

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

DATE: **April 21, 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 May 4, 2011. Our meeting on May 19 will be dedicated to history show and tell. We will show the pictures we plan to purchase for the next book. If you have something to share, let Katherine know (info@northparkhistory.org or 619-294-8990)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

- Steve Hon
- Katherine Hon
- Ed Orozco
- Louise Russell
- Randy Sappenfield
- Jody Surowiec
- Michael Thornhill
- Sharon Turner

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

- George Franck
- Patrick Edwards
- Vince Rivera
- Liz Studebaker
- Bill Vivian
- Paul Wade
- Hilda Yoder

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The April Agenda was accepted as proposed.

There will be an open house about the potential park behind the North Park Theatre on April 28. We agreed it is good for the North Park Historical Society to be involved in this planning process. Sharon moved and Ed seconded that a representative attend and donate the consultant a copy of the North Park history book. The motion was approved unanimously. *Update: Katherine attended and gave the consultant a spiral-bound version of the North Park book. She gave a handout with photos from the car show, explaining that we would like to continue to have this event in the park space. She also suggested historical information be incorporated into the park and streetscape of the streets involved in the project.*

We are an award-winning organization! NPHS will receive a Community History award from the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board for reprinting the book, Burlingame the Tract of Character. The other awardees for this project are the Burlingame Club, Pat Taylor, and Vince Rivera. We nominated the North Park Theatre Vertical Marquee for an Architectural Reconstruction Award; David Cohen (West Coast Tavern), Leon Natker (Lyric Opera), Michael Lengyel (City Redevelopment Department), and Councilmember Todd Gloria will receive this award. The ceremony for these and 16 other awards will be at the next HRB meeting on May 26 at 1:00.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The draft minutes from the March 17, 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 of activity in the last month. We had revenue from selling 2 books to Amazon, and expenses from renewing the website hosting. Our revenues and expenditures are tracking well with the projected budget.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. CAR SHOW PLANNING

We are still planning for the date of September 10, 2011 for our second annual North Park Car Show. The question continues to be if the North Park Theatre parking lot can be used for the event. Steve contacted Anthony of Todd Gloria's staff, and Anthony talked to City Real Estate Assets. We don't know anything certain yet. We have to submit a permit request for closure of North Park Way by July, and we won't be able to get a refund for the permit fee if later it turns out we can't use the parking lot. We may want to develop a Plan B location.

6. KLIKA SCHOLARSHIP

This year's recipient, Goni Dubnov, will be at the Spring Festival to receive the scholarship certificate. Todd Gloria has scheduled his attendance at the North Park Festival of the Arts on May 15 to present the scholarship. We may want to think about establishing an NPHS-sponsored scholarship, perhaps for a student going to a community college, as the Klicka Scholarship is for students going to a 4-year college.

7. DRYDEN DISTRICT

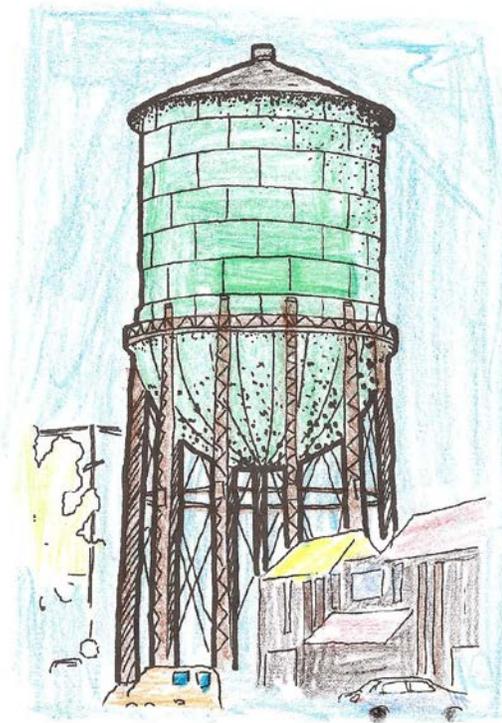
The district process continues. The City received 76 responses to the mailed ballot with 71 votes in favor of establishing the district. The City said this is a good response. The name "North Park Dryden District" was the selection of the majority. Upcoming milestones are as follows:

- Thursday April 28: First hearing by the HRB to review adequacy of the nomination, as required by District Policy.
- Thursday May 26: Second hearing by the HRB to make their decision on designating the district.

There are some homes that have been identified by City staff as non-contributing (NC) that we believe should be considered contributing to the district. The Dryden group is working with the owners of two of these homes. *Update: The HRB got a good start, but decided to continue the meeting to have further discussions on May 26 prior to having the decision meeting (perhaps in June). There were ten speakers in favor of the district and two in opposition. We will be the first item on the agenda after the awards (and cake!) starting at 1:00 on May 26. The City has arranged another property owner workshop for May 19 at 6:30 pm in Room 3 of the War Memorial Building to be sure all property owners have a chance to ask questions. The Board Chair asked for more information from staff on the three NC homes where the owners spoke, which we think is a good sign. The Board Chair said he thought the percent return on the ballots was tremendous. On May 4, the City notified us that they have now received 86 ballots, 77 in favor, 5 opposed and 4 returned blank. That is a 63% return from a total of 136 properties, with 57% total properties in favor and 90% of returned ballots in favor.*

8. NORTH PARK WATER TOWER DESIGNATION PROJECT

George continues to work on the application. The City's Watershed Manager can help us with the research. We appreciate Pat Taylor working with 5th graders at McKinley School to color in a sketch of the water tower Vince created, and to write a little essay about why the water tower matters to them. Here is one of the 31 delightful and heartfelt results. Ed will coordinate with Jefferson School to see if they will do a similar project. We will include the illustrated essays with the application.



The North Park Water Tower

A heart of a city is its most important part. In North Park, the North Park Water Tower is its heart, and if we raze it, it's like we're killing the city and taking the city down with it. Some people think it is just an average water tower, but to me, it is a wonderful monument that should stay standing. Back in 1923, it was the largest elevated tower in the world. But now, people judge it just because it is old and empty, they walk away from it not knowing its extraordinary emotional vibrant beauty.

9. BOOK PROJECTS

New Book, 1946-Present: The group will review photos to potentially be purchased from the San Diego Historical Society (now the San Diego History Center) using the County grant we obtained last year.

10. HISTORICAL SURVEY MEETING

There was no report on the historical surveys being conducted for Uptown, North Park, and Greater Golden Hill on March 19.

11. CALENDAR PROJECT

There was no discussion. Goals for the calendar project in this year should be discussed in more detail with the Board at a future meeting.

12. UPCOMING EVENTS

Remember that the North Park Festival of the Arts is Sunday, May 15. Meeting attendees filled out the sign-up sheet, which was sent to the entire Board via email May 3 for additional sign-ups to complete coverage.

The Old House Fair is Saturday, June 18, 10 am to 4 pm. NPHS will have a booth. Mark your calendars to help.

Vince is working on another poster using the photos we have of North Park commercial streetscapes in the 1950s.

We are conducting two special commercial district walking tours this month. The first is on May 12 at 4:14 pm in advance of the American Planning Association Awards event, which is at the North Park Theatre this year (Michael and Patrick will guide). *Update: NPHS has been selected to accept the local Community Recognition Award by the San Diego American Planning Association. The award "recognizes the accomplishments of the North Park Historical Society and the residents and businesses that make North Park a great place to live and work."*

Our second special commercial district walking tour will be May 25 at 10:30 am for the "Circle of Friends" (George will guide). We now have two belt-mounted amplification systems to help our guides project their voices over the traffic noise.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Louise reported on the meetings about the proposed changes to the Cabrillo Bridge. Sharon moved and Michael seconded to have Louise draft a letter from NPHS to oppose the bypass bridge but support the parking structure, traffic calming, and removal of parking from the plaza. The motion was approved unanimously. *Update: Louise prepared a letter which was approved by a majority of the Board and distributed via email.*

The Woolworth Building is going to be redeveloped. Should we contact the chosen redeveloper to make sure historical aspects of this iconic building are preserved? *Update: Via further email discussion, we moved for Louise to write a letter, which is currently under review by the NPHS Board.*

14. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** May 19, 2011 at 6:30 pm in the second floor conference room of the Masonic Lodge. We will have a slide show of the pictures planned for the next book, and any other history show and tell attendees want to share.