Community Choice Aggregation to work towards our Climate Action Plan goals.

There's a new "Creative Crosswalks Pilot," that starting. There are guidelines for that, and we can ask if we want one of those.

There was an update to the Social Host Ordinance to include drugs in addition to alcohol (this is the law that says if you're having a party, and a minor is getting drunk at your party, you can be held criminally liable).

Meanwhile, 140 homeless individuals are moving into a space adjacent to City Hall.

CM Ward, as chair of the committee on Homeless Outreach, is using \$5.2m to help with additional rental funds for those in need, and another \$5.8m for other services, and \$1.6m for capital needs and bridge shelters.

- b. Javier Gomez from Assemblymember Todd Gloria: there's an event at the Women's Museum coming up, and we can nominate people for that.

The deadline for bills has passed, including AB423.

Dan asked about the permanent implementation of daylight savings, but that bill hasn't been introduced.

7. Community Groups

- a. Adams Avenue Business Association: Scott shared the annual report. They're working on painting the 160 acorn lights on Adams Ave. That work should start in 30 days or so. They're also supporting the mural project at the Rec. Center. They're also working on installing holiday lighting at the park in Kensington that some other city workers destroyed recently; it's been a long and unproductive process so far, and we're happy that might get done now. They're also sponsoring a HUD program with other business associations around the city. Also, look for a merch store coming soon to the AABA.

Adams Unplugged is coming up on April 27th.

- b. El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association: Nobody here to report on that. Gary reminded us that they're doing their Pop-up projects. Look out for those.
- c. NH Community Association and NH Urban Arts: Nobody present, but Adam reported that there's a new monthly news blast coming from NHCA, and we'll be in there.
- d. Adams Rec. Advisory Group: Bob Keiser reported that the Rec Center sign has been blank because there are software conflicts between the computers in there and the sign. Parks & Rec can't fix it, so they're looking for IT to get to it. It's blank for now.

They talked about completion of the Dog Park in Ward Canyon Park. Caroline reminded us that the dog park that's there now is temporary, and the finished Park plans have it moved to a better location, and we should keep calling it the Interim Dog Park.

8. Social Media & other communications – Adam & Caroline: Some people were complaining about the height of the building at Adams and Bancroft, but none of them were at the meetings for that, and it can actually be up to 50 ft, but it's only about 35 ft., so they lucked out. Also, there was a rape near 36th St., and someone used that as a basis for saying Normal Heights isn't a safe community, and lots of people then debated that without providing evidence of any value. Someone also complained about the noise from the church near Normal Heights Elementary, and Brett says that they've been dealing with that situation; the church has not been responsive. There was also a conversation about SDPD not monitoring NextDoor, and some residents seemed to be taunting the police for not being able to monitor that social media.

6:40 Election Results

All candidates on the ballot were elected or re-elected, but Rose isn't here, so can't win. This means there is a vacancy on the board that will be filled at a later meeting.

6:50 Chair Report

9. Grand Jury report and City Auditor report – update: The documents reveal that there's nothing really wrong with the current planning report, but most coverage has been negative of planning groups. The city is short about 6 planners to serve communities, and they're not doing what they must to make the community planning process work. We need to be diligent about making sure the city moves forward with mindful planning, and we should continue to fight for that.
10. 12th Land Development Code update: it's full of proposals that hurt communities.
11. Curb color coordination – City Initiative
12. Required expenditures budget & timeline, and annual report. We have to make decisions about what to spend city operating money on, and also create an annual report.

7:00 Action Items

13. Response to City's parking revisions: we did that last month. The letter is below. Gary pointed out reservations with the removal of parking requirements, and Brett explained that it's a similar plan implemented in Portland and Seattle, and they're confident it'll work. Gary is also concerned about a lack of infrastructure and parks/city services and amenities. From there, we went over DIF funds (which we don't get because we've had no major developments in the neighborhood) and TPP funds, but our transit is hurting, so we're curious where the priorities are. Marty expressed concern with how parking is monitored and handled in Portland and cited problems with that system.

M/S:Alison/Gautam: to have an ad hoc workgroup to get into the weeds of the TPP. Alison, Alberto, and Gautam volunteered for that, as long as there are no conflicts of interest. Bob wants a report on this, and hopefully it'll come as a recommendation for the full board to vote.

All Voted in favor.

14. Survey results to date and next steps: Rose isn't here to report, but 60-80 people responded. We'll cover this again next month.
15. Clarifying park needs – working group formation: we need to show a clear plan for how to build a park. It's hard for us to ask for a new park when they won't finish Ward Canyon, and when Parks and Rec turned Adams Ave. Park into a garden that isn't a park anymore, and

nobody from Parks and Rec communicates with us. Ward Canyon's completion is the #1 CCIP priority for this community.

Linda asked Adam if he'd support turning Adams Elementary into a multi-level structure, and Adam explained that that seems like a huge waste of money that doesn't even exist, and we could use far less to acquire properties, and the city is unwilling to do that the moment.

16. Undergrounding – status & public input process issues. Gerald isn't here, and Gary would like Brett to see if city staff can come talk to use about this.

7:20 Discussion Items

17. City staff presentations: No city staff is here, but some would like to attend next month. Our planning can only come once a quarter, but as an equivalency for services we don't get at the moment.
18. Creating a budget and timeline for our cash resources.
Equipment? Annual report? History markers? Other? All these questions and more will be answered in the next few months!
19. Determining the status of community character contributors .
 - a. Streets - pavement, curbs, gutters, drainage
 - b. Lighting – public and private
 - c. Parking – on street & off street
 - d. Shade – amount, intensity and location
 - e. Upkeep – condition of public ROW & visible privately held property
 - f. Others?
20. DSD Changes in 45 Year Process Update: Caroline reported that the notification process has changed, and they will not send an email anymore. Instead, a website as to be checked and it's not intuitive or easy to use; the search functions are time consuming, and too much for volunteers to tackle. The Planning Department has not been responsive. Caroline would like DSD searchable by date and neighborhood. Gautam can do that through his site, ScoutRed.com.

Dan points out that the lack of transparency leads us back to history being destroyed, and they transparency was fought for years ago, and now it's being taken away without explanation.

Caroline recounted noticed value that the process has had, and will send documentation of that to Brett. Jim would like the city to formally let the city know that we oppose this change in the Planning Department/Development Services. We will take it up for action in April.

7:40 Information Items

21. Projects with the 45 year rule applied
4543 36th St: nothing notable.

The following topics are candidates for further discussion:

7:42 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 Vice Chair, Rose Kelly at rosemargaretkelly@gmail.com, or the City of San Diego Associate Planner, Nathan Causman, NCausman@sandiego.gov.

Past Agendas and Minutes are available at

<http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/normalheights/agendas.shtml>

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2/14/2019

Councilmember Chris Ward
City of San Diego
City Administration Building
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Councilmember Ward,

The NHCPG discussed the proposal to eliminate required parking at its meeting of February 5, 2019 and concluded that a major shift in land use policy such as this has the potential to exacerbate an existing condition, the lack of adequate parking, in a neighborhood that has already been impacted by poor planning and development activities in past decades. The current community plan addressed the circumstances in the 1990s and adjusted zoning conditions to fix it, with limited success. To make it worse would be inexcusable.

If there is any interest in following the adopted community plan guidelines, it would make sense to apply your new rules to the blocks south of Meade Avenue that front on the Boulevard. There are 15 blocks of land that have community support for substantial infill development. We have, in fact, advocated for it.

To arbitrarily pick a half-mile radius, and to then apply a circle to a grid system of streets is thoughtless. There really is a parking problem in Normal Heights, especially south of Adams Avenue. To throw a blanket solution onto many neighborhoods with differing conditions is silly. We respect the climate change issue and support enhancing non-motorized mobility but not at the cost of sensible land use, and parking is part of that equation.

The NHCPG offers its support for applying the new parking rules to the suggested blocks, and seriously opposes applying a random radius measure that affects many other properties. Surely no one expects that the half-mile radius calculated for the Green Line in Mission Valley would include the lifting of development restrictions for properties along our northern boundary, the south rim of Mission Valley. As you refine your proposal to exclude those obviously miscalculated parcels we encourage you to refine our southern tier of blocks in the same manner, and please note the blocks between Meade and Monroe from Bancroft to 35th St. They are without alleys and have escaped the changes that other blocks have experienced, primarily because they couldn't meet the parking requirement without the alleys.

It must also be noted that what San Diego has at present is not a quality transit system, it's a patchwork of projects that are driven more by funding limits than sensible planning. Los Angeles taxes itself substantially more for transit and has results to show for it. Decent bus rapid becomes a reality when headways are reduced to 7 minutes or less, shelters are upgraded, and it is sensibly connected to the fixed rail trolley. The promise of bus passes is not compensation.

We urge you to respect our neighborhood, our community plan, and our willingness to work with you to address these problems. We have seen in a variety of ways, over a long time frame, that very little has been done to address our infrastructure deficiencies. Please don't make things worse.

Respectfully,

Gary Weber, Chair
Normal Heights Community Planning Group

C: Mayor Kevin Faulconer
Council President Georgette Gomez
Planning Director Mike Hansen



Help keep Normal Heights safe - Turn your porch light on!