



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

Meeting Minute – June 6th, 2017

Meeting Called to order at 6pm by Chair Jim Baross

Board Attendance (x means “present”):

X	Gary Weber	X	Nancy Lawler	X	Mark Lawler (in at 6:13)
	Bill Conway	X	Ralph Enriquez	X	Scott Kessler (in at 6:02)
X	Jim Baross (C)		Ryan Zellers	X	Joseph Fombon (VC)
X	Caroline McKeown (T)	X	Dan Soderberg (in at 6:09)	X	Khalisa Bolling
X	Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg	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:** Caroline requested a Discussion of the Mock building in Ward Canyon Park, and how our promotion and presence at the City Council Budget Meeting went; these items will be added to Discussions. Rebecca wants to discussion AB 890 in Discussions. Items might be taken out of order.
3. **Approval of April Minutes:** Adam distributed the minutes from May 2nd to the board prior to this meeting, and took feedback via email, incorporated them into a new draft, and shared them again prior to this meeting. **M/S:Joseph/Caroline. All approved, except Gary & Khalisa abstained because they weren't here.**
4. **Treasurer Report:** Total at \$1787.66 in our account, which doesn't include city operating expenses money, which receipts were submitted to use. Caroline communicated with Alfonso at the city, and the reimbursements should be here inside of 6 weeks. **M/S:Joseph/Khalisa, All approved.**

Communications

5. **Reports from Government Representatives:** Chloe Madison from Chris Ward's Office. A number of things to report, with a fairly ominous warning: the city budget was approved, adding \$3m for police and retention, and calling for full restoration for arts, but only \$1.8m was approved. The CC voted 8-1 against a special election for the Qualcomm site. Hoping that a stronger

proposal will be crafted for the November 2018 ballot. Joseph was curious why Measure L didn't mitigate this entire issue; he also asked about the veto. Chloe cleared up some details about the procedures.

Some meetings coming up (wait for emails for dates). 6/14 at Adams Rec Center from 4-6pm; Cocktails at the Patio on 6/27 at 6pm

Ward Canyon Park: there was a memo with priorities, with \$3.5m requested for completion but it was not included in the mayor's city budget. The office was pleased to see our efforts at the budget meeting, but the mayor didn't include it. However, Gomez and Alvarez support that project for our Neighborhood.

Member of the Community Association asked about the Ward Canyon iDog Park: they'd like to know what other efforts we can do beyond the annual budget crunch times (#mulchgate). How can we strategize? Can we partner with other underserved Districts? Chloe explained how Ward, Gomez, and Alvarez collaborate on projects like this, as they represent areas with similar demographics.

Jim explained our roles as a recommending body to the councilmember. It was suggested the Community Association advocate beyond our efforts or those of the Rec Council. Caroline suggested looking at the City Council meeting agendas, and to attend those meetings to speak to related issues.

Dave Rodgers asked about \$3m in Caltrans funding to address issues with the ramp at Ward Canyon Park. Chloe explained that it's more complicated than a single pile of money, but multiple offices are communicating about it to try to make progress.

Dan brought up that the Meade Street Bridge over the 805 never gets street swept. The trucks turn around, or lift the brushes over the bridge. Chloe will look into that. But Scott said Rock N Roll Marathon people swept it.

6. Reports from Community Groups

Rec Council: Dave Rodgers brought up taking the grass out at Adams Ave. Park, and put in native plants. He hopes to discuss it with us. There will be a proposal at the next meeting at the 6/20 Rec Council Meeting.

Caroline mentions this is great for environmental reasons, but suggests that this is clearly a way to mitigate people sleeping in the park.

Jim says it'll be on our agenda, but off the cuff he says don't do it, as a park shouldn't be a cactus garden. Rebecca points out that there are some native plants that are also picnic friendly.

Gary mentioned that he fought for grass instead of concrete, and thinks that parks should have grass, but this conversation is appreciated.

They also would like everyone in the community to sign a petition to allow police to remove people from parks after a certain hour. We'll discuss that at future meetings, but the NHCPG is concerned about these issues as poorly veiled efforts to harass a vulnerable population in the city.

Arts Association Meeting is tomorrow night at the Rec Council.

AABA: 6/25 Taste of Adams Ave. Try to get those tickets early! \$35. From 11-3, at 45 different places.

El Cajon Business Association: Developers' tour is going to happen in the fall, to help promote new projects on ECB. They're also currently working with Civic San Diego and CM staff from D3 and D9 on RFP for the cite at 40th and ECB, and Ralph would like it made as an agenda item for August, to promote mixed use development.

Dan asked about the lot at 38th and ECB, and Gary suggests whatever project goes into 38th also be tied to projects going to 40th. He also suggests getting Civic San Diego out here to communicate with them about possible projects.

Normal Heights Community Associate: Beth Anton from the Community Associate reported positively on the Marathon, and also a fundraiser for movies in the park at BLAH. Movies starting up soon, and next mixer is at the Ould Sod.

7. **Non-agenda Public Comment (may be limited to 2 minutes each):**
 - a. Former Council member John Hartley, who in 1990 [voted against a cover constructed over the I-15](#), exposed his views about roads, and other infrastructure needs, and what he sees as deficiencies in the neighborhood. He wants some kind of coalition between various planning groups, apart from all the efforts we already push for in this community and the processes that include communication with the CPC and communication with our councilmember. He thinks we should "take some leadership here," presumably beyond the efforts people are currently dedicated to.
8. **Communications from Web/Social Media/Other sources:** Caroline reported most of the talk was about the marathon, and excessive dog poop this month.

Action Items

9. The July Meeting, which currently conflicts with the July 4th Holiday: Jim explained that we sometimes take a month break once a year, rather than moving the date. **Ralph proposes we go dark. M/S: Ralph/Dan.**

Rebecca is curious if we could move the date. Caroline would to amend the motion to go dark unless something big comes up. **M/S: Caroline/Ralph.** If that meeting does

happen, it would happen on 7/11. Ralph accepts the motion as amended. **All approved.**

10. **NHCPG participation in the Adams Ave. Street Fair (9/30-10/1):** We often have a booth at that event. Caroline normally creates a sign-up sheet to staff the booth. Caroline wants to know if that informational flier that Ralph and the CA is working on will be ready by then. They expect to have it ready by then.

Motion to participate in the street Fair: **M/S:Caroline/Khalisa. All approve.**

If promotional glasses are ordered, Ralph will store them. Caroline suggests that if we're going to raise money, what are we raising it for? Ralph suggests using it for an art installation. Rebecca is willing to order them, and get reimbursed; Ryan made the design, and we'll have to speak with him any updates on that. Motion: a subcommittee of Ralph, Ryan, Rebecca, and Caroline to coordinate the design and ordering of glasses, at a cost not to exceed \$750, **M/S: Rebecca/Joseph. All approved.**

11. **Reactions/Reflections on the Rock N Roll Marathon from June 4th:** 30,000+ people ran through the neighborhood last Sunday. Scott says issues from 2016 didn't repeat this year. Businesses on Adams were packed with spectators, and the Rock N Roll staff says the runners love coming through Normal Heights. Everyone seemed to love it, except for Earlene's neighbor (who was not present, but is represented by two notes from a trombone heard in the distance) who thought street closings were a problem. The Community Association felt it was the best ever; the Marathon's parent company also donated to the NHCA summer movie program. Caroline has also heard of runners who decide to buy in the neighborhood after they run through here.

Chloe said that if anyone has concerns or issues, to please contact the D3 office.

Information/Discussion Items – items may be taken out of order

12. **Community Choice Presentation:** A presentation/discussion to additionally inform and promote public dialogue about greenhouse gas reductions and various strategies to achieve this goal, whether new approaches for transportation, building, or electricity, either through SDG&E/utility companies or Community Choice Aggregation: Alicia Race, from the Climate Action Campaign: provide a handout promoting action for Community Choice. We need to be 100% clean energy by 2035 by law in the Community Action Plan.

Requesting a letter of support from the NHCPG for Community Choice.

Race gave background on what Community Choice is, and walked through the details of the process, and gave an overview of other communities all over California that have adopted this, or have started the process of adopting it. More details are at www.ClimateActionCampaign.org

Jim asked about the decision to embrace this, and it would be city wide, rather than community to community. Ralph asked if rates have gone up, and Race said in all cases rates are complete or lower; Earlene asked about how the bill is structure, and Race explained that it would all be one centralized bill. Bob asked about who is compete, and Race said it's between SD&G and other energy choices offered by the CCE. Rebecca asked about how large industrial scale projects impacts are part of this, and how sources might be more localized (wants the power to be more localized, rather than rely on large facilities that have higher environmental impacts), and Race said local renewables are the preference from most communities, but options are open for communities to choose. Dan asked about covering parking lots with solar, and Race said incentive are there. Gerald asked about net metering regulations, and those people seem to be getting paid at higher rates. Rebecca asked about the barrier at the local lever to get this embraced; Race said a study is underway, and when those results come out, the Climate Action Campaign would like the council to be ready to vote. Hopefully they'll be ready to vote in the fall. A member of the Energy Advisor Board said that they have found rates always fall with CCE, and there are lots of advantages to this.

Jim would like access to the technical study, if we can get a link to it when it's available. Rebecca would like to know how other CPGs recommended without the technical report. It would seem recommendations are done based on other cities' data.

Return to Action Item

- 13. Review and Potential Update of City Capital Improvement Projects:** Jim gave brief overview of what CIPs are. We're being asked—yet again—to update our list from a few years ago. Jim suggests we either turn in what we have, or come up with a new list, or something in between.

Caroline says that our needs haven't changed, and nothing has been fulfilled. She suggests we prioritize it, and forward that to them. There's a google doc of all these things. Check it out: Need a link..

Gary points out that there's no deadline on these things. He and Joseph recommend not prioritizing it, and just go after everything all the time.

Community suggested emphasizing that this list has lingered for a long time, including things from the 1965 community plan that we never got funded. Lots of questions were asked for clarification about what these funds are for, and why we haven't gotten squat in a long time.

Rebecca suggests publicizing that we have the list, but not for feedback to change the list.

Khalisa suggested we share the list at the Adams Ave. Street Fair.

Motion to publicize the and submit the list as is: **M/S:Rebecca/Caroline. All approved, except for Ralph.**

Return to Information/Discussion Items

14. Roadway condition concerns: how to notify and expedite repairs and how the City seeks to prioritize projects. Chloe is working on getting a list of resources to help our roadway conditions. Gerald has submitted over 170 GetitDone app requests, and so can you!
15. Information and discussion on some on-street and off-street parking situations that are affecting Normal Heights. Gary W: Let's save that for next month (it's getting late).
16. City Councilmember Chris Ward community update and public feedback event June 14th, 4 to 6 PM at Adams Ave Recreation Ctr. 3491 Adams Ave. RSVP to bweise@sandiego.gov or call (619) 236-6633.
17. The Planning Commission was to hear the Accessory Dwelling Unit/Companion Unit measures on May 25th. Results? The CPC had recommended: Clearly define Floor Area Ratio, Clarify bedrooms allowed, Replacement parking for garage conversion must be enclosed, Remove Transit Priority Area as a parking exemption, Remove MF zones, Premises must be owner occupied, Rentals must be 30 days or more, and Clarify that Mini Dorm regulations apply. City Council will be discussing and voting on this sometime soon, but there are no updates at this time, but Councilmember Ward is working on that.
18. Reminder that all Board members are to have attended the COW. We're all set on this board.
19. Conversation about Ward Canyon Park and the Mock Building: Caroline requests that this be placed on our agenda for the next meeting. Nancy reported that, apparently, people are already working on the roof, but Chloe is not aware that the project is underway yet.

John Hartley, Coordinator for Safe Neighborhoods, an organization that doesn't appear to have a website or publicized organizational structure, said that they reported the leaks to the city, and that Safe Neighborhoods bypassed the councilmember and the NHCPG and got volunteers to fix the roof, who began work in the last few days. It's not clear who approved the work on the building, who is doing the work, nor what kinds of licensing, or insurance and liability assumed regarding those individuals.

Caroline expressed that even if repaired, it should not hold up redevelopment of that building according to the approved plan at a later date. We'd hope that future requisitions for progress on the approved demolition and construction of a new building will not be impeded by these rogue efforts.

20. Follow up on our presence at the City Council Budget Meeting: Caroline reported: a lot of people came out, but also people who have never been to these meetings, which shows that we got the word out through our promotion efforts. We were competing against other big budget projects and cuts, but we learned a lot regarding how we'll continue our efforts. Watch the whole thing on website:

Rebecca recommends we coordinate ceding time in advance for next time.

AB 890: Rebecca wants us to know: There is currently a loophole in the CA Environmental Quality Act that gives a project the right to by-pass environmental review if it is approved by a ballot measure, and that if a project gets enough signatures to go on a ballot the City Council can just approve the project out-right without even putting it to a vote (again, bypassing environmental review). By-passing environmental review means that the project would not need to study, document, or disclose its environmental impacts and would not be required to mitigate for them. This bill seeks to close these loop holes via election code reform. It passed the Assembly, and is now in the Senate. We don't know where Toni Atkins stands on it. Rebecca suggests we contact Toni Atkins office about supporting this.

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Committee and Ad Hoc Group Reports

21. Community Planners Committee: Jim gave an update that touched on President of the Balboa Conservancy, Tomas Herrera-Mishler; Sempra Regional Vice President Frank Urtasun on Community Choice Aggregation: It got heated. Proposed Place-making regulations: they're trying to make it easier to do public art. Agreement that it is important to hold a public vote on the future of the Qualcomm site.
22. Properties reviewed for historical significance – 4909 East Mountain View, 4875 Mansfield St. No significance was found.

Meeting ended at: 8:13pm

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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