

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FEBRUARY 2011 MEETING NOTES**

DATE: February 17, 2011

TIME: 6:30 PM

The first part of this meeting was a Business Meeting of the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) Board of Directors, and the second part was the activities discussion for the organization. These notes include updates as of March 14, 2011.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The following members of the NPHS Board of Directors were present:

Patrick Edwards
George Franck
Steve Hon
Katherine Hon
Ed Orozco
Vince Rivera
Louise Russell
Randy Sappenfield
Liz Studebaker
Sharon Turner
Paul Wade

The following members of the NPHS Board of Directors were absent:

Jody Surowiec
Michael Thornhill
Bill Vivian
Hilda Yoder

Members Bob and Paul joined us. We also welcomed guest Elena Buckley, Editorial Assistant for the *Uptown News*. Her article about the Dryden District appeared in the March 4-17 issue of *Uptown News*, along with an inset about the Burlingame tour. Thanks for the excellent press, Elena! We would note that the Historical Resources Board is a City organization, not part of NPHS, and the City arranged the meeting of property owners that NPHS attended.

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The February Agenda was accepted as proposed.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The draft minutes from the January 20, 2011 NPHS meeting were accepted and have been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials were sent to the Board in advance of the meeting. Sharon presented a summary. Expenditures were for continued reservation of our domain names and for a booth at the Old House Fair. We gained a new member who also made an extra contribution (thank you, Paul!). Robert Hoy made a very generous donation to fund the Water Tower historical designation project. We continue to provide Burlingame and North Park history books as a wholesaler to retailers such as The Grove and Vintage Religion.

An addendum to last month's approval of pursuing a second County grant was discussed. The previous action was to request \$500 for the car show, \$200 for software, and \$1,000 for website design assistance. The Board considered the possible need for complex website upgrades to accommodate the virtual library database of building permit information being developed. Louise moved and George seconded \$2,000 be requested for website design assistance, for a total grant request of \$2,700. The motion carried unanimously. *Update: Steve completed the grant application and submitted it online on February 22, 2011. Required paper copies were mailed February 25, 2011, comfortably in advance of the deadline of March 1, 2011. The County will send a notice with their decision in a few months.*

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS PRESENTATION

Kristin Harms with the University Heights Historical Society (UHHS) presented an interesting discussion about the community planning efforts going on now for the North Park and Uptown planning areas. The historical subdivision of University Heights is within both of these community planning areas. UHHS has developed recommendations to City staff about historic preservation, conservation areas to protect community character, and planning/design issues such as land use, zoning and building height. These issues are important because the City is updating community plans with a focus on infill to provide new housing and businesses in the future. Organizations interested in protecting the unique character of our historical communities do not want the focus on infill to result in widespread demolition and out-of-scale development.

6. CALENDAR PROJECT

Left over calendars were collected from retail locations and distributed for donation to various supporters of NPHS, including Vernetta of the Lions Club as a thank you for sharing the scrapbooks, Robert Hoy for initiating and funding the Water Tower historic designation project, David with West Coast Tavern, Philip at Vintage Religion, and 2010 car show participants. Goals for the calendar project in this year should be discussed in more detail with the Board at a future meeting.

7. DRYDEN DISTRICT

The district process is proceeding well. At the meeting on February 14, the City Historical Resources Board (HRB) Policy Subcommittee approved the district boundaries we recommended and approved the period of significance as 1912 to 1941. The first neighborhood workshop was held February 26. Residents attending were generally supportive, and City staff felt it was a good meeting. About 30 homeowners attended. Upcoming milestones are as follows:

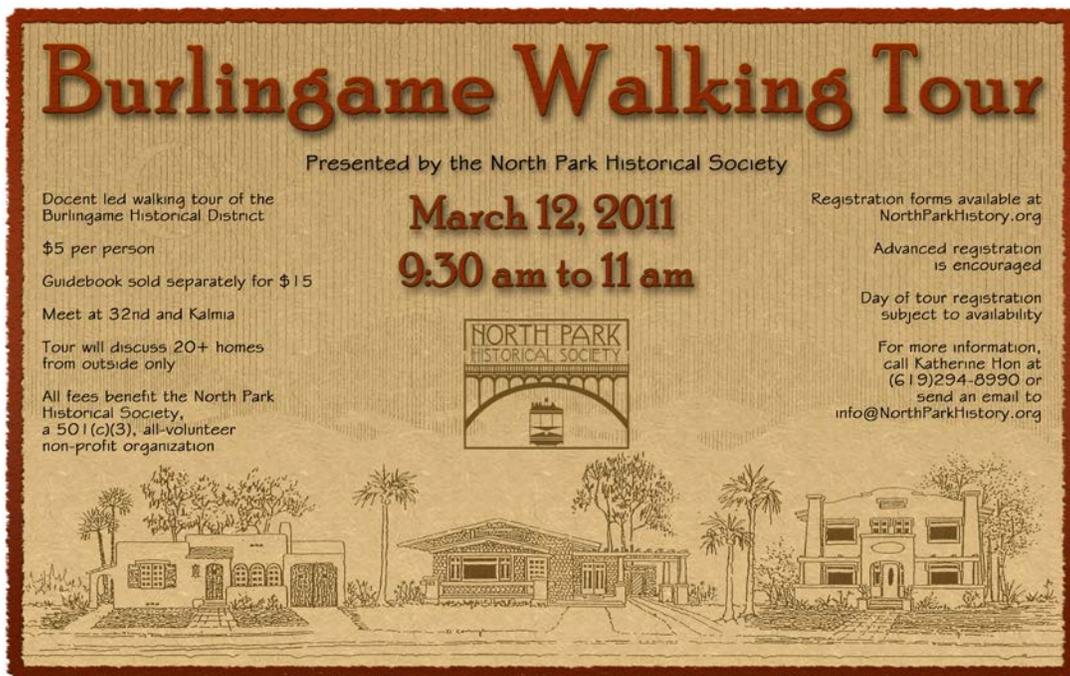
- March 14: Return to HRB Policy Subcommittee for a report on the property owner workshop.
- March 17 (approximate): Property owners will receive self-addressed stamped ballots from the City that will provide owners an opportunity to voice their support of or opposition to the district.
- April 29: First hearing by the HRB to review adequacy of the nomination, as required by District Policy.
- May 26: Second hearing by the HRB to designate the district.

Still up in the air is the district name, but we are supporting the name we proposed, the North Park Dryden District. City staff have resisted accepting this name because other historical districts are named for the subdivision (tract) they encompass. In this case, however, the district

is partly in the Park Villas tract and partly in the West End tract, but not a major part of either. Possible naming options for the district will be on the property owner ballot.

8. BURLINGAME WALKING TOUR

The historical walking tour of the Burlingame Historical District based on the book we just reprinted, *Burlingame: The Tract of Character, 1912-1929* is set for March 12. Vince did a great poster, see below. The advertising ideas we had last month were implemented, including getting the poster displayed at Vintage Religion, The Grove, West Coast Tavern, North Park Main Street, and Rebecca's. Pat Taylor put a poster up at McKinley School, where she volunteers (thanks, Pat!). A jpeg of the poster was emailed to our history distribution list, the Burlingame Club, and University Heights Historical Society, who spread the word. The letter to the editor of *Uptown News* thanking them for the article by Michael Good about the Burlingame book and mentioning the upcoming walking tour was published in the February 18-March 3 issue. A notice to Tour the Burlingame Historical District appeared in the March 2011 issue of the *North Park News West Coast Craftsman*. A notice was also published in the *Union Tribune* Datebook section on the Thursday before the tour. George coordinated with SOHO, who sent a notification to their extensive list. Paul put the tour notice on the home page of our website. *Update: The smart no-cost marketing to our community paid off with 40 attendees at the tour.*



9. NORTH PARK WATER TOWER DESIGNATION PROJECT

George continues to coordinate with the El Cajon Business Improvement District and the University Heights Historical Society in preparing the application. George has requested a meeting with City HRB staff.

10. BOOK PROJECTS

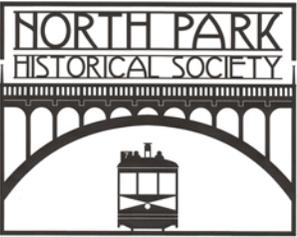
New Book, 1946-Present: The group will meet March 24 at the Hon's to review photos to potentially be purchased from the San Diego Historical Society using the County grant we obtained last year.

11. CAR SHOW PLANNING

We are still planning for the date of September 10, 2011 for our second annual North Park Car Show. Patrick noted that the parking lot behind the North Park Theatre may be fenced as the City changes departments in charge of the land. This could affect our plans to use the lot and close the part of North Park Way between Utah and Granada. Steve, Bob, Liz, and Bill will continue to work on the pre-planning. The North Park Theatre parking lot is still our first choice location.

12. KLICKA SCHOLARSHIP

Louise coordinated with the Klicka family and verified that they are sponsoring \$2,000 this year. The ad appeared in the March 2011 *North Park News*. The updated application was put on the website. Louise also emailed counselors at local high schools. The presentation will be made by Council member Todd Gloria at the North Park Festival of the Arts, at the dance stage. The deadline for applications is March 19.



*The
Jessie Klicka
Foundation
Scholarship*

\$2,000 scholarship for a graduating high school senior

Applicants must reside in North Park, have applied to a 4 year institution of higher learning, possess a minimum 3.0 grade point average, demonstrate community service, and complete the application form.

APPLICATION DEADLINE is Saturday, MARCH 19, 2011.

Application & further info at www.northparkhistory.org

13. CONGRESS OF HISTORY

The conference was held March 4 and 5. This year the site was Balboa Park Recital Hall. Steve and Katherine staffed a table. It is always good to chat with attendees and fellow exhibitors, including Ocean Beach Historical Society, SOHO, and Pacific Southwest Historical Railroad Museum.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

Remember that the North Park Festival of the Arts is Sunday, May 15. We need all members possible to come and help staff the booth. Ed, Sharon, Katherine, Steve, and Louise are in.

The Old House Fair is Saturday, June 18, 10 am to 4 pm. NPHS will have a booth. Mark your calendars to help. Liz, Ed, Randy, Steve and Katherine are planning on coming.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

The question was asked of the group if they are open to hearing other speakers with preservation issues. Specifically, SOHO would like to make a presentation about the current proposal from Irwin Jacobs to build a bypass road at the Laurel Street Bridge in Balboa Park. The group was open to a presentation if it would be at the end of the meeting and therefore not result in us neglecting or rushing through our project discussions. George will coordinate with Alana Coons at SOHO.

16. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** March 17, 2011 at 6:30 pm in the second floor conference room of the Masonic Lodge.