

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

DATE: JUNE 20, 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 July 6, 2013.

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** July 18, 2013 at 6:30 pm in the Second Floor Chamber Room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard. **PLEASE NOTE THE NEW MEETING LOCATION FOR OUR REGULAR MEETINGS.**

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	Ed Orozco
Michael Thornhill	

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

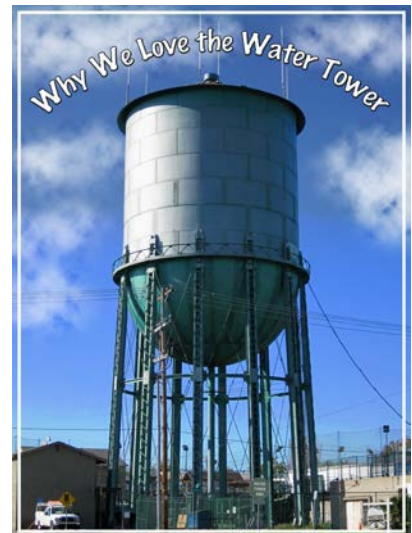
Jody Surowiec	Hilda Yoder
Patrick Edwards	Bill Vivian
Vince Rivera	George Franck
Sharon Turner	

Member Paul also joined us. Welcome!

We interrupt these regularly scheduled meeting notes for the following

SPECIAL BIG NEWS!!!

Our fabulous Water Tower is now on the National Register of Historic Places! The State Office of Historic Preservation notified us that the North Park Water Tower and the surrounding water facilities district was added to the National Register on June 25, 2013. The notification letter states that "Placement on the National Register affords a property the honor of inclusion in the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation..." The water tower was built in 1924 and once held up to 1.2 million gallons of water. Empty since the 1990s, it remains part of an important area of water supply facilities located south of El Cajon Boulevard between Idaho and Oregon Streets. Although a water filtration plant that consisted of sand-filled redwood tubs in Howard Avenue and a buried concrete 17.5-million-gallon reservoir (now the site of the North Park recreation center/community park) are gone, soccer "fields" are situated on the roof of a 5-million-gallon water storage reservoir that is still actively operated by the City.



We now return you to your regularly scheduled meeting notes.

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael announced that the Little Italy Association of San Diego is holding their August event that also benefits Washington Elementary School Foundation and Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church on August 17, 2013. Their theme this year is the Roaring 20's. Log on to ferragostoSD.org for more information.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The draft minutes from the May 16, 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-May and mid-June 2013 we recorded income of approximately \$938 from sales of 41 North Park history books, 13 Burlingame books, 13 walking tour sign ups, 2 guidebooks, plus 3 new memberships. The North Park history book sales include 20 ordered by the San Diego History Center for sale in their museum store, and 12 ordered by SOHO for sales in their various locations. Expenses in this time period included \$1,056 for our annual insurance, \$467 for tee shirts (most of which is for advanced orders so will be reimbursed), and \$72 for rights to use several San Diego History Center photos on the website (using funding from the County grant).

Regarding our request for a new County Grant to help fund the car show and our Arcadia book preparation, Steve reported that he made a presentation to the Board of Supervisors and the grant application is under consideration. We appreciate Bob Bauer driving Supervisor Ron Roberts in a Memorial Day Parade when their assigned driver cancelled at the last minute. Bob received a lovely thank you note from Supervisor Roberts' staff, Lauren Prescott, who participated as awards presenter in our second car show, and Lauren has agreed to do that again this year. Thanks, Bob!

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. ARCADIA BOOK PROJECT

Update: The Arcadia Book Working Group held its 6th working meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month, June 27, 2013. We reviewed new photos from Randy that were provided by Michael Good, Don Madison, Romano Family of Paesano's Restaurant, and Randy's personal collection. 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.



Bob,

I hope this note finds you well.

I just want to thank you for driving in last week's parade. Your car was a big hit!

I hope you enjoyed the rest of your Memorial Day. Maybe I will see you at the car show in September.

Thank you!

Lauren Prescott

6. OLD HOUSE FAIR

This event is always a good one for us. **Update:** We sold one of everything at this great South Park event: a North Park history book, a Burlingame book, a guidebook, a car show entry, and a new membership. Your President Steve and Secretary Katherine sincerely appreciate the help from members and Board members who joined them to staff the booth throughout the day, especially Sharon, Randy, Steve Warren, Eva, and Michael.



Our posters are always a big draw at events.

7. WALKING TOURS

June 29 will be a big walking tour day. In the morning, George and Michael will lead a commercial walking tour, centered on the Busy Corner of 30th Street and University Avenue. We have more than 20 advance paid attendees for this one, thanks to SOHO and North Park Main Street announcing the tour. In the afternoon, George will lead a walking tour of the area around the Lynhurst Building at 30th Street and Upas Street as part of the 100th birthday celebration for the building.

Update: Both tours went very well! Nearly 30 people attended the morning commercial area walking tour, and we also sold a North Park history book. Thank you George and Michael for your leadership, also Sharon, Steve, and Jody for helping with check-in, and Paul, Sharon, and Katherine for "herding" and showing photos. George prepared and conducted the afternoon tour of the Lynhurst neighborhood to a small but appreciative group. We will conduct this free tour another time as it is very interesting, featuring many well-preserved bungalow courts and the first home David O. Dryden built in our area, not to mention the beautiful Lynhurst Building itself.



At the Masonic Lodge on Utah St.



On Upas St. near Granada Ave.



The Lynhurst Building on 30th St.

Our next tours during the summer will be our free walking tour of the Morley Field Recreation Area. Steve will lead an evening tour on **Wednesday, July 17 starting at 6:00 PM**, and a morning tour on **Saturday, August 17 at 9 AM**. Both will start at the entrance to the swimming pool building at the end of Texas Street south of Upas Street. Visit our website at NorthParkHistory.org for more information about these upcoming tours. There is no advance sign-up required, but if you know you are interested, feel free to notify Katherine at info@northparkhistory.org or 619-294-8990.

8. CAR SHOW PLANNING

Our next big event is our 4th Annual North Park Car Show, which will be held on September 7 (the first Saturday after Labor Day) in the parking lot in front of the tennis courts at Morley Field. We appreciate Balboa Tennis Club hosting us once again. Steve is happy to report that we have successfully obtained our City Permit. North Park Trophy will provide trophies for People's Choice winners, Brady Architectural Photography (who shared his excellent water tower photographs in May) will take photos, Uptown News will help us advertise, and A7D will print the poster. It is always exciting to see what car Vince will feature in the poster he designs. Right now we can tell you that the all-American stunner he picked is celebrating its 50th birthday this year.

We also want to give special recognition to our generous donating sponsors so far: Ron Oster and Brian Lacklen with Ascent Real Estate, County of San Diego, Broker Bill Vivian, Randy Sappenfield, and Steve Hon.

9. TEE SHIRTS UPDATE

We got advance orders for 26 tee shirts and 6 polo shirts with the marvelous North Park Historical Society logo. Thanks, everyone, for that great response! We also purchased six additional tee shirts in the popular royal blue color (three large and three extra-large), which are now available for purchase at \$10.78 each.



10. ISSUE OF NORTH PARK COMMUNITY PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY

It is being reported that Mayor Filner has granted a request to move the northwest corner of the North Park Community Planning Area (generally the chunk north of Lincoln Avenue and west of Texas Street) into the Uptown Planning Area. The request apparently came from the University Heights Community Association, but it is not clear why the request was made, what the actual process should be to change community planning area boundaries, how this action will be incorporated into the ongoing community plan updates, and even if the Mayor has the authority to determine community planning area boundaries. Louise moved and Bob seconded that NPHS send a letter to the Mayor's office asking for clarification of this issue and noting our interest and concerns.

Update: Steve drafted a letter which was approved via e-mail by a majority of the Board and has been sent via email. The letter is provided at the end of these meeting notes.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** July 18, 2013 at 6:30 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard, corner of Park Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue. Park in the lot behind the church, off of Lincoln Avenue, and enter through the back of the building. We will be on the second floor in the Chamber Room (next to the Fellowship Hall). There are stairs and an elevator.



North Park Historical Society
2226 Dwight Street
San Diego, CA 92104
(619) 294-8990

June 27, 2013

Honorable Bob Filner, Mayor
City of San Diego
San Diego City Hall
202 C Street, MS #10A
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Proposed Changes to the Boundaries of the North Park Community Planning Area

Dear Mayor Filner:

The North Park Historical Society is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to education and historic preservation. We took great interest in your apparent decision to shift part of the North Park Community Planning Area west of Texas Street to the Uptown Planning Area. Several of our members have participated in the community input process for the Community Plan Update over the past several years because of our interest in how the updated plan would address the issue of historical preservation. A change in the community planning boundaries was never one of the topics under discussion. We are interested in two key questions that the boundary issue presents:

1. Will there be an opportunity for community input before any final decision on Community Planning Area boundaries as there should be for any other matter of amending a community plan?
2. Could we be provided the background material that the University Heights Community Association used to define their interpretation of the boundaries of University Heights?

Historically, the University Heights Tract mapped in 1888 by the College Hill Land Association was quite large; it extended from present day Highway 163 on the west to Boundary Street on the east, and extended north from University Avenue to the rim of Mission Valley. South of University Avenue, the land was divided among more than 20 tracts. The tract named "Hartley's North Park" had a humble origin as a 40-acre lemon grove carved out of the Park Villa tract in 1896. A drought killed the idea of the citrus orchard for the Hartley family but they understood the commercial possibilities of the corner of 30th Street and University Avenue because of the intersection of the #7 and #2 Streetcar lines. The Hartley family was much more successful as developers and realtors, and the name of "North Park" from their small tract became the collective name for the community both north and south of University Avenue.

However, what came to be identified as University Heights as a community (as opposed to the tract), was much less clearly defined, particularly after North Park emerged as a major commercial and shopping area after World War II. The boundaries of the North Park Community Planning Area, the North Park Maintenance Assessment District and the North Park Redevelopment Project Area Committee extended the identification of North Park farther west than Texas Street, especially from El Cajon Boulevard south to University Avenue. We recognize that some adjustment of the Uptown/North Park Community Planning Area

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boundaries north of El Cajon Boulevard and west of Texas Street to Highway 163 could unite the western portion of University Heights under one planning area. Although we do not have an opinion on whether that should be Uptown or North Park, our experience has been that the North Park Planning Committee is very sensitive to historic preservation issues, and we value that approach to the North Park community.

We look forward to a response on our questions. We are available to clarify our interpretation of the history of the area should your staff desire more information.

Please feel free to contact me at 619-574-6463 or shon7@cox.net if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Hon".

Stephen Hon, President
North Park Historical Society

c: Council President Todd Gloria, Council District 3