

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

**DATE: NOVEMBER 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 December 5, 2011. **We will have no formal meeting in December 2011.** There will be a pot-luck gathering at Paul Wade's house on December 15 starting at 7:00 PM.

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

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

Robert Bauer  
George Franck  
Steve Hon  
Katherine Hon  
Ed Orozco  
Louise Russell  
Randy Sappenfield  
Jody Surowiec  
Sharon Turner  
Hilda Yoder

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

Patrick Edwards  
Vince Rivera  
Michael Thornhill  
Bill Vivian  
Paul Wade

Member Paul Spears and visitor Keegan, who found us online, also attended. Keegan is earning a Masters of Library and Information Science and we want to recruit her for our book and virtual library projects. Welcome!

**2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The November Agenda was accepted as proposed. Katherine announced that her article about the street naming patterns in University Heights appeared in the November 11-November 24, 2011 issue of the *San Diego Uptown News*, pages 8-9. Her photo of the University Heights sign was also used in the article.

**3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE**

The draft minutes from the October 20, 2011 NPHS gathering 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 memberships, selling 4 North Park history books on Amazon, and the refund of our \$200 deposit for the parking lot rental for the car show.

Paul Wade could not attend but had sent an e-mail notifying us that the domain names of NorthParkHistoricalSociety.org and .com will need to be renewed if we want to maintain control of them. Sharon moved, Jody seconded, and it was approved unanimously that we have Paul renew these domain names.

## 5. MEETING WITH BALBOA TENNIS CLUB

The Balboa Tennis Club is interested in hosting the car show in 2012. They have already been contacted by the Centennial planning committee to see what special events they might conduct in 2015, and the Club would like to have the experience of several years of a cooperative event that we could build on together. They have several exhibits of San Diego tennis history in their clubhouse, which is a possible historical tie-in. The Tennis Club Board of Directors is interested in having a short presentation from NPHS at their next board meeting.

**Update:** Katherine and Steve made a brief presentation to the Balboa Tennis Club Board on November 29. We introduced the North Park Historical Society, mentioned our various projects and highlighted the car show. Our contact, Peter Conneely, said that the Board liked the presentation and they are enthusiastic about hosting the car show in 2012. A partial closure of the parking lot in front of the tennis courts from the registration building east to the swimming pool access road would give us more than 80 parking spaces. We have begun investigating permitting requirements. Initial good news is that the City does not consider the parking lot an official street, so a Special Event Permit due to a street closure should not be needed. A Park Use permit will likely be needed, and the Balboa Park Committee would likely review the application because it would be a new event. Typically, activities involving selling in the park are not allowed without a Special Event Permit, but activities that occur on the Balboa Tennis Club leasehold may be treated differently. We will continue to coordinate with Peter on possible dates and activities, and continue to investigate permitting requirements and costs.

## 6. WATER TOWER DESIGNATION PROJECT

Alex Bevil continues to prepare the designation application. He proposed that we first apply to have the water tower designated a federal and state historic landmark before applying to the City of San Diego for the water tower to be a local historical structure. He successfully followed this process for the Georgia Street Bridge and the Normal School building on Park Boulevard. The state/federal process doesn't involve an application fee, and designation at that level will enhance the stature of the water tower for the City application.

## 7. CALENDAR PROJECT UPDATE

Louise reported that the calendar is completed and can be ordered online. There is a link on the first page of our NorthParkHistory.org website that goes directly to CafePress where the calendar can be ordered for \$14.99. Paul noted in an email that he will put flyers up at Vintage Religion.

## 8. TOYLAND PARADE

Jody volunteered to fix the water tower, which is one of the most popular entries in the parade. **Update:** Thanks, Jody! The tower looked great. Jody also got her lovely neighbor, Terra, to be the water tower, and she did a fantastic job.



Thank you to our vehicle entries, Bob and his wife Sherry (in MG) and Dennis and his daughter (in Dodge Truck), and our marchers Sharon, Steve, Ed, Sheldon, Katherine and of course, Patrick the ever-popular hippie. It was another excellent parade!



## 9. WEBSITE UPDATE

Steve introduced the project for updating the website. Part of the grant funds we received from the County of San Diego will be used to spruce up the home page of the website and enhance/modernize the site's functionality. The grant funds need to be utilized by May 31. Steve had initial discussions with Bill and Nancy Bamberger, a couple in Kensington who does this kind of work whom he has known for several years through a hiking group. Board members have reviewed the portfolio website that Steve sent a link to prior to the meeting. Hilda

expressed concern about the date on the portfolio website being 2006. She wondered if the example websites were more recent than that. (**Update:** The 2006 date is when the first information was copyrighted. Several of the example websites were developed in the last two years.) Hilda also felt we should look for a vendor/consultant in North Park.

Louise felt we should get other proposals and wanted more information on how photos and text would be uploaded to the website. She and Jody noted that we need a description of the actions we want so vendors can provide comparable proposals. **Update:** Steve prepared the following list of actions for potential web assistance:

1. Redesign homepage to make it more consistent with the style of the other pages in the website and make it more inviting and attractive.
2. Improve functionality of the homepage to make it easier for users to explore the website
3. Make it easier to post photos of NPHS activities and events
4. Make it easier to link to documents and notices from the homepage
5. Add a calendar function for NPHS related activities and events
6. Review other pages to see if they should be subdivided

Steve will ask North Park Main Street who helped them modify their website. Jody will ask Beth. When Louise gets back from vacation she will also research some other vendor/consultants. **Update:** North Park Main Street used A7D and Jim Tinsky, a web designer who lives on Arizona Street at Myrtle and who is a member of NPHS. Steve sent Jim the list of actions and will meet with him soon.

## **10. NEW BOOK PROJECT**

The general outline of the book to carry the story of North Park forward from the 1940s has been revised based on comments from the book group. We have scans of 60 photos from the San Diego History Center to illustrate various stories that could be told. Steve noted he investigated the 1960s drag strip riots and the 1963 parade with President John Kennedy in the old newspapers at the Newspaper Room of the downtown library, and got some very interesting material. We have several good photos of both events. Everyone is encouraged to pick a topic and write a story. Both *Uptown News* and *North Park News* are always looking for good history stories, and we want to keep adding articles to our website. That is a good way to start developing content.

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

Katherine noted we have received two suggestions to interview long-time North Park residents. Is anyone interested in conducting such interviews? Jody said she would be interested. She will coordinate with Paul Spears, who is a neighbor of one of the long-time resident couples, to set a date to chat with them.

**Update:** In 1995 and 1996, History Committee members Don and Karon Covington, Ruth Dahl, Vicki Granowitz, and Lorraine Halac interviewed various North Park residents, including Leo Stern, the Hartley family, Robert Klicka, and Joe Schloss. These little dictation tapes were given to the San Diego History Center for transcription years ago. However, we still have a set of the tapes, and could explore converting them to digital format.

## **NEXT MEETING**

We will not have a formal meeting in December. The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** January 19, 2012 at 6:30 pm in the second floor conference room of the Masonic Lodge, corner of Utah Street and North Park Way.