

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

DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 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 October 4, 2011.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

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

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

- Patrick Edwards
- George Franck
- Bill Vivian
- Hilda Yoder

Members Bob, Paul S., Leah, Gini, and our newest member Sheldon also joined us. Welcome!

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The September Agenda was accepted as proposed.

Steve shared with the group the resignation notice we received from Liz Studebaker, former Executive Director of North Park Main Street and one of our NPHS founding Board members. Liz has moved with her husband to Sacramento, and we wish her all the best. The minimum number of Board members is 5 and the maximum is 15 per our current bylaws. Liz's resignation opens a vacancy on the Board which the Board can choose to fill or not. Steve noted that Bob Bauer has been attending meetings for several years and has been a significant part of our car show preparation work. Louise moved and Ed seconded that the Board ask Bob to be on the NPHS Board of Directors. The motion was approved unanimously, and Bob accepted.

Bill had obtained additional copies of the August issue of the *North Park News*, which had stellar coverage of the Dryden District and previous car show. These were available at the meeting.

The book group will meet in October to review the photo sheets and pick topics to start writing.

Steve announced NPHS received a second grant of \$1,500 from San Diego County Supervisor Ron Robert's office. Some of the grant funded a very important part of the car show - the porta-potties!

Updates on community activities: The Taste of University Heights and Arts Open was September 18 from noon to 5 pm. We had excellent weather and a good location for our booth on the Normal School Annex lawn with other groups and artists. We spoke with many people, and we sold three North Park history books and a Dryden walking tour guidebook. Thank you to Sharon, Jody, Bob and Michael, who helped Steve and Katherine.

The North Park Library hosted a book event at the Hazard Center Barnes & Noble Bookstore on September 17. The librarian asked NPHS to have a presentation about the North Park history book. Steve and Katherine brought the book and our posters of early North Park scenes. Katherine explained to the small but interested group why our streets don't match up, and we talked about the structures that are gone or changed and North Park in its heyday of the 1950s.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The draft minutes from the August 18, 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. We had income from sales of 1 Dryden guidebook, 2 Burlingame books, 6 North Park history books, and 24 car show registrations. Expenses this reporting period were about \$290 for the porta-potties, \$10 for Toyland Parade Entry fee, and about \$145 for the portable PA (microphone/speaker/amplifier) system that we bought for the car show and that will be useful for other events like our walking tours.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. CAR SHOW FOLLOW UP

The event went very well! Kudos to Bob, who developed the parking map and led the group in marking out the spaces the evening before the event. Also to Michael, who was an excellent wagon-master; Sharon and Jody, who compiled the ballot results; Ed, George, Paul S. Gini, and new member Steve F., who led cars to their parking spots; Bill and Randy and other members, who helped staff the booth; and Steve, who moderated the awards. Thank you to County Supervisor Ron Roberts' Community Representative Lauren Prescott for giving the trophies. We appreciate City Councilmember Todd Gloria coming and posting a photo of him next to his favorite car, the 1940 Mercury Sedan, on his Facebook page.



Photo: Katherine Hon



Photo: Jerry Bach



Photo: Anthony Bernal

We had First, Second, and Third Place People's Choice this year, and more than 200 ballots were cast. The crowd picked the 1947 Town & Country (decked out with vintage plaid luggage) for First Place, the 1957 Bel Air with Elwyn Travel Trailer (like a trip back to the '50s inside) for Second Place, and the deep green 1951 Hudson Hornet for Third Place. Congratulations all!



Photo: Mike Ward Photography



Photo: Katherine Hon



Photo: Mike Ward Photography



Photo: Jerry Bach

It was a great scene, as you can see from these photos by Paul Spears.



Other crowd favorites were the 1969 Chevelle, 1949 Oldsmobile Woody, 1946 Dodge Truck, 1949 Crown Imperial, and 1962 Cadillac. We appreciate Mike Ward of Mike Ward Photography, one of our car show sponsors, taking these stellar shots!



We are in the process of getting more photos on the website. Ideas for next year include having a food truck, extending the event at least from 10 am to 2 pm, and exploring the cost of closing North Park Way between Granada and 29th to give us more space for cars or other booths. Also there is the general opinion from exhibitors that there should be more prizes.

6. WATER TOWER DESIGNATION PROJECT

George, Steve, Katherine, and Alex selected the photos to include with the application. Alex and George have discovered some very interesting history of the site, which has involved many other water treatment and supply facilities in addition to the water tower from the earliest days of San Diego's history.

7. CALENDAR PROJECT UPDATE

Paul reported that the group met and selected potential photographs. He showed the pictures on his laptop. They may substitute a car show photo.

8. ONCE UPON A TIME ARTICLE ON STREET NAMES IN UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Katherine has been researching the origin of street names in the area. She started with University Heights, a large subdivision originally mapped in 1888 that extends from approximately Adams Avenue above Mission Valley south to University Avenue, and from Highway 163 east to Boundary Street/I-805. She wrote a "Once Upon a Time in North Park" article as a start toward documenting this history. The article is on our website NorthParkHistory.org, and may be published in a future issue of *Uptown News*. The original street naming pattern in University Heights consisted of states in the U.S. for streets oriented north-south, and presidents of the U.S. for streets oriented east-west. Later street name changes in University Heights mask the original pattern, which Katherine hypothesizes was geographic for the state streets and roughly chronological for the president streets. A key name change was when California Street was re-named Hamilton. The original naming pattern in University Heights affected street names south of University Avenue in 1899, when eleven north-south streets were changed from names of people known in the 1870s (when the Pauly's Addition, Park Villas, and West End tracts were mapped) to the closest matching street in University Heights. Sound confusing? Check out the article, which is the most recent in our Archive of Past Articles.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

A website called NextDoor.com is grouping neighborhoods and serving as a bulletin board. Katherine asked the Board's opinion on establishing a Facebook page for the North Park Historical Society. Jody moved and Paul seconded that we pursue that as a way to enhance our presence.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** October 20, 2011 at 6:30 pm. It will have a more social agenda to take a breath and celebrate what we have accomplished this year. The meeting will be at Michael's house. All NPHS members are invited. Please contact Katherine (619-294-8990) if you want to come and need directions. Michael promises yummy snacks and red and white wine. Bring your favorite beverage if you would like. Also, unless it is raining we will be outside enjoying the ambience of Michael and Janie's new backyard so bring a jacket.