

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FEBRUARY 2013 MEETING NOTES**

DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2013

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 10, 2013.

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** March 21, 2013 at 6:30 pm at The Cottage, 3775 Utah Street.

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
- Michael Thornhill
- Sharon Turner

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

- Patrick Edwards
- Vince Rivera
- Bill Vivian
- Hilda Yoder

Members Paul, Robert, Valerie, and Eva also joined us. Welcome!

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no changes to the agenda. We thanked Ed for providing his elegant home for our meeting again.

Upcoming events of note include the presentation about the history of our wonderful Water Tower by Alex Bevil at the Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard, on **March 14 at 6:30 pm**. The presentation is a joint event co-sponsored by the North Park Historical Society and University Heights Historical Society. Alex's discussion is based on the application he prepared for the Water Tower and accompanying water system structures (some of which no longer exist) to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places as the "University Heights Water Storage and Pumping Station Historic District."

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The draft minutes from January 17, 2013 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. Since the beginning of 2013 we received income from 6 new and renewing memberships, some with donations, and sales of 5 North Park history books. The booth reservation at the Old House Fair cost \$75.

5. FY 2013 BUDGET

Steve, George, and Sharon developed a new annual budget which was circulated for Board Member review in advance of the meeting. Balanced expenses and revenues were projected at \$4,200. Sharon moved that the budget be accepted. Jody seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

6. BOOK PROJECT

NPHS has a signed contract with Arcadia Publishing Company to prepare an Images of America book for North Park. **Update:** The Book Group held its second working meeting on February 28, 2013. We reviewed about 40 photos and captions written by George, Steve, Katherine, Randy, Paul, Michael, Sharon, and Valerie. At our next meeting on March 28, we will review more captions by Gabriela, Ed, Michael and Louise. We are pleased to welcome Eva, Tera, and members of North Park's founding family, the Hartley's, to our group. They each have connections to photographs that will help tell the story of North Park.

If you want to help with research, writing, outreach, review, or in other ways, please contact Katherine at 619-294-8990 or email her at info@northparkhistory.org. **The next meeting of the Book Group will be the fourth Thursday, March 28, at The Cottage, 3775 Utah Street.**

7. WALKING TOURS

We set the date for a Dryden Historic District tour on **April 27** and a commercial area tour on **June 2**. Save the dates if you have not attended these tours. We also appreciate members helping to check in participants, keep them on the sidewalks, and assist guides.

8. KLICKA SCHOLARSHIP

NPHS coordinates the \$2,000 scholarship awarded by the Klicka Foundation to a graduating high school senior who lives in North Park. Louise has updated the flyer and application to be put on our website. She will distribute the notices to high school counselors and post it in various places where students may see it. The Klicka family may want to present the certificate this year at the North Park Spring Festival of the Arts.

9. WATER TOWER PROJECT UPDATE

We have received confirmation that the application for the water tower and associated structures to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district has been accepted by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and will be sent to the City for comment. The application will be heard at the State Historic Resources Commission meeting on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 9:00 am at the Downtown Anaheim Community Center, A Hall, 250 East Center Street, in the City of Anaheim.

10. FIXING THE PAPER WATER TOWER

Regarding the paper version of the Water Tower that Vince made, this Toyland Parade crowd favorite needs repair before it can appear again. Robert has enlisted the help of the leader of the props department of the Old Globe Theater who will volunteer his time to assess the possibility of rebuilding or re-creating the water tower with more resilient materials.

11. POTENTIALLY HISTORIC BUILDINGS ON 30TH STREET

North Park Main Street is coordinating a Sustainability Project involving concepts to make buildings more efficient while retaining their historic character. George is assisting in this project by identifying potentially historic buildings in the commercial area. He asked for help in verifying his initial list and for additional ideas about buildings that should be given special consideration. There are also some residential buildings of historic age in the commercial area that might be added to the list.

12. GEORGIA STREET BRIDGE RESTORATION

The project to restore the Georgia Street Bridge and walls to be closer to their original appearance has been addressed in an environmental document called a Mitigated Negative Declaration. The letter of comment submitted by NPHS was included in the final document along with responses from the City. The environmental document and project are slated for Mayoral approval. A City Council Meeting is not required for this project.

13. PLAZA DE PANAMA UPDATE

We remain concerned that this impactful and unnecessary project has not been terminated by the final court ruling that the City violated its own Municipal Code by approving the project. Council President Todd Gloria sent a memorandum on the City Attorney asking if the Municipal Code could be waived for this project. We are hopeful that Mayor Bob Filner will be successful in implementing a simple solution that removes parking from the plazas and carefully routes cars entering the park from the west through the corner of the plaza. Eventually we hope to see the bridge closed to general traffic (at least most of the time).

14. MEETING LOCATION

We will continue to explore potential spaces in North Park. Grace Lutheran Church on Park Boulevard and the Plymouth Church on University Avenue were mentioned as possibilities to explore. Meanwhile, we appreciate Ed making The Cottage available.

NEXT MEETING

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