

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NOVEMBER 2014 MEETING NOTES**

DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2014

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 8, 2014.

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** January 15, 2015 at 6:30 pm in a second floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard. **We will not meet in December.** Happy Holidays to All!

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

George Franck	Katherine Hon
Steve Hon	Jody Surowiec
Randy Sappenfield	Hilda Yoder
Robert Bauer	Louise Russell

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

Michael Thornhill	Bill Vivian
Sharon Turner	

Member Paul also joined us. Welcome, everyone!

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Katherine announced publication of the article in the *Uptown News* about the water tower and a proposed NPHS project to coordinate fundraising for a full engineering assessment, new coating, and an educational monument in the adjacent community park. Katherine wrote the article in response to the editor of the *Uptown News* asking various volunteer community organizations if they would like to submit a story for the newspaper about an issue or a project the organization is addressing. Nine members of the Board approved the article in an e-mail vote on October 30, 2014, and no comments were received from other Board members. As 9 is a majority of the 11-member Board, the article was submitted. Comments from Board members included the following:

- I think it is fabulous, Katherine! Thank you so much for creating an article that so gracefully shows what NPHS has accomplished and hopes to achieve in the future with the help of "stakeholders"--very, very nice, especially with promising the educational plaque!—Hilda
- I like the "project," your article and really liked your choice of the illustration.—George
- The article looks good to me.—Bob
- Nicely done - well written! No changes needed.—Michael
- Yes, it's a good article about something very iconic to our neighborhoods.—Randy
- The article is excellent as always. The project is much desired and wildly ambitious.—Sharon
- The project is a big undertaking. The article explains it well.—Jody

A scan of the article as it appeared in the paper is on the next page. The editor liked the water tower article, and said "if you'd like, NPHS can become a regular monthly contributor to our Community Voices section." All board members present thought that was a great opportunity. The group decided the next article should be about our walking tours, including what we are trying to accomplish by conducting them, who we have partnered with, how the tours have evolved and how they are researched. Katherine will prepare a draft and send to the Board for comment and approval. The due date for the next article is December 14.

Paul gave Katherine several very nice copies of photos to use in the Dryden Historic District tour photo binders. We have binders with pictures relevant to each of the different tours that helpers show to attendees.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The draft minutes from the October 16, 2014 NPHS meeting 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. In the period from October 15 to November 17, 2014, the following numbers of original North Park history books were sold: 4 to Paras Newsstand, 4 to Amazon, and 12 to the San Diego History Center. NPHS sold 20 new Arcadia books to various individuals. The Arcadia book is also selling well at the San Diego History Center and multiple North Park stores including Paras Newsstand, Kaleidoscope, Pigment, and North Park Hardware. We gained 1 new member (welcome Cia!), and 6 members renewed (with additional donations totaling \$110). The total income in this time period was \$1,033.06. Expenses totaled \$32.92, for the Amazon annual fee of \$29.95 and Square fees for charged transactions of \$2.97.

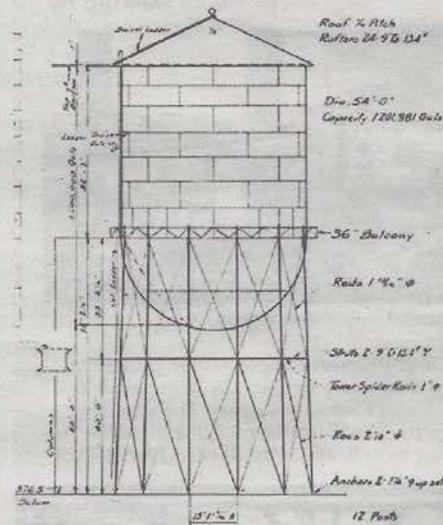
ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5, 6, & 7. WALKING TOURS

On October 11 we partnered with SOHO to provide two well-attended tours of the North Park Dryden Historic District as part of Archtoberfest. Thank you George for leading, and Paul, Tera, Steve, Katherine and Jody for helping.

On November 15 we partnered with North Park Main Street to tour the commercial district. This event was organized by North Park Main Street, who is sharing the net revenue from ticket sales with us. A special feature was stopping at four different businesses (Waypoint Public, Pigment, City Tacos, and Hess Brewery) to hear from the owners about their background and business philosophy, and to taste great samples. Meeting the owners of the businesses who are contributing to the renaissance of North Park made the tour very meaningful and educational. Thank you George and Jillian for leading, and Jody, Sharon, Katherine, Steve, Juliet, Dave and Joyce for helping. We hope to schedule more tours with North Park Main Street next year.

North Park's 'Water Tower'



A rendering of the historic "North Park Water Tower" (Courtesy North Park Historical Society)

By Katherine Hon
North Park Historical Society

The North Park Historical Society has a big project ahead. The elevated water storage tank known locally as the "North Park Water Tower" looms large over the heart of San Diego's earliest streetcar suburbs. At 127 feet tall, the 1.2-million-gallon tank can be seen for miles around. The tank was constructed in 1924 to provide better water pressure to the quickly growing area surrounding it. The structure is the only known example of a full hemispherical bottom, elevated riveted steel plate water storage tank supported by a dozen Z-laced girder steel legs in Southern California, if not the entire western United States. (Most such elevated tanks are set on only four legs and are considerably smaller.) It was reputed to be the "largest elevated tank in the world" in 1924. Now, this beloved community icon needs some help if it is to celebrate its 100th birthday.

Through efforts supported by the North Park Historical Society, the elevated tank was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 25, 2013 as part of the University Heights Water Storage and Pumping Station Historic District. It is owned by the city of San Diego and sits in the center of a still-active city water supply facility complex. The existing soccer fields between El Cajon Boulevard and Howard Avenue at Oregon Street are the top of an active water supply reservoir. However, the elevated tank has been empty

since the 1990s when more stringent seismic criteria that took into account the dynamics of sloshing water were implemented. Unfortunately, this means that water bill revenue cannot be dedicated to its maintenance.

In July 2014, V&A Consulting Engineers, a local consulting firm specializing in evaluating the condition of public facilities, provided an initial assessment of the elevated tank from the ground at no cost as a contribution to the community. The assessment focused on the condition of the existing coating

to help answer the question many people ask about "painting" the structure. The good news is that the existing coating, which was applied most recently in 1983, is in relatively good condition. It is recommended that the elevated tank be re-coated in about 10 years. The bad news is that the existing coating should be removed before a new coating is applied, because the existing layers are now too thick to hold an additional layer. More bad news is that a lead abatement and containment plan would have to be implemented for the removal process because there is lead in the existing coating materials on the elevated tank.

This would be a major engineering and construction effort estimated to cost around \$1.7 million. It may take some time to establish the funding necessary, and this is a project that will have to be managed by the city. The North Park Historical Society is interested in working with stakeholders throughout the community and the state to help raise funds for a full assessment of the entire structure, a new coating, and an appropriately located educational monument to document the significance of the "North Park Water Tower" in San Diego's history.

For more information, contact Katherine Hon at info@northparkhistory.org or visit us on the web at northparkhistory.org.

Interested in writing a regular column for your community organization? Contact editor Hutton Marshall at hutton@sdcnn.com.

Rounding out an intense year of walking tours, we will be conducting tours of the North Park Dryden Historic District on **December 2, 4, 9 and 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** for Rediscovering San Diego, a class for seniors as part of the San Diego Community College Continuing Education Emeritus Program. The tours will begin at the Portal at 28th and Upas Streets. Guides are George, Katherine, and Maura. Our helpers will vary each time (special thanks to Jody for volunteering for every day!). Steve noted during announcements that the possible commercial tour for December 14 will be scheduled for next year, at North Park Main Street's request.

8. TOYLAND PARADE

Update: The sunny skies on Saturday, December 6 were a big improvement over last year, and the crowds seemed bigger. The North Park Historical Society contingent was small but mighty. Thanks to Sharon and Steve for carrying the banner, and Bill for driving his Mercedes convertible carrying Ginni, our 1920s glamour queen, in high style. Katherine represented the 1950s as usual. Special thanks go to Victor for being the most popular part of our (or any) entry: the Water Tower. We also really appreciate Victor storing the water tower in a safe place the rest of the year. The water tower was made last year as a community gift to us by the Old Globe Theater props department to replace the paper original, which had served well but needed to be retired. We appreciate Robert stopping by before the parade to touch up the paint.

A fun entry to see in the parade this year was the set of three San Diego Police Historical Association vehicles, including paddy wagon and squad cars. We hope to convince them to exhibit at our car show next year!



9. PLANNING ISSUES

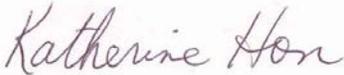
George and Paul have continued to follow the potential re-zoning of high-density residential properties to commercial from El Cajon Boulevard south and 30th Street east proposed as part of the community plan update. George moved and Hilda seconded that a letter from NPHS be drafted and sent to the North Park Planning Committee stating our position on the potential re-zoning. This motion was approved by all eight Board members present. George and Paul will draft the letter and Katherine will distribute it via e-mail to the Board for approval.

Update: Approval of the letter was received via e-mail from Sharon, Michael, Hilda, Jody, George, Steve and Katherine on Nov. 29 and Nov. 30, and no comments were received from other Board members. As 7 is a majority of the 11-member Board, the letter was distributed to listed recipients on December 8, 2014, and is on the last page of these meeting notes.

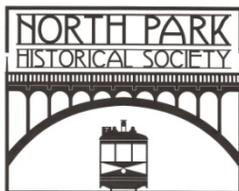
NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** January 15, 2015 at 6:30 pm in a second floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard, corner of Park and Lincoln Avenue. Prior to the January meeting, the Board officers will meet to develop a draft budget for full Board consideration in January, but there will be no regular meeting in December. Happy Holidays, everyone!

Prepared by



Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society



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

December 8, 2014

Ms. Vicki Granowitz, Chair
North Park Planning Committee

Subject: North Park Community Plan Update; Potential Plan Rezoning and Overlay Zones

Dear Ms. Granowitz:

The North Park Historical Society (NPHS) has been reviewing historical aspects of the Community Plan revision process. Over the past several months, the NPHS Board of Directors has discussed the maps and other materials regarding potential expansion of existing commercial areas into adjacent residential neighborhoods. These have included a map of Community Plan Implementation Overlay Zones (CPIOZ) (dated March 2014) and a draft urban design element (dated October 2014).

Following further discussion on November 20, 2014, the NPHS Board of Directors has taken the following positions:

1. NPHS Board of Directors opposes any commercial rezoning south of El Cajon Blvd. and east of 30th St. as shown on the March 2014 map. Even with CPIOZ protection, these expansion areas negatively affect historic streetscapes and could lead to destruction of potential historic buildings.
2. NPHS Board of Directors defers comment on CPIOZ proposals until the regulations are specifically defined by area. The areas to be addressed by these CPIOZ include:
 - a. both major Supermarket areas,
 - b. three mid-block areas north of El Cajon Blvd., and potentially
 - c. some east-west street frontages.

We may provide further comments following review of the area-specific draft CPIOZ parameters. If you have any question concerning these comments, please contact George Franck (NPHS Vice-President) for clarification. He can be reached at geomfranck@cox.net or 619-370-3887.

Sincerely,

Stephen Hon, President
North Park Historical Society

cc: Council President Todd Gloria, Council District 3
Marlon Pangilinan, Community Planner
Peter Hill, NPPC Urban Design Subcommittee
Mike Singleton, KTU+A