

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

DATE: OCTOBER 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 October 20, 2015.

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** November 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:

Katherine Hon	Randy Sappenfield
Steve Hon	Bob Bauer
Michael Thornhill	Claudia Watts
Jody Surowiec	Hilda Yoder

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

George Franck	Judy Ciampoli
Paul Spears	Sharon Turner
Bill Vivian	

Member Sue joined us. Welcome!

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The most recent articles in *Uptown News* were shown. Scans of how they appeared in the paper were included in the September meeting notes.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The minutes from the September 17, 2015 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 September 15 to October 15, 2015, the following numbers of books were sold: 1 original North Park history book to Amazon. We received our second royalty payment from Arcadia for \$381.66. Four NPHS members renewed with additional donations of \$80 each from two of them. The total income in this time period was \$632. Expenses were \$330 for the traffic control police staff at the car show. This was money very well spent, and we plan to have traffic control police staff one hour longer next year, keeping them from 6:00 am to 11:00 am.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. WATER TOWER EVENT NOVEMBER 5

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), San Diego Section proclaimed the North Park Water Tower to be a Local Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. The local section of this national professional organization is celebrating their centennial this year, and wanted to recognize some deserving infrastructure. ASCE selected the Water Tower for honors due to its robust and unique design, towering presence, and contribution to San Diego's early growth. North Park Historical Society strongly supported this selection, and paid for the official plaque (see the next page for how it came out, cast in bronze by Awards by Navajo). There will be a plaque dedication ceremony at North Park Community Park at Howard Avenue and Idaho Street on Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 1:30 pm. El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement District staff helped create the Save the Date flyer, also on the next page. Everyone is welcome!



For more information, contact:
info@northparkhistory.org
 or 619-294-8990

Refreshments by:

NV5



6. UPDATE ON PUBLIC ART WATER TOWER RELATED ACTIVITIES

The Water Tower working group met with art consultant Gail Goldman, now under contract with NPHS, to discuss our visions and concepts for an art installation on Tuesday, October 6 at 5:30 pm. Judy, Claudia, Paul, Hilda, Jody, Sue, Edwin (President of North Park Community Association), Steve, and Katherine were there. We discussed goals, possible concepts for artistic elements, challenges/concerns, and project process, as summarized below.

Goals

- Tell the story of the whole historic district, which includes not only the Water Tower but the rectangular reservoir people play soccer on top of, and the community park, which was once the site of a 17-million-gallon partially buried reservoir.
- Provide a focal point for children to learn and for events to happen, to help activate the park.
- Incorporate elements that are informational, educational, and interactive.
- Provide a secure place for all three plaques (ASCE Local Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, National Register of Historic Places, and San Diego Historical Resource)
- Engage/educate as many people as possible - children, students, tourists, attendees at events, soccer players, City staff working onsite, people driving by, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Possible Concepts

- Projection of light (This can tie in with better lighting of the park in general through the Maintenance Assessment District. It could be dramatic night lighting, and it could change, for example to project a company/organization logo for a fundraising event.)
- Sculptural element echoing the Water Tower structure, with spaces for information mounting.
- Kiosk installation with seating that incorporates information.
- Bricks in a pathway.
- Structures like at the Portal at the end of 28th Street, which also incorporates plaques and wording in the sidewalk.
- Mural element(s) such as historic photos, painting, or words on the walls of the stucco building or the rectangular reservoir.
- Tile elements to relate to the natural resource of water (recognizing that elements using real water may be problematic).
- Information embedded in the tops of picnic tables or other existing facilities at the park.
- Artistic fence to replace the existing chain link fence around the Water Tower site.

Challenges/Concerns

- Having too many possibilities and elements will be distracting and confusing. We will have to focus soon. But having different elements gives us flexibility and allows for phasing. We may select based on what is the easiest thing to accomplish first, or what may generate the most excitement from the community for potential fundraising and synergy with other organizations.
- Vandalism is possible, including graffiti on murals and theft of bronze plaques.
- Elements should be easy to maintain.
- We don't know what improvements are planned in the park and on the Water Tower site.
- The Water Tower fence can be blocked by parked cars, and the northwest corner of Howard and Idaho is not a pleasant place to linger due to frequent traffic and a lack of space.

Project Process

- The park is under the jurisdiction of San Diego Park and Recreation Department, and the Water Tower site across the street is controlled by San Diego Public Utilities Department. Gail, Steve and Katherine will meet with City staff at both departments to

see how willing they are to partner and what type of installations they might allow on their sites.

- Gail will make a presentation to a group we gather to show us different artist approaches so we can narrow down possible elements. We will set a date for this after we have met with City staff.
- Gail can help us estimate costs for selected elements considered most likely (or to be our primary focus).
- Gail will help us define the artist procurement process. The group agreed we want the artist(s) to be local. We could do a shortlist based on previous work, do a competition, or provide an honorarium and invite several artists to develop concepts or respond to a Request for Qualifications.

7. PLANNING ISSUES

Steve and George collaborated on a second letter of comment on the Community Plan Update focusing on concerns about certain policies and guidance in the Historical Preservation and Recreation elements. The letter was sent to the City and was included at the end of the September meeting notes.

8. TOYLAND PARADE DECEMBER 5, 2015

The Toyland Parade will be Saturday, December 5, 2015 at 11:00 am. It will be \$25 for community organizations to have a spot. The route is shorter and straight! The parade will be on University Avenue from Utah to Herman. This is better for cars if they are in the parade, and will concentrate observers. Good news all around. Bob moved and Michael seconded that NPHS be in the parade. The motion passed unanimously. Katherine will fill out the form and submit it to the parade organizers.

9. ARTICLES IN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

Uptown News continues to feature articles from NPHS. Katherine submitted an article for the editor's consideration for the end of October issue. It is about Piggly Wiggly grocery stores, which used to be all over San Diego but are no more (happens all the time, apparently).

10. HISTORY SHARING

Michael shared a new Balboa Park book with beautiful pictures, including one of the Model Railroad with Michael in it. Congratulations, Michael! Also, Michael brought a lovely old book of his mom's that is copyright 1923 and called Elbert Hubbard's Scrapbook.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** November 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