

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

DATE: MARCH 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 April 7, 2013.

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** April 18, 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	Louise Russell
Steve Hon	Randy Sappenfield
Katherine Hon	Michael Thornhill
Ed Orozco	

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

Patrick Edwards	Sharon Turner
George Franck	Bill Vivian
Vince Rivera	Hilda Yoder
Jody Surowiec	

Members Paul and Valerie 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.

About 25 people attended the presentation by Alex Bevil on the history of our wonderful Water Tower on March 14. It was very informative, and we appreciate Alex making the presentation. This was the first event co-sponsored by the North Park Historical Society and University Heights Historical Society.

Steve announced that the Balboa Tennis Center has unanimously approved hosting our car show again in the parking lot at Morley Field. **Save the date of September 7.** We have this date reserved with the City Department of Park and Recreation, and will begin processing the permit in late April.

Katherine announced that Alan Bennett, who has initiated the California Native Plant Demonstration Garden just west of the tennis center, has requested an opportunity to make a presentation about the Garden and planned restoration of Florida Canyon. The group was open to a presentation if it can be limited to 20 minutes.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The draft minutes from the February 21, 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. Between mid-February and mid-March 2013 we received income of \$226 from sales of 16 North Park history books, 2 Burlingame books, and 2 tour guidebooks. The food provided at the Water Tower presentation cost about \$44, and we purchased a projection screen as budgeted (from County grant funds) for about \$190.

Hosting the website on GoDaddy for another 2 years will cost about \$162. Louise moved and Ed seconded that the hosting be renewed. The motion passed unanimously. Update: The renewal has been processed.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. BOOK PROJECT

The Book Group held its third working meeting on March 28, 2013. We reviewed the photos and captions completed by Ed, Valerie, Steve and Louise. Tera and Katherine reported on their enjoyable meeting with Barbara, whose grandparents owned and operated the "Aurora Heights Cash Grocery" in a two-story house at 30th and Palm during the 1920s, and whose father owned and operated "Obe's Food Store" on the northeast corner of 30th and Redwood (now a laundry) and "Gem Market" at 30th and North Park Way, which is now Pacific Draperies.

Randy has talked with Michael Good, who is a fourth generation San Diegan and has some 1915 photos of his great grandmother's house at Granada and Thorn. Mr. Good wrote an excellent article about our Arcadia book project for the March 29 issue of *Uptown News*. Read it online at <http://sduptownnews.com/every-picture-tells-a-story/>

The group reviewed and selected photos from Trinity Church obtained through Steve's contact and photos from St. Patrick's Church obtained by Jody. We looked at the very interesting photos and other items that Ed obtained from the descendants of the first owners of his house. The group agreed that meeting notes from the book meeting can be distributed to all our NPHS members and friends.

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, April 25, at The Cottage, 3775 Utah Street.**

6. NPHS T-SHIRTS

There is sufficient interest from the group to order T-shirts from ROK with our fabulous logo on the back. They will cost about \$12 each. Black was the original color choice for Board members, but the blue (pictured) is also nice. Katherine will prepare a sign-up sheet to distribute via e-mail.



7. WALKING TOURS

We set the date for a Dryden Historic District tour on **April 27** and a commercial area tour on **June 2**. A flyer for the April 27 Dryden District walking tour has been distributed.

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. The flyer is on the website. Applications are due

March 31. Louise contacted a number of high schools and posted the flyer in various places where students may see it, including Yogart, Stern's Gym, Starbucks, and the fitness center on University Avenue. The Klicka family may want to present the certificate this year at the North Park Spring Festival of the Arts. If not, Louise will contact Christine Kehoe's office.

9. WATER TOWER PROJECT UPDATE

On April 25, the City's Historical Resources Board (HRB) will consider supporting the nomination 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. The official name of the district is the "University Heights Water Storage and Pumping Station Historic District," but the application notes that the tower is also well known as the North Park Water Tower. The State Historical Resources Commission will consider the application at their May 1st meeting, which will be held in Anaheim at the Downtown Anaheim Community Center, A Hall, 250 East Center Street. NPHS requested support from Mayor Bob Filner for a positive endorsement by the HRB. Letters of support have been sent to the State from California Senator Marty Block and San Diego Council President Todd Gloria. The letter from Senator Block is at the end of these notes.

10. FIXING THE PAPER WATER TOWER

The paper version of the Water Tower that Vince made has been delivered to the leader of the props department of the Old Globe Theater for evaluation.

11. PLAZA DE PANAMA UPDATE

We remain concerned that this project has not been terminated by the final court ruling that the City violated its own Municipal Code by approving the project. Mayor Bob Filner proposed 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, but Council President Todd Gloria tabled the request, saying he wanted to hear from District 3. NPHS sent a letter approved by a majority of Board members via e-mail to Mr. Gloria which stated, in part:

As a Council District 3 community organization dedicated to education and historical preservation, the North Park Historical Society strongly supports the Mayor's proposal to eliminate parking in the Plaza, which we consider to be a positive step forward in preparing Balboa Park for the Centennial Celebration of the 1915-16 Panama-California Exposition.

On March 21, 2013, the North Park Historical Society's Board of Directors voted unanimously to urge you to bring the Mayor's Proposal to a vote and to support the Proposal when it comes to a vote. We also urge you to drop any consideration of waiving the City's Ordinances to permit the original Plaza de Panama project incorporating the bypass bridge to go forward. We remain strongly opposed to the impactive, expensive, and unnecessary bypass bridge project.

12. MEETING LOCATION

We should explore meeting at Grace Lutheran Church on Park Boulevard, which is a large space and has good parking. The University Heights Historical Society meets there often. It is also a nice space for presentations. Meanwhile, we appreciate Ed making The Cottage available.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** April 18, 2013 at 6:30 pm at The Cottage, 3775 Utah Street.

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March 27, 2013

State Historical Resources Commission
c/o Carol Roland-Nawi
State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

**RE: Support for University Heights Water Storage and Pumping Station
Historic District Inclusion on National Register of Historic Places**

Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for the nomination of the University Heights Water Storage Tower and Pumping Station Historic District (Water Tower) to be considered for placement on the National Register of Historic Places as well as the California Register of Historic Resources.

The Water Tower is an iconic landmark in San Diego's University Heights and North Park neighborhoods. It was instrumental in the development of the surrounding community during the early 20th Century and contributed to the extensive patterns of San Diego's history. The Water Tower symbolizes a distinctive period of great expansion and embodies high artistic values and master work. The Water Tower is still standing and is regarded as emblematic of San Diego's complex water history.

Conferring the Water Tower with appropriate historic designation is timely and helps to recognize the significance of this landmark while emphasizing its need for preservation. I hope that you will support the nomination of the University Heights Water Storage and Pumping Station Historic District for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Christopher Ward in my District Office at (619) 645-3133.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marty Block". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

MARTY BLOCK
Senator, 39th District