

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OCTOBER 2016 MEETING NOTES**

DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2016

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 November 6, 2016.

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** November 17, 2016 at 6:30 pm in a second floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard. This will be our last meeting for 2016. We will not meet in December.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

Steve Hon	Katherine Hon
Paul Spears	Sharon Turner
Jody Surowiec	Michael Thornhill
Randy Sappenfield	Judy Ciampoli
George Franck	

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

Hilda Yoder Claudia Watts Bob Bauer

Member Dionne joined us. Welcome!

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Katherine announced the University Heights Library is celebrating its 50th year in the current building, which was repainted for the occasion. The mural that was mounted on the wall facing the Sprouts parking lot was removed, and the City and library association decided they did not want it reinstated. Ernie Bonn with the University Heights Historical Society has obtained temporary storage for it, and hopes it can be installed on the building on Park Boulevard where the University Heights Community Development Corporation has its offices. Katherine's Past Matters column in the October 7-20 *Uptown News* addressed the history and current situation of the mural, pictured below in three rows courtesy of the artist, Linda Churchill. The actual mural is made up of 10 panels painted on aluminum, and was mounted in one continuous row. Here is the link to the *Uptown News* article: <http://sduptownnews.com/university-heights-mural-needs-new-home/>



3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The minutes from the September 15, 2016 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 13 to October 19, 2016, five NPHS members renewed. We received \$160 in donations from renewing members. We sold one extra Dryden guidebook at the October 16 walking tour, and received \$60 in walking tour fees from nine people. The total income in this time period was approximately \$344. The expenses total of \$695 recorded in this time period was for traffic police at the car show (\$403 and worth every penny), and printing 150 commercial tour guidebooks at A7D (\$292).

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. WATER TOWER PUBLIC ART PROJECT UPDATE

We received responses from Christine Jones, Senior Public Art Manager with the City's Commission for Arts and Culture regarding technical questions about potential mounting on the square reservoir walls and the fencing above the walls. Christine emphasized that no drilling into the concrete wall would be allowed, no sandblasting would be allowed, and nothing can be affixed that could encourage climbing. She said that the fence that sits on top of the wall is a possible site for artwork placement, but we need to be aware that the fence may be replaced in the future, so we "may want to consider something more temporal in nature" for that location. She noted that "Temporary projections onto the water tank could also be proposed, taking into consideration the environmental impact of the light." Although separate from the art project, Christine also told us that there is interest from the City's engineering staff to have the bronze plaque designating the Water Tower as a Local Historic Civil Engineering Landmark inset in a boulder and displayed in a grass area on the south side of the City's property with the Water Tower.

In considering the input from Christine Jones, our art consultant Gail Goldman suggested we could focus on the fence, as there is "more opportunity for use of a range of materials. In addition, the fence can be seen by pedestrians as well as users of the sports field on top of the reservoir."



The group discussed this input and decided to focus on the fencing along the top of the concrete reservoir as the most feasible site for the art installation. Paul noted the artwork should attach to the posts on the outside face of the fence or be installed as a section that would be a modular part of the fence. Paul moved that we revise the draft Call for Artists to delete the reservoir wall and the stucco building as potential canvases and only have the fencing along the top of the reservoir as the potential canvas. He also moved that we increase the first phase to be \$15,000 instead of \$10,000, and keep the maximum total as \$75,000. George seconded this motion and it was approved unanimously. Katherine will revise the Call for Artists and follow up with Gail and Christine.

Update: Katherine notified Christine that NPHS plans to focus on the fencing for the art installation. Katherine and Gail developed the following justification for an onsite meeting with City engineering staff, which Christine will try to get set up in November.

An onsite meeting would be valuable to help the North Park Historical Society:

- Understand the technical issues associated with the fence structure, its capacity and weight-bearing capability;
- Understand the strength of the posts to serve as anchor points;
- Identify particular places along the fence that would be most appropriate for art;
- Understand the impact of possibly replacing a part of the fence with something artistic;
- Provide critical information about onsite uses of the fence, including the importance of visibility and transparency from outside and inside viewpoints;
- Identify City codes that may need to be referenced in the Call for Artists;
- Refine decisions about the most feasible materials, which factor into artist eligibility for our process.

6. PLANNING ISSUES - NORTH PARK COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

NPHS has been deeply concerned about the potential impacts to neighborhood character, historic resources, and low-income residents in the "Pedestrian-Oriented Infill Development Enhancement Program" area in the North Park Community Plan Update (NPCPU). This program targets existing two-story apartment buildings in a broad residential area between Lincoln and Howard avenues from Florida to Boundary streets for demolition and replacement with much higher density development that could be up to 73 dwelling units per acre (du/ac) versus 44 du/ac new base zoning. NPHS has written multiple letters and spoken at multiple meetings against this aspect of the NPCPU. On September 6, 2016, the North Park Planning Committee approved the Plan 11 to 3. On September 14, 2016, the City Historical Resources Board approved the Plan. On September 22, 2016, the Planning Commission approved the Plan, and on October 5, 2016 the Smart Growth and Land Use City Council Committee passed the Plan to the full Council without recommendation.

At this October meeting of NPHS, Dionne with the North Park Planning Committee related information about discussions with City staff, especially regarding historic districts specified in the NPCPU. City HRB staff is now committing to a 6-year implementation schedule. Dionne asked if NPHS representative(s) could attend the October 25 Council meeting, and George agreed to do so.

Update: At the Council meeting on October 25, George made the following comments:

1. We **do not support the Pedestrian Oriented Infill Development Program**, which threatens the replacement of both historic apartment buildings and existing, lower-cost housing in North Park's central neighborhood.
2. We **do support** the high densities proposed along the transit corridors of University Av. & El Cajon Blvd;
3. We **also support** the creation of Historic Districts identified in the Plan, especially those proposed in "downtown" North Park at 30th and University as well as for bungalow courts located throughout the Community.
4. And finally, **we urge the completion** of an interim protection ordinance for the potential Historic districts before the end of 2017.

On October 25 the full City Council approved the NPCPU. Not only did the council ignore all community members who did not favor intense density increases, it was also recommended that City staff explore reducing the process level for projects within the Pedestrian-Oriented Infill Development Enhancement Program and the Transit-Oriented Development Enhancement Program areas from a Process 4 level to Process 2 in the 11th Update to the Land Development Code to make the process easier for developers. It was a disappointing end to a frustrating and disheartening process. Time will tell if North Park's authentic historic character will survive the developer enticements now embedded in the NPCPU.

7. TEE SHIRTS

We only have a few tee shirts left with our excellent logo. Katherine got estimates from ROK (who did our shirts several years ago) and AKA (a North Park print company on University Avenue). Before deciding, the group wanted to be sure AKA could do tee shirts in the Beefy Tee style, and not just the lighter weight slimmer cut sample Katherine had at the meeting.

Update: Katherine confirmed with AKA that they can do Beefy tee style for the same price as the lighter weight tees. Via email, Jody, Sharon, George, Judy, Randy, Claudia, Steve and Katherine agreed we should use AKA for our supplier. Based on those 8 replies (and no opinions to the contrary), we will go local. Based on Claudia's suggestion to offer members a reduced price from the non-members price, tees will be offered at a member price of \$12 and a non-member price of \$15. To simplify orders, the tee shirt style offered to regular members and non-members will be the Beefy tee crew neck short sleeve style in royal blue. Board members can pick their own style and color. The flyer offering tees to members and non-members is at the end of these notes. Any orders received by November 13 will be added to the orders Board members have already submitted, and Katherine will coordinate with AKA the week of November 14. We want to have the tees available before Christmas, in case anyone wants to order some as gifts (hint, hint).

8. WALKING TOURS

North Park Main Street arranged a walking tour of the commercial area for Archtoberfest. George was the tour leader. Sharon and Jody helped. NPHS received \$120 from North Park Main Street to pay for 14 tour booklets distributed at the tour and a bonus for working with them to conduct the tour. Thanks, Angie!

NPHS conducted a private walking tour of the Dryden District on October 16 at 10:00 am. There were nine in the group. Katherine conducted the tour and Sue was a helper along with Steve to show the notebook of photos and keep people on the sidewalk.



Dryden District Tour

Our next tour will be a very small private tour of the Dryden District on November 19 with two couples who attended the North Park Main Street commercial walking tour. Katherine will conduct this Dryden tour and Steve will help. Next year, George and Katherine will organize an adult education class tour of the Dryden District on March 11, 2017. We will need Michael to also be a guide, and many helpers as we will have to break the large class into several groups.

9. HISTORY ORGANIZATION FORUM - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2016

NPHS is helping with a first-time forum hosted by the San Diego History Center that will focus on audience engagement and fundraising for organizations like ours. We expect to learn a lot from everyone participating. The informal and interactive forum will be held at the San Diego History Center, 1649 El Prado in Balboa Park on **Saturday, November 12, 2016**, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Advance registrations are available at www.sandiegohistory.org/events. Walk-ups will also be accepted. Cost is \$15 per person.

10. TOYLAND PARADE - SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 2016

The Toyland Parade is happening on Saturday, December 3, 2016. Robert is going to try to get the Water Tower fixed so Victor can dance again. Michael can transport the Water Tower to Ed's house and back to Victor's house for storage after the parade is over. Judy, Michael, Steve and Katherine are up for dressing in their favorite decades and marching. **All of our members and friends and their family members are invited to join the NPHS entry!** We may not have an elephant like Joan Embery did in the 1986 parade, but we will have a lot of fun.



The latest Past Matters column is on page 20 of the November 4-17 *Uptown News*, and it presents a summary history of the Toyland Parade based on research by George Franck. Read it at: <http://sduptownnews.com/north-parks-toyland-parade-community-tradition/>

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** November 17, 2016 at 6:30 pm in a second floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard, corner of Park and Lincoln Avenue. This will be the last meeting of the year, as we will take December off.

Prepared by

Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

ANNOUNCING THE NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY TEE-SHIRT!

The North Park Historical Society is making their tee shirts available again!

Style: Beefy-tee crew neck
Color: Royal Blue
Price: \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members
Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, and Extra-Large

The tee shirts feature our logo showing a vintage streetcar under the Georgia Street Bridge.

Order yours by contacting Katherine Hon, NPHS Secretary at 619-294-8990 or info@northparkhistory.org by **November 13, 2016**.

The tee shirts will be locally produced in North Park by [aka] Apparel-Supplies-Printing. You will be notified when they are ready, and can pick up yours via arrangements through the NPHS Secretary.

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

Get the discounted price by joining the North Park Historical Society
\$20 annual dues per household, fully tax deductible.
Contact the NPHS Secretary at info@northparkhistory.org with questions.

