



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

Meeting Minutes – February 6th, 2018

Meeting Called to order at 6:03 pm 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)	X	Ryan Zellers	X	Joseph Fombon (VC)
X	Caroline McKeown (T)	X	Dan Soderberg	X	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. We’ll be changing the items about the brochure to Discussion Items. Full presentations from SDSU will also wait until March’s meeting, but they’ll stay here to answer questions.
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, incorporated the comments into a new draft, and shared them again prior to tonight. **M/S: Caroline/Rose. All approved, Ryan and Khalisa abstained since they weren’t here.**
4. **Treasurer Report:** Total at \$1978.79 in our account. We’ll have an additional \$500 operating expenses for 2018, which are not part of this total. **M/S: Ryan/Joseph. All approved.**

Communications

1. **Speakers from SDSU West Proposal:** Kim Kilkenny, Friends of San Diego State Steering Committee. They’re hoping to have a spot on the ballot in November. He got involved because he thought the Soccer City deal wasn’t good for the city or voters, so he’s working on this new proposal. They propose that SDSU shall take over the land at full market value, provide a river park, and 22 acres of new parks, and have full environmental review, and be versatile to accommodate sports teams. There is also dedicated affordable housing in their plan. Part of this effort is to expand the land locked campus, so the university can grow, and help the community, city, and region

in a number of ways.

He handed it over to **Jim Chatfield: JMI Reality** (the group that also developed the ballpark area in downtown San Diego). They helped SDSU put together the development plan and at this point are only doing site planning, and other logistics.

Art asked about affordable housing, and student housing vs. other housing. Chatfield explained that the plan includes campus facilities including student housing, but other residential space (4600 residential units) is planned on the land as well. It will be carved out as “market housing” for now, but with versatile uses open as needs become more clear (including possibilities for military housing). Art then asked about parking and traffic, but also said that he’s “asking but doesn’t need answers,” so the conversation moved on.

Another resident asked about viewing the plan online, and more information can be found at <https://sdsuwest.org/>

Adam asked about the canyon path from Normal Heights down to the river park. Chatfield said he wants the Fenton Parkway bridge, but we in the community know that we need to get down the canyon to access that path.

Gary followed up, and expects a commitment to the path down the canyon from one of the access points off of North Mountain View. Chatfield said the money is there for this to become a reality.

Gerald asked about going from one campus to the next for student (and how that could be difficult). Chatfield said that the new campus would be upper division classes, and R&D facilities, so it wouldn’t be common for a student to have to ride the trolley between campuses, and the university would be mindful of scheduling.

Dan would also love the bridge, as it would be much more manageable for people in this community, so they don’t have to leave the neighborhood and double-back to get to a public space and mass transit directly to the north.

Michael wants to know why they’re in favor of the Fenton St. Bridge, and Chatfield said that it helps their goals to alleviate traffic from Friar’s road. They want to have options to avoid congestion.

Reports from Representatives:

2. **Brett Weise from Chris Ward’s Office:** There’s a new police chief, David Nisleit. Council is expected to confirm, and Ward wants a focus on Community Policing. There’s also a new COO, Kris Michell, former president of the Downtown Partnership, and has held a number of other roles in the city.

Budget priorities have been submitted, and the last item is Phase II of Ward Canyon Park, as is a path from here to the River Park. See page 28 of 110 in this document:

https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/18_01_fy_2019_city_council_budget_priorities_complete_report.pdf

They've also made a lot of recommendations for homeless services, and requests for new funding, including arts and culture money.

Upcoming dates to find Chris Ward around the District:

2/17 Dos Palmas Café 10am until 11:30am Coffee with Councilmember event

2/18 Hillcrest Farmer's Market on Normal, 11am to 1pm

2/22 Balboa Park Working Group, 5:30 pm to 7:30, 1455 El Prado.

There was a question about the Mock Building staying up, and have the police go back in from a resident, but Brett reminded us that SDPD doesn't want to be in there, which is why they left over 3 years ago. Also, the building is in poor condition (as we've discussed in detail over the last 6 months).

Caroline wants to know when we should come to council to speak. Brett says usually in March, April, or May is when those should happen.

A questions was asked about where a new building in the park would be, and that was clarified based on the plan (toward the southwest, between the bathroom and the basketball court, with eyes on the park.

Earlene asked about a "police store front" use of the new building, knowing that they've been phasing those out, and thinks that the chances of police being in the new building seems slim. Brett repeated "eyes on the park," to say that the space would have a view of the park, so when people are there, like police, they can see the park.

Ralph asked about the recent graffiti, and to whom a report goes. He asked for Brett to follow up on how they're investigated, in addition to being painted over.

Thomas asked about 1401 Imperial, and wants to know about a timeline for when that Navigation Point would be open. Funding was just approved last week, so logistics still need to be worked out.

Earlene asked about the old Charger Training facility to be converted for homeless services. Brett reported that they've requested funding of acquisition of that.

Price Charities is bidding on 40th ECB, and we want updates, but there are none at this time.

3. **NHCA:** There's a Work Party at Ward Canyon Park on Saturday at 9am. Clean up, and paint refreshing, etc. The Spring Mixer is 2/22 at Rabbit Hole at 6pm. Movies are also scheduled in the park. A request was made to also clean NH Elementary, and Ron said that *if* the gates are unlocked, they can try.

4. **Scott from the AABA:** Craig Burns is a new employee in the office. New banners have been hung along the Avenue, and over 100 trees were trimmed along the Avenue. The Annual Report is out, and there was the Annual Meeting last week, where they honored Gary Weber for 40 years of service in the community. On 2/17 there's an Alley Activation Demonstration Project from the UCSD Urban Studies Program. 4/28 is Adams Ave. Unplugged.
5. **Nancy reported for the Adams Ave. Rec Council:** The baseball field is reopened after maintenance at Adams Ave. They're still working on the funding issue with the city. "Haven't heard nothing on the dog park." The chair of their committee, Dave Rodger, resigned recently.
6. **Norma Stafford from the NH Urban Arts Council:** Meeting is the first Wednesday of every month at the Rec Council at 6pm. They'll be at the Alley Demonstration. They're also working with the El Cajon BBIA on possible future projects. They're raising funds for supplies for projects.
7. **Ralph for El Cajon Blvd. Business Improvement Association:** The 37 ECB is being activated as a place for a public market. They're hoping to get a presentation from those interested in the 38 ECB property. The Grand Opening of the Centerline Bus Lane along the 15 is happening, too!
8. **Jim Attempted to move on, but was interrupted.** Hartley stood up and spoke highly of Gary. Regarding "Safe Neighborhoods," the private club he often talks about, but never mentions any meetings, he said that there's a "park watch." He also promoted a SDPD Coffee with a Cop even coming up, as if they organized that event. They apparently have a neighborhood watch, and he says people should talk to him to organize that (as they're not actually organizing it, as much as they're saying one should exist).

Caroline mentioned that the old Neighborhood Watch sign was removed from her block, and asked if he can get them Neighborhood Watch Signs. Hartley said, "I don't know anything about those, but we can talk about it," but it's not clear when that conversation would happen.

Jim reminded the room that the NHCPG approves the development and completion of Ward Canyon Park. We've recently unanimously taken action rejecting the petition that Hartley attempts to circulate regarding the Mock building.

9. **Communications from Web/Social Media/Other sources:** Ralph mentioned that Poncho Villa has been closed, and they called it Normal Heights in the report, but it's City Heights, and explained that when there are negative reports from City Heights or North Park, media outlets tend to call those places Normal Heights, and when positive things happen in Normal Heights, it's typically reported as being elsewhere.

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

- i. Resident of Swift wants to read a letter about Accessibility at Adams

- Elementary, and asked to wait until we bring that up on the agenda.
- ii. Linda Case spoke about how she's been painting over graffiti. And advocated for people to do the same. She also volunteered to paint it for people. Jim reminded people that the police would like a photo of the graffiti, so the Get It Done app would be good to use for that. The Gang Taskforce would like the photos of those.
- iii. Michael wants to know who is accountable for the idog park, and it's not the Rec Council. It's Park and Rec. Jim explained the hierarchy of that department.
- iv. Gerald made contact with the Streets Division and other project managers, so hopefully there will be progress on getting our street rebuilt properly. Apparently there's a conflict between Sewer and Streets about who will pay for doing those projects. He recommends calling those offices, and the council office.
- v. Earlene mentioned that Phase II of Ward Canyon Park might not get done for a long time, and doesn't know if police will ever come back.
- vi. Another resident asked if there's something that guides our efforts here, and Adam explained that there's a Mid-City Community Plan. Jim also explained that we're an advisory body, rather than a more proactive arm of the city.
- vii. Scott spoke to construction workers for Adams Ave. Elementary, and they're moving equipment, including portables, onto the park land, which they promised they wouldn't do. Gary explained that we need to get organized to address these issues.
- viii. Earlene thinks we should have "some consideration for public parking."

Action Items

11. **Library Committee** request for us to ask the City to remove "Normal Heights" from the library Branch located in Kensington: We've made this request in the past.
M/S:Ralph/Adam: Remove "Normal Heights" from the library branch located in Kensington. It's counterproductive for us to have our name on a building that isn't in our community, especially when we want our own library.
 Caroline pointed out that the names were swapped on the sign at some point.

The Chair of the KenTal Planning Group mentioned that any expansion of that space is at the bottom of their list.

Suzanne held up the Community Plan, and asked us to implement page 101, which includes a library for Normal Heights.

Hartley endorsed the idea (though the last time he was on this board, he resigned, and left with the contact list of people interested in the project).

Vote: All, except Scott, who think's it's unneighborly.

12. **Approval for Content/Cost for Community & Government Contact handout/brochure:** Ralph passed out a mock-up. No action required. Payment has

been made.

13. **M/S:Gary/Rose:** Shall the NHCPG request the City of San Diego to calculate and report the actual carrying capacity in terms of density or Floor Area Ratio, height, and required parking on the blocks along El Cajon Boulevard between I-805 and the SR 15 freeway, north side, in the Normal Heights portion of the Mid-City plan, if the blocks were fully developed to existing zoning regulations?

We have a high-density area available, and want them to develop it. Numbers are useful. Rose can do it if the city refuses.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

Election Committee: Ballots for March Elections will include Adam, Rose, and Joseph all volunteered and are eligible. The committee will manage the election. The ballot will include: Jim Baross, Linda Case, Michael Chandler, Alison Flynn, Marty Graham, Art Harrison, John Hartley, Mark Lawler, Caroline McKeown, Zephen Specht, Gary Weber

Information/Discussion Items

14. **Review of Normal Heights Canyons On-Site Meeting:** Michael Chandler gave a review of a meeting that happened at the north end of Ellison, with a goal of having a path connect from there to Mission Valley. He suggests someone contact the Mission Valley Planning Group to align our goals for this project.

Caroline pointed out that this is exactly the kind of thing we should use our funds towards, and we should get an estimate for how much planning/drawings would cost.

Jim will contact the Mission Valley Planning Group.

Ryan mentioned that SDSU students did a study of the land, and we might be able to find that.

15. **Update regarding success for access to shared use spaces at Normal Heights Elementary School.** P&R "Staff reiterated to the school to make sure all four gates are opened...Citizens can call the Adams Recreation Center to report the gate is locked however it is unlikely we would have a staff person on-site to drive to the school and unlock the gate."

Jim believes Park and Recreation and City staff are still in discussion with SDUSD and NH Elementary regarding after school programs and security, but both P&R and the Mayor's office have re-affirmed that the gates should remain open during the appropriate hours. Park and Recreation and City staff are still in discussion with SDUSD and NH Elementary regarding after school programs and security, but both P&R and the Mayor's office have re-affirmed that the gates should remain open during the appropriate hours.

A resident of Swift read a two page single-spaced letter about their concerns of for accessibility to that space. In short, she opposes the joint use agreement, because of how the land is misused or vandalized by other.

Jim asked if there was any proposal. They proposed the lunch area and playground on the school land be kept locked. Jim asked who she's represented, and there are school groups she's associated with.

Jim reminded that the construction of the school specifically stipulated a joint use agreement, as we are severely under parked.

Caroline asked for a compromise to build a fence to close off some of the area where children eat. Brett mentioned that the school principle expressed the same concerns, and the general idea is to promote active use, rather than try to keep people out. The resident asked "Who do you think is using the park?" and Bob Keiser, passionately explained that he uses it, standing up when they tried to interrupt him. He actively uses the park, and doesn't see the issues this resident has raised. He sees families using them. He's never seen vandals or homeless on school grounds.

Scott supports the concerns expressed, and wants her to know that she's being heard. Thomas also supports that, especially when illegal activity is happening.

16. **Utility Undergrounding Update:** Gerald went to the recent open house. It seems in 2028, North of Adams might be done. They want to move lines out of the alleys, and onto the street. David from KenTal gave a summary of the history of the program. There's a report to find the details. We've had this conversation many times in here before.

Jim commented that they've already come out and started surveying on his street north of Adams and that some areas might happen much sooner, imminently

17. **City of San Diego residents can request a street tree** to be planted in the public right-of-way, at no cost, if they agree to water the tree to ensure its survival. Many of these trees are planted by the Urban Corps of San Diego. Requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and must be made through the PDF icon permit process. Information is at <https://www.sandiego.gov/trees/planting>

Meeting ended 8:13 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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