

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
JUNE 2008 MEETING NOTES\***

**DATE: June 24, 2008**

**TIME: 6:15 PM**

The next meeting will be on **TUESDAY July 22, 2008 at 6:15 pm, at Ed Orozco's Cottage, 3775 Utah Street (across the street from Jefferson School)**

**NOTE:** To help members remember their commitments; action items are noted in *bold italics* in these meeting notes. \*Contains updated information as of date of preparation (July 15, 2008)

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.

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

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

Stephen Hon  
Katherine Hon  
Ed Orozco  
Vince Rivera  
Jody Surowiec  
Michael Thornhill  
Sharon Turner  
Bill Vivian  
Hilda Yoder

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

George Franck  
Elizabeth Studebaker  
Paul Wade

We also welcomed visitor Randy Sappenfield.

**2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Steve reviewed the agenda; there were no changes suggested. *Steve will develop the next agenda. Katherine will distribute it to the committee and to Beth for posting on the NPCA website.*

Jody noted there should be a designated liaison to the North Park Community Association. We agreed that since Jody is currently on the NPCA Board, she would be an excellent person for that.

### **3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE**

The minutes from the May 27, 2008 NPHS meeting were approved and as of July 14 have been posted on our website [www.northparkhistory.org](http://www.northparkhistory.org). Draft minutes of our meetings will continue to be sent to the NPCA webmaster for posting on the NPCA website as soon as they are prepared. The minutes will be posted on the NPHS website after they are approved at the subsequent NPHS meeting.

### **BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING**

#### **4. DISCUSSION OF BY-LAWS ISSUES**

Katherine and Liz met to incorporate Richard Miller's comments into the draft by-laws. With the dues information (see discussion below), Katherine will complete the draft by-laws and send them to the Board for final review and comment. Another item the Board asked to be included in the by-laws is the ability for the Board to discuss and vote on issues via e-mail. *Update: The draft by-laws were sent via e-mail to the Board members on July 6. Follow-up comments were received from various Board members and all of these comments were incorporated into the by-laws. We will discuss the revised version and vote at our July meeting. All Board members will need to sign the by-laws, and a copy of the signed by-laws will be included with the 501c3 application to the IRS.*

#### **5. DUES STRUCTURE**

An issue we started discussing at the last meeting is dues. Steve provided a table comparing dues of the Lakeside Historical Society, El Cajon Historical Society, University Heights Historical Society, and San Diego Historical Society. We had a thorough discussion that considered the desire to keep dues affordable to facilitate broad support throughout the community, and the need to keep tracking as simple as possible. We decided that we did not want to distinguish among seniors, businesses, individuals or families at a single address. We agreed we would discuss in the future whether some tangible item (e.g., a t-shirt) may be provided with a supporting membership, but that nothing would be provided with the annual dues at this time. At the end of the discussion, Michael moved and Bill seconded that the North Park Historical Society dues would be \$20 annually, per address. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **6. TAX-EXEMPT PAPERWORK FILING**

The Articles of Incorporation for the North Park Historical Society have been accepted by the Secretary of State. We are officially an incorporated organization. We also have a federal Employer Identification Number (EIN), which we obtained from the IRS online. This number is required for the 501c3 application.

We discussed the core issue of the restrictions on political lobbying for 501c3 organizations, to be sure that the Board is in agreement that we will focus on historical education purposes. It was important to discuss this issue, as the NPHS had been invited to join the Neighborhood Historic Preservation Coalition, and be on that organization's letterhead. This coalition of other groups is conducting advocacy work that includes addressing City of San Diego policies and practices regarding demolition of structures and implementation of Mills Act applications. We agreed that it is important for our

group to focus on educational tasks in conformance with the requirements for a 501c3 educational non-profit organization. We recognize that there are other North Park groups that are 501c4 civic organizations who can conduct advocacy work without the kinds of restrictions that are on 501c3 groups. Sharon moved and Jody seconded that we would not have our name on the Neighborhood Historic Preservation Coalition letterhead, and we would keep in conformance with 501c3 requirements in our work. The motion passed unanimously. *Update: Katherine sent an explanatory e-mail to Janet O'Dea, chair of the NHPC, which was received graciously with total understanding of our position.*

With agreement on this issue, the 501c3 application and explanatory attachment text are ready for Board review. *Update: The application form and explanatory text files were sent to the Board via e-mail on June 29, 2008. A few comments have been received and these have been incorporated. We will discuss the revised version and vote at our July meeting. Our goal is to send the paperwork to the IRS in August.*

This closes the business portion of the meeting.

## **ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING**

### **7. BOOK UPDATE**

Sunbelt ordered 20 more books for their supply. Amazon.com ordered 3 more books. Payment for these books will occur when the books are actually sold (plus a 90-day delay for the Sunbelt sales).

The certificate for our book award from the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board is on our website with a press release.

Sharon and Katherine set up a Quickbooks accounting system for the NPHS. Katherine will print out the Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet each month for the Board.

### **8. WALKING TOURS**

The residential walking tour of the Dryden District is about 3/4s of a mile, and takes about an hour. We have set a date of August 23, at 9:00 am. The price is \$10 per person, which includes a copy of the guidebook. If we get more than 15 people to sign up, we will have another guide ready to take the next group of 15. Bill is practicing to be the primary guide for this tour. Michael could be a second guide. Hilda, Jody, Sharon, Steve, and Katherine can come as helpers.

The commercial tour is set for September 13 at 8:30 am. Michael is the primary guide for this tour. Vince can come as a helper. Steve and Katherine will also be helpers.

*Liz is looking into waiver forms.*

We are finalizing the flyers.

*A group consisting of Michael, Steve, Liz and Patrick (and anyone else who wants to join them) will meet on July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm to finalize the places to stop and talk for the commercial tour, as street noise is an issue.*

#### **9. ONCE UPON A TIME ARTICLE**

Bill's article about the Richardson house and barn at 3425 31<sup>st</sup> Street has been posted on our website [www.northparkhistory.org](http://www.northparkhistory.org) but the NPCA newsletter has not been produced yet. *Jody will ask the NPCA board and Newsletter editor when the NPCA newsletter will come out. Katherine will send Bill a pdf of his final article. It can also be downloaded from the website.*

It was suggested that we put the author's name in the link for articles on our website. The next Once Upon a Time article can be the article Katherine has written on the Piggly Wiggly.

George's article on neon signs in North Park was featured in the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) magazine. It looks great! Steve gave out copies of the magazine. Congratulations, George!

#### **10. HISTORIC DISTRICTS DISCUSSION - MILLS ACT**

Hilda reported that the June 6 meeting of the HRB about the Mills Act implementation changes proposed by the Grand Jury was interesting. The Chair of the HRB noted that no one had pointed out that the Grand Jury has no authority to change laws, they are only supposed to evaluate the legality of issues. There was additional public testimony, and many people spoke. The "halo effect" of increased home values in a radius around a designated historical house was mentioned. *Update: The HRB staff will report on proposed changes at a meeting of the HRB on July 24 at 4:00 pm in the City Council Committee Room, 202 C Street. The meeting materials are to be posted on the City's website July 17. We will review the materials at our upcoming meeting on July 22.*

The contents of the notice from the HRB are below.

As a historic site property owner or interested party, you should know that the Historical Resources Board will hold a public hearing to consider proposed changes to the City's Mills Act program. The Board will consider several changes proposed by the City Planning & Community Investment Department. It is anticipated that the Board will make specific recommendations on these proposed changes. The City is undertaking a comprehensive review of the current Mills Act program. In particular, the effectiveness of the current program and need for performance requirements are being reviewed. Recommendations for changes to the program are expected to be heard by the City Council later this calendar year. Recommendations from the Historical Resources Board are being sought prior to City Council consideration of any changes to the Mills Act program. Public testimony was taken at two previous workshops on this subject and testimony related to the workshops was closed. Public comment at this hearing should be directed in support or opposition to the noticed action. Speakers will be heard following the staff presentation. The Board will discuss the proposed changes and provide their recommendations. Meeting materials will be made available on Thursday, July 17, 2008. The materials will be posted to the City's Historical Resources Website which can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/historical/index.shtml>. If you have any questions after reviewing this information, contact the HRB staff member listed above.

## 11. FUTURE MEETING LOCATIONS

We are pursuing being able to meet at no charge in the Masonic Lodge on Utah Street. Ed delivered the letter of intent, and the Masonic leaders will meet the first week in July to decide. The manager offered to give the Board a tour of the building on July 10 at 8:00pm.

*Update: Most of the Board members attended this very interesting and enjoyable tour of the building. We are still waiting for confirmation regarding being allowed to use one of the meeting rooms. If approved, we will probably have to change our meeting day to a Thursday evening, because the General Manager will have to be onsite when we meet. We will discuss at our July meeting, which will be on our regular day of the fourth Tuesday. Thanks, Vince, for this photo of the group on the Masonic Lodge stairs.*



## 12. OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE PROJECTS

Katherine brought the following items related to the Switzer family that were given to the NPHS by the San Diego Historical Society because they did not fit in the SDHS collection:

- 4 - Stamps; souvenir stamps from the Panama-California Exposition of 1915 in San Diego.
- 1 - Booklet; "Why Not San Diego County, California?" from the Panama-California Exposition of 1915.
- 1 - Newsletter and Envelope; of the East End Gang postmarked January 5, 1950.
- 1 - Program; "East End Gang 25th Anniversary, August 6, 1960"
- 1- Announcement; for performance of "Cinderella" cantata.
- 1 - Envelope; "Rural Route No. 5/3".
- 1 - Business Card; from Laske & Marks Jewelry and Optial Co. Inc.
- 1 - Slightly damaged ostrich feather fan

The East End Gang is a group from a school that is in the Sherman Heights area. ***Katherine has a contact for the Sherman Heights Historical Society, and she will contact them to see if they are interested in seeing this item.*** The booklet on San Diego in 1915 is really interesting. We plan to scan it and post it on the website. Ed said he could help develop a suitable display shadow box for the fan, if we had a place it could be hung. In the meantime, we could post photos of our items in a "Virtual Museum" on our website. ***Update: Paul can help add this feature to our website.***

Vince acquired a very fun piece of North Park history from e-Bay. It is a mounted souvenir of a power pole with the brass label saying “Part of a pole removed by San Diego Gas & Electric Company converting lines to underground in North Park, August 5, 1971.” Vince noted he could do a blog, which is a good idea for future discussion.

### 13. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **TUESDAY** July 22, 2008 at 6:15 pm, at Ed Orozco’s Cottage, 3775 Utah Street (across the street from Jefferson School).

Thank you, Ed for hosting us again!

