

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JANUARY 2015 MEETING NOTES**

DATE: JANUARY 15, 2015

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 February 2, 2015.

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** February 19, 2015 at 6:30 pm in a second floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

Robert Bauer	Katherine Hon
Steve Hon	Paul Spears
Randy Sappenfield	Sharon Turner
Louise Russell	

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

Michael Thornhill	Bill Vivian
Hilda Yoder	George
Franck	
Jody Surowiec	

Member Megan also joined us. Welcome!

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Katherine announced *Uptown News* published her article about our walking tours in the issue distributed at the end of December. This topic had been suggested by meeting attendees at the November Board meeting. Eight members of the Board approved the draft article in an e-mail vote requested on December 10 (Sharon, Randy, George, Jody, Michael, Hilda, Steve and Katherine) and no comments were received from other Board members. As 8 is a majority of the (then) 11-member Board, the article was submitted. Edits from George and Hilda enhanced the draft article. A scan of the article as it appeared in the paper is on the right. **Update:** At the end of January, the next article written by Katherine for the *Uptown News* appeared. This article was about the municipal pool at Morley Field opening in January 1933. As this article is a simple historical story, a vote of the Board was not requested before submittal.

Katherine noted that an Arcadia book about Mission Hills authored by Janet O'Dea and Allen Hazard will be coming out in March.

COMMUNITY VOICE



www.sdcnn.com

North Park Historical Society conducts docent-led walking tours all throughout historic North Park. (Courtesy NPHS)

Walking the talk in North Park

By Katherine Hon

If you want to trace the story of San Diego to its roots, North Park is the outdoor classroom for you. But you have to get out of your car and walk. That is the only way to capture the architectural details of master builders, find long-forgotten street names stamped in the sidewalk, and observe the consequences of good restoration versus bad remodeling.

A brass plaque embedded in the sidewalk at 28th and Upas streets features the following quote from North Park's premier historian, the late Donald Covington: "North Park is a vast open-air, living museum of historic houses and neighborhoods. Those neighborhoods have miraculously preserved not only the whole gamut of early 20th Century architectural styles, but also patterns of traditional ways of living and relating to neighbors and to the natural environment."

Just like in a museum, exploration on your own is fine, but you learn more with a knowledgeable guide. The North Park Historical Society (NPHS) has been conducting docent-guided walking tours in the community since the all-volunteer nonprofit organization formed in 2008. Our goal is to instill a commitment to preservation within every tour participant. Organization members have researched and developed historic walking tours and serve as docents, sharing stories and historical pictures of the community's unique commercial buildings and residential neighborhoods. Tours include the commercial core centered on 30th Street and University Avenue, the Burlingame Historic District south of Switzer Canyon, and the North Park Dryden Historic District on 28th Street and Pershing Avenue from Upas to Landis streets.

In addition, NPHS Vice President George Franck has developed tours focused on the streetcar suburbs around Hamilton Street and University Avenue, as well as the neighborhood centered on the Lynhurst Build-

ing at Upas and 30th streets. He is inspired by the residential neighborhoods that are preserved in nearly their original, early 20th century state, and the commercial districts that reflect the variety of four major periods of growth throughout the 20th century.

NPHS President Steve Hon developed a tour of the Morley Field Recreational Area that explains the origins of the municipal pool, tennis courts and softball fields, among other facilities. Tour attendees also learn the stories of accomplished, community-minded individuals like Bud Kearns, Maureen Connolly, Joe Schloss and John Morley, and why they have places in North Park's backyard named after them. NPHS Board Member Michael Thornhill always adds interest when he leads tours dressed in his authentic streetcar motorman outfit.

NPHS regularly organizes public docent-led tours and offers private tours for groups of six or more. They recently broadened their outreach by partnering with other organizations to create joint tour experiences. In 2014, NPHS conducted tours in partnership with Save Our Heritage Organisation, North Park Main Street, the San Diego History Center, and the San Diego Community College Continuing Education Emeritus Program for senior adults. During this year alone, NPHS guided 400 people on more than 20 walking tours in five different historic areas of North Park. In the future, NPHS will continue to offer popular docent-led tours that highlight the historic character of North Park neighborhoods. They look forward to partnering with other organizations and adding new tours.

So get out of your car, walk with NPHS, and share their love for history, architecture, and the fascinating story of San Diego. Watch their website at NorthParkHistory.org for updates, or contact them at info@northparkhistory.org with any questions.

—Katherine Hon is the secretary of the North Park Historical Society. ♡

The Congress of History's annual conference is themed "Balboa Park, 1915 and Beyond" and will be held in the Balboa Park Recital Hall on March 6 & 7. Steve is presenting on Morley Field on March 7. A registration form is on the last page of these notes.

Steve announced that one of the North Park Arcadia books we received from the publisher for free was donated to the North Park Library. He also announced that NPHS has been invited to have a display table at the San Diego History Center as part of their free Tuesday community organization display program. Steve and Katherine will staff the table on February 10. Randy suggested we show some of the illustrated essays McKinley fifth graders prepared about the water tower and have some blanks for any attending children.

Louise announced that the California Tower is now open for tours that go up to the 8th floor balconies. Sharon noted she went on this tour and it was very well done.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The minutes from the November 20, 2014 NPHS meeting have been posted on the website. Although NPHS did not hold a meeting in December, a Summary of Accomplishments was provided to document our highly successful year. This summary is organized by our objectives in our Bylaws. It was distributed to NPHS members and friends on December 31, 2014 and has also 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 November 18 to December 31, 2014, the following numbers of original North Park history books were sold: 17 to Paras Newsstand, 6 to Amazon, and 5 to the Grove, who also sold 2 Burlingame books. NPHS sold 2 new Arcadia books to individuals. We had 7 members renew (with an additional donation of \$80). We received walking tour fees from Dryden tours for the "Rediscovering San Diego" classes, a Dryden tour for SOHO, and a commercial tour for North Park Main Street. The total income in this time period was \$917.54. Expenses totaled \$142.04, consisting of annual postage costs of \$89.36 and purchase of a cash box and receipt books for \$52.68.

At the meeting, Katherine distributed a Profit & Loss page for the period from January 1 to January 15, 2015, showing the main activity was expenditure for the City permit for the car show (\$294.25). Katherine also noted that various required state forms have been filed, including sales tax to the California State Board of Equalization, California Franchise Tax Board Form 199N, California Secretary of State Statement of Information, and California Registry of Charitable Trusts annual reporting form. **Update:** Federal tax form 99N was filed online January 30, 2015.

5. APPOINTMENT OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Due to several Board members needing to resign for personal reasons, the NPHS Board membership had dropped to 11. Our minimum for a quorum is 5 and our maximum in the current Bylaws is 15. Steve noted that long-time member Paul Spears attends our meetings regularly, helps at many of our events (including walking tours and the car show), was a contributing author of captions and chapter introductions for the Arcadia book, and provided extensive documentation about the historical quality of the residential area around Wightman Street that that City was considering re-zoning to commercial, helping to make City staff reject the proposed re-zoning. Paul is willing to join the Board. Randy nominated Paul to the Board and Sharon seconded the nomination, which was approved unanimously by all Board members present (Bob, Katherine, Steve, Randy, Sharon, and Louise). Our quorum is five, so this favorable vote of six carried. In separate correspondence, George, Hilda, Jody, and Michael, who were not in attendance, expressed their approval of Paul being a Board Member. We now have 12 Board members, a nice even dozen.

6. NPHS ANNUAL REPORT

The 2014 Annual Report was sent to the Board via email on January 6, 2015. The report presents the list of accomplishments, summarizes revenues and expenses during 2014, lists the inventory of products on-hand as of December 2014, and provides a financial recap for the year. There were no questions about the Annual Report.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

7. WATER TOWER RELATED ACTIVITIES

The objectives of our activities related to the Water Tower include:

1. Designation as a local civil engineering landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) San Diego Section
2. Designation as a local significant historic resource by City Historic Resources Board (HRB)
3. Educational/artistic monument installed nearby
4. Thorough engineering condition assessment
5. Re-coating within 10 years (Water Tower Centennial!)
6. Maintenance as needed for long-term preservation

These objectives are aimed at achieving long-term preservation and increasing public appreciation for the water tower as our community's most visible symbol of the kind of infrastructure needed to supply water to the growing streetcar suburbs in the early 20th Century. As part of encouraging the City to devote some resources to maintenance, the group agreed we should try to get an estimate of how much it could cost if the water tower had to be taken down, particularly considering the issue of lead in the existing coating materials. Katherine will pursue getting an estimate with her engineering connections.

Update: Objective #1 success! On January 27, ASCE San Diego Section issued a proclamation naming Balboa Park and the water tower as local civil engineering landmarks. The ASCE San Diego Section formed in 1915 so is celebrating its centennial this year. They liked the connection with the Balboa Park Exposition centennial and the fact that the water tower provided potable water and fire protection for the streetcar suburbs that grew around Balboa Park starting in the early 1900s.

Objective #2 is off to a good start. City HRB staff has clarified that because the water tower is a contributing structure within a historic district (the University Heights Water Storage and Pumping Station Historic District) which is on the National Register of Historic Places, submission of a request for inclusion of the district on the City's local listing will be at no charge. Also, the materials the City needs are just a copy of the National Register application and the letter from the Office of Historic Preservation documenting placement of the district on the National Register. NPHS will submit the required materials on February 5.

Objective #3 consultation is underway. Katherine had an informative conversation with local public artist Lynn Susholtz (her work includes the artwork on the Vermont Street pedestrian bridge over Washington Street, the playground at North Park Community Park, and the gates at Alba School). Lynn recommended art consultant Gail Goldman, who is coordinating the art installations at the County Operations Center on Overland Avenue, to help us strategize what a permanent educational public art installation/monument for the water tower could be, where it could be placed, and how it could be funded. Katherine contacted Gail, who is intrigued by the project and willing to help. The first step will be to obtain grant funds from the County for planning consultation, as discussed below.

8. COUNTY GRANT SUBMISSION

NPHS has been fortunate to have received County Community Enhancement Grants for the past several years. The County has been supportive of our annual car show, which is our signature community event, has provided funds that helped us purchase San Diego History Center photo scans and rights for the Arcadia book, and has helped us purchase equipment like our projection screen so we can show Powerpoint presentations on North Park history. After discussion, Sharon moved and Paul seconded that NPHS request \$500 for car show support (as in past years) and \$4,500 for professional consultation to initiate planning for a water tower

educational public art installation/monument. This motion was approved unanimously by all Board members present (Bob, Katherine, Steve, Randy, Sharon, Paul, and Louise). Steve will prepare the application, which is due March 1.

9. NPHS BUDGET: 2014 COMPARISON AND 2015 PROPOSED

The NPHS Proposed and Actual 2014 Budget and the Proposed 2015 Budget was sent to all of our members and friends on January 11. In the discussion at the meeting, two changes were made. The changes are to clarify on page 1 that the top line item of agency grants (County) is accounted for separately on the second page of the proposed budget. This is due to the offsetting of our fiscal year (January-December) from the County fiscal year (July-June), and therefore we do not know what funds we might receive from the County when we vote on the proposed budget. The second change is that we increased the amount we will request from the County for initiation of water tower monument planning from \$1,500 to \$4,500. This was based on the group discussion described in the previous item of these meeting notes. The motion to approve the proposed 2015 budget with the above changes and to send an email to non-attending Board Members requesting their vote was made by Bob, seconded by Louise, and approved unanimously by all Board members present (Randy, Bob, Sharon, Louise, Paul, Steve and Katherine). Our quorum is five, so this favorable vote of seven carried. **Update:** Approval of the 2015 proposed budget with the changes described has been received from non-attending Board members Hilda, Jody and George via subsequent email correspondence.

Regarding permit costs, Katherine noted that North Park Main Street may not let NPHS have free booth space at the Festival of the Arts as in past years, but we do not know at this time what they may charge. **Update:** In email correspondence, North Park Main Street offered booth space for NPHS for \$150. Via e-mail vote on January 28, 2015, ten NPHS Board members approved paying the \$150 fee to have a booth at the May 16, 2015 North Park Festival of the Arts (George, Bob, Michael, Hilda, Sharon, Paul, Jody, Steve, Katherine, and Randy). No negative responses were received. As 10 is a majority of our 12-member Board, the motion carried.

10. TOYLAND PARADE FOLLOW-UP

Photos from the December 6, 2014 Toyland Parade were presented in the November 2014 meeting notes. Katherine showed the very nice and very colorful program Victoria House, the non-profit now organizing the parade, prepared. Thanks again to everyone who participated!

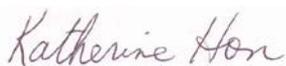
11. PLANNING ISSUES

George and Paul have continued to follow the potential re-zoning of high-density residential properties to commercial proposed as part of the community plan update (CPU). George and Paul drafted a letter which was approved via e-mail by seven Board members and sent to listed recipients on December 8, 2014. The letter was provided in the November 2014 meeting notes. Adrian Granada, Council Representative for councilmember Todd Gloria's office, replied, "We appreciate this input very much. Our office will continue working with the NPPC [North Park Planning Committee] and community on exploring the tools available to help maintain the character of North Park in the upcoming CPU."

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** February 19, 2015 at 6:30 pm in a second floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard, corner of Park and Lincoln Avenue.

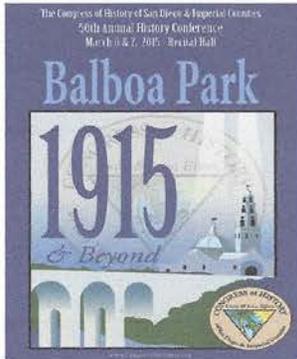
Prepared by



Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

REGISTRATION FOR:

50th Annual History Conference of the Congress of History
“Balboa Park: 1915 & Beyond”



Friday, March 6 & Saturday, March 7, 2015
9:30 a.m., in the Recital Hall, Balboa Park,
San Diego • Free, Off-Street Parking

Print-out, then fill-out
this registration form
and mail it, with your
check (see bottom), to:

Conference Registration
Congress of History
PO Box 1346
Lemon Grove, CA 91946-1346

NOTE: NO tickets will be sent-out prior to the conference.

Name (**ONE Person ONLY per form**): _____

Individual's Address: _____ City: _____

Zip: _____ Individual's Phone/s: Home (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Indiv.'s E-Mail Address, OR Additional Info.(if any): _____

Organization (if any), or School (if any): _____

Organization's Phone: (____) _____ (Avail. what days/hours? _____)

• Attendance •

- **One Attendee** (2 days) at Conference: **\$35**..... \$ _____
- **One Senior** (65 & older) Attendee (2 days): **\$25**..... \$ _____
- **One Student** (12 & older, with student ID) Attendee (2 days): **\$15**..... \$ _____

• **Lunch Is On Your Own.** You are welcome to bring your own lunch, and drink, if you wish. Also, there are several cafes and restaurants located within Balboa Park, and nearby.

- **Join the Congress of History, or Renew Your Membership** (NOTE: this membership will run from **July 2015 through June 2016**) – • \$20 for an Individual; or • \$15 for a Senior (65+)/or Student (12+); or • \$25 for an Organization / or Business/ or Family; or • \$100 for a Donor; or • \$250 for a Life Membership. \$ _____

Please circle just ONE type of membership, above (i.e. Senior, or Organization, or Family, etc.) **NOTE: For surface-mail delivery of hard-copies of bi-monthly Adelante newsletters, please add a one-time-per-year charge of \$7 to your membership/registration check.**



Conference Registrations and Membership Payments may be written in one check. (Please write who/what the check covers on the MEMO line, or on a separate paper, if it's a lot of information.) Make your check, or money-order, out to – **Congress of History**

We thank you for your support!

TOTAL Amount Enclosed:

\$ _____

Check #
