

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

DATE: MARCH 19, 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 April 3, 2015.

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** April 16, 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
Michael Thornhill	Sharon Turner
Randy Sappenfield	

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

George Franck	Bill Vivian
Hilda Yoder	Louise Russell
Jody Surowiec	

Members Claudia and Turner also joined us. Welcome!

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Katherine announced that at the end of February, *Uptown News* published her article about the long history of the Western Dental Building, originally the Stevens-Hartley Building constructed in 1912. As this article was a historical story, a vote of the Board was not requested before submittal. A scan was sent to NPHS members and friends. Also, her article about the landfill that was operated in Morley Field from 1952 to 1974 has been submitted to *Uptown News* for their consideration. **Update:** The landfill article appeared in the *Uptown News* issue distributed at the end of March, and a scan was sent to NPHS members and friends.

May is National Preservation Month, so NPHS usually has history presentations at the May meeting. **If anyone has a personal project or presentation they would like to share, please contact Katherine at info@northparkhistory.org or 619-294-8990.** At this year's meeting on May 21, one of our members, Linda Canada, is going to share an excellent presentation she made at the Congress of History conference. Steve and Katherine enjoyed her PowerPoint presentation so much, they invited her to speak at the May NPHS meeting, and she graciously agreed. She will tell the fascinating story of Japanese presence in Balboa Park that started with an ornate tea house built for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. There is time at the meeting for one or two additional presentations.

NPHS will exhibit at the North Park Festival of Arts, which will be Saturday, May 16, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. We will bring our own canopy and table and chairs. All members and friends are encouraged to spend a little time with us at the booth. Sharon will come early to help Steve and Katherine set up, and Claudia is interested in helping in the booth. We would like another person to come early at 9:30 am to help with the canopy, and want to have at least three people at the booth at all times to answer questions and watch over the merchandise. A sign-up sheet is at the end of these meeting notes. Please take a moment to pick a time to come and help - you can simply email Katherine at info@northparkhistory.org with your commitment. **Update:** Great news! Because Katherine helped North Park Main Street by writing an article for their new EXPLORE North Park publication, the booth fee of \$150 was waived for NPHS.

The Old House Fair in South Park will be Saturday, June 20, 2015 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The booth fee of \$75.00 and the application form has been sent. Please consider helping at this event too. A sign-up sheet for the Old House Fair will be provided in the April meeting notes.

Steve shared a nice note from Trinity Methodist Church thanking us for the Arcadia book they received (Steve donated a copy he had bought).

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The minutes from the February 19, 2015 NPHS meeting have been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials were sent to the Board after the meeting, with apologies from Katherine for being tardy. In the period from February 16 to March 19, 2015, the following numbers of original North Park history books were sold: 10 to Paras Newsstand, and 2 to Amazon. NPHS sold 6 Arcadia books at the Congress of History, Amazon sold 1 Burlingame book, and NPHS sold one Dryden guidebook. Katherine conducted a rather spontaneous Dryden walking tour for a private group of four Canadian tourists for \$20, and they also generously donated \$50. We had 1 member renew with an additional donation of \$80. The total income in this time period was approximately \$465. Expenses totaled approximately \$789, mainly consisting of the purchase of a portable scanner and an Epson digital projector, using 2014-2015 County Grant funds as planned and previously approved in last year's budget.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. WATER TOWER RELATED ACTIVITIES

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

1. Designation as a local civil engineering historical landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) San Diego Section. **SUCCESS!**
2. Designation as a local significant historic resource by City Historical Resources Board (HRB). **IN PROCESS.** The HRB hearing should be April 23, 2015.
3. Educational public art monument installed nearby. **IN PROCESS.** The County Community Enhancement Grant application including a request for funds to have public art consultant Gail Goldman help us has been submitted to the County. The North Park Planning Committee has voted to support the grant application and has provided a letter to include with the presentation materials to the County Board of Supervisors in June. Also, the North Park Planning committee has voted to place the Water Tower project on the North Park Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) list to help get local community and City involvement.
4. Thorough engineering condition assessment. **IN PROCESS.** North Park Planning Committee Chair Vicki Granowitz and Katherine met with the City Public Works Director to share historical photos of the Water Tower and explain how special it is to the community. The Public Works Director had been at the ASCE meeting where the Water Tower was proclaimed a local civil engineering historical landmark and was impressed with the structure. He will discuss with the Water Utilities department director what maintenance actions the City can take to make sure the Water Tower doesn't become a liability.
5. Re-coating within 10 years (Water Tower Centennial!)
6. Maintenance as needed for long-term preservation

Ashton has been exploring grants and sent a summary matrix with links to information about various grants. Thank you, Ashton! We could use some help reviewing these grants for applicability to the Water Tower project.

6. CONGRESS OF HISTORY EVENT SUMMARY

The interesting presentations at the Congress of History conference included Linda's talk about the Japanese tea house previously mentioned, which attendees at the NPHS May 21 meeting will be able to see. Also, there was a great presentation about the 1915 car race that was reenacted in Balboa Park in January as part of Centennial celebrations. As shown below, Katherine posed in one of the vintage cars exhibited by the Horseless Carriage Club of America. We emphasized the Water Tower at our table in the presentation hall. It was suggested we ask the car race presenters to reprise their talk, or ask them to bring a car to the car show, which are very good ideas.



7. WALKING TOUR PLANNING

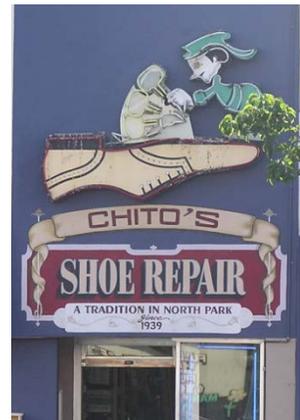
The group set a tentative date of Saturday, July 11 at 9:30 am for a Dryden Historic District tour. Katherine will check with Mission Hills Heritage to be sure they are not planning a walking tour on the same day. Meanwhile, save the date if you want to be a helper and experience this popular tour for free.

8. PLANNING ISSUES

Regarding the Gill Chapel at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Steve noted he saw Bruce Coons with SOHO onsite with other people who seemed to be assessing the structure. Bruce later emailed Steve that a person is interested and compiling cost information about potentially moving the chapel offsite so it can be restored. We have our fingers crossed that the chapel will be saved, even if it leaves North Park.

Regarding the North Park Theatre, the new owners have opened up the lobby inside and may create a balcony inside. The 1990 historical designation was for the exterior only, mostly for the building's association with Emil Klicka, who had the building constructed, and the architects, the Quayle Brothers, who also designed the Masonic Temple on Utah Street. Therefore, it was not a violation of the historical designation to have the original seats removed to allow for more flexibility in seating arrangements for concerts and other events. The historical plaques had been removed, but Steve met with a representative of the owner, and she promised to put the plaques back on the building. It was suggested that for the next commercial walking tour, NPHS coordinate with the representative to see if we can start inside the theatre.

Regarding the shoe repair elf neon sign, which is a designated historical resource and has been removed from the former Chito's Shoe Repair store next to the Beauty Supply Warehouse, the status is unknown. North Park Main Street is trying to find out from the building owner if he had the sign removed to have it fixed (best case scenario), or if it has been removed and discarded (worst case scenario).

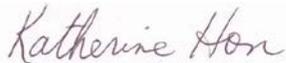


Regarding the "saltbox" style building on El Cajon Boulevard, the question arose if NPHS should write a letter of support for the historical designation. Katherine will ask the University Heights Historical Society what their opinion is regarding the building, as it is in University Heights. **Update:** University Heights Historical Society is remaining neutral regarding historical designation of the building. Therefore, NPHS will also remain neutral and await the HRB decision.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** April 16, 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

**FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS
SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2015
NPHS BOOTH SIGN UP**

TIME PERIOD	NAME
9:30 am to 10:00 am (set up) We would like to have 4 people to help with the canopy.	1) Steve 2) Katherine 3) Sharon 4)
10:00 am to 12:00 pm	1) Steve 2) Katherine 3)
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm	1) 2) 3)
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	1) 2) 3)
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	1) Steve 2) Katherine 3)
6:00 pm to 6:30 pm (take down) We would like to have 4 people to help with the canopy.	1) Steve 2) Katherine 3) 4)