

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AUGUST 2023 MEETING NOTES**

DATE: AUGUST 17, 2023

TIME: 6:00 PM

These notes summarize information that was presented at the August 17, 2023 Business Meeting of the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) Board of Directors, and the activities discussion for the organization. These notes include updates as of August 19, 2023. The following Board members attended: Jody, George, Paul, Bob, Michael, Claudia, Katherine and Steve. Member Allison also attended. Welcome!

Meetings scheduled for the third **THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m.** in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL BE** open to the public. Our next meeting will be **September 21 at 6:00 pm.** If you are interested in attending this meeting, please email Katherine at khon@honconsultinginc.com or leave a phone message on her land line at 619-294-8990.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

We hope all our members and friends are staying safe and healthy.

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The July 2023 issue of the Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletter presented historical photos and information about Pacific Beach Middle School at Diamond and Ingraham streets. Bob noted they used to have “drive-in” movies at the school by putting up an inflatable screen. Fun times!

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The notes for the July 20, 2023 meeting have been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER’S REPORT

The financials for this meeting are for July 20 to August 16, 2023 and were sent to Board members on August 16, 2023. In this time period, the total income was \$297.53. Three members renewed (thank you, Eva, Tera and Donna!), and one new member household joined (thank you, Mr. & Mrs. S.). We received \$76 in cash donations at the Pauly’s Addition walking tour, and \$81.53 in other donations (thank you, Donna, Allison and Steve!). We sold three ballcaps. Expenses in this time period consisted of \$431.78 for a one-half payment to AKA for 60 additional branded ballcaps (20 khaki and 40 navy) in accordance with Board approval via email vote, and \$1.41 in Square fees for credit card transactions at the Pauly’s Addition walking tour. Total expenses were \$433.19.

Jody and Katherine continue to coordinate on the list of members so that our email distributions of meeting notes, invitations to our events, and other periodic announcements are to current members only. If you have not paid dues in several years, we will be asking if you are still interested in being an NPHS member, and if you are not, we will remove you from our email distribution list.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. WALKING TOURS

Pauly's Addition Walking Tour on July 22: George reported that his group was very engaged. Many were residents of Pauly's Addition and had stories to share. Claudia commented that her group had questions about the Mills Act and designation process, so we will want to add some information about that at the beginning of the tour. Steve and Sharon staffed the canopy while the tours proceeded, and Steve noted that many people who were headed to take the water aerobics classes, play tennis or walk in the park came up to ask questions. Michael said he saw the canopy when he was driving by, and we are all very pleased with its professional appearance and visibility. Income from the tour included \$76 in cash donations, \$80 in dues from three renewing members and one new member household, sale of one ballcap (\$20 plus tax), and \$80 in a donation from a renewing member. We may want to strategize on how to facilitate donations, because many people at the end of the tour dispersed at the corner of Texas and Upas streets instead of returning to the canopy in the park where our "tip jar" was.

6. SIGNS FOR DRYDEN DISTRICT

Since 2021, NPHS has been contacting various City staff about putting up demarcation signs for the Dryden District. **Great news!** Council District 3 staff came through for us! On August 3, 2023, staff with the Transportation Department contacted us via email, saying, "We express our gratitude for your patience throughout the process of requesting the installation of historic district signages for North Park Dryden Historic District. Please see attached document detailing the proposed signage and its specific locations. The visual guide we provided are based on the information you previously sent to us. To ensure accuracy, we kindly request you to confirm the following details: the precise locations for the signages, the title of the district, the period of historic significance, and the historical landmark number."

The signage and proposed locations were reviewed by Katherine and Steve, and correct information confirmed with the City. The four signs will be posted on new poles because the Transportation Department does not post multiple signs on traffic safety signs like stop signs and speed limit signs. Also, signs are always placed facing oncoming traffic (e.g., facing northbound traffic if the sign is placed on the east side of a street). The locations are:

- #1: On the east side of 28th Street between Dwight and Landis streets (facing northbound traffic)
- #2: On the south side of Landis Street just west of Pershing Avenue (facing eastbound traffic)
- #3: On the north side of Upas Street just east of the Portal at 28th Street (facing westbound traffic)
- #4: On the east side of Pershing Avenue north of Upas Street (facing northbound traffic)

George moved and Michael seconded the sign locations be approved, and the motion was approved unanimously by attending Board members.

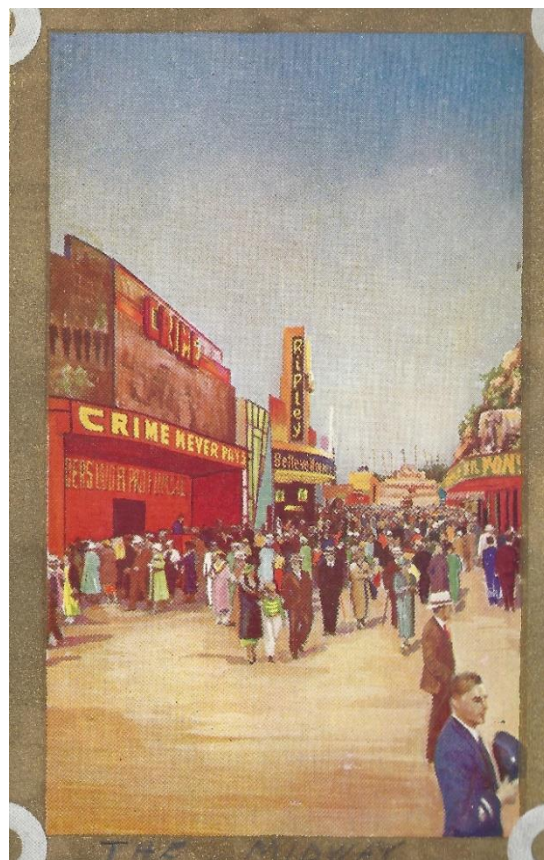
7. LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MISSION HILLS HERITAGE

Barry Hager with Mission Hills Heritage (MHH) asked for support from NPHS, and based on the approval of the NPHS Board at the July meeting, Katherine emailed a signed Statement of Support to MHH. On August 5, Barry sent the following message: "*Dear Historic District Supporters: Thank you for supporting Mission Hills Heritage's campaign to convince the City of San Diego's HRB to adopt rule changes to create a streamlined process for National Register/CA Register historic districts to be listed locally. We finally submitted our letter to the*

City and HRB this past Monday. A total of ten (10) organizations have signed our statement of support. We are planning to attend the next HRB hearing on August 24th to discuss our request during public comment. We are hoping to make some progress on this issue so that all groups and organizations interested in adopting historical districts will have a pathway from the National or CA Register to the local San Diego register. We will keep you posted of our progress and encourage everyone to attend the next HRB meeting (which can be attended remotely). I will send a copy of our final letter and all attachments in the next email. “

8. SLIDE AND PHOTO SCANNING PROJECT

We are in the process of scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family. Here are a few scenes from the 1935-36 California Pacific International Exposition at Balboa Park that no longer exist. The Midway (far right) was where the zoo parking lot is now. The Plaza de America extends northward from what is now the Aerospace Museum (then the Ford Building), and the Standard Oil tower — in the middle distance of the postcard just below and in detail in the bottom postcard — stood near where the international cottages are now.



9. COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND ACTIVITIES

In August 2023, we responded to requests for information (and received interesting information) and participated or arranged to participate in community activities as summarized below.

1. North Park Main Street Executive Director Mark West has offered NPHS a table at an occasional Farmer's Market. We decided to appear on Thursday, October 5, from about 2 pm to 7:30 pm. Jody, Claudia, Bob and Allison were among those who have offered to come help Steve and Katherine.
2. North Park Main Street has requested a commercial walking tour for their Board of Directors. George and Katherine are coordinating on guide notes from previous tours.
3. The Old Spanish Trail Centennial Celebration Association will be focusing their Centennial Convention at the Alpine Community Center on November 2 through 5, 2023. Information is available on their website at [Old Spanish Trail Centennial Homepage](#) George contacted Steve Aldana, Community Development Coordinator for the El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association, for information, and Mr. Aldana emailed, "I put together a history page on our website. There's a lot more to add but there might be something of use." The webpage is at the link below. It has lots of interesting photos and captions, and is well worth checking out.
<https://theboulevard.org/home/landmarks-on-the-boulevard>
4. Rediscovering San Diego has invited us to present a lecture about North Park history on October 10 and October 12 in a classroom at the Joan Kroc Center on University Avenue near 69th Street. Katherine will present a PowerPoint lecture.

Another teacher of different groups of Rediscovering San Diego classes requested a Morley Field tour, which Steve will conduct on Tuesday, November 14 and Thursday, November 16 starting around 9:30 am each day. Bob and Jody will check their calendars to see if they can be picture book assistants with Katherine.

5. Gillian asked for an evaluation of the designation potential for her Craftsman home with unique porch roof on Louisiana Street. The team found the house had high integrity and felt that "The low-pitched, gabled roof, exposed roof rafters, casement windows, and trim are original to the structure. The porch roof chains are unique and original to the structure." The team concluded the house had the potential to be designated under Criterion C.



We also found some interesting information on previous owners. The first owner of the house was John N. Norris, who ran a drug store at 1439 University Avenue. John, his wife, Maggie, and his son Jack (John N., Jr.) lived in the house from 1923 until 1925.



Google Earth Streetview of the building that housed John N. Norris' drug store in Hillcrest during the 1920s.

There were about seven different owners over the next 20 years. The house was advertised for sale in the August 1947 Union Tribune:

SAVE \$500 TODAY
3-BEDROOM furn. Immaculate. 1100
 sq. ft. Need \$6000 down, but it's a
DANDY. Small balance. 3768 Louisiana.

In 1947, Maurice Wayne Black and his wife Vonda Mae bought the house. This couple owned the house until about a year after Vonda died on August 5, 2012, so they were there for more than 65 years! Based on information in City Directories, Lot Books, Ancestry.com, and historical Union Tribune articles, we found that Maurice was born in Iowa on May 12, 1921. His father died when he was 7 and Maurice was listed as living with his grandfather in the 1930 census. Maurice enlisted September 6, 1939. He was a Hospital Apprentice in 1940, and was listed as being in the US Marine Corps as a Pharmacist Mate 3rd Class at the Naval Hospital in Astoria, Oregon, in 1941. Other military paperwork notes he was wounded in action.

In the 1950 census, Maurice was listed as working for the "armed services." Vonda was 26 years old, their son Craig was 3 years old, and their son John R. was just born in January that year. An August 14, 1963 Union Tribune news article related how a Coast Guard helicopter pilot saved a sailboat operated by Craig Black, age 17, and friend from crashing on the rocky shore of Point Loma. The sailboat was named the "Vonda B" for Craig's mom. In 1980, the last year of scanned City Directories, Maurice Black's occupation was listed as a lab tech at the San Diego Zoo.

Gillian replied, "We had some of that information, but you have certainly filled in gaps we were unable to fill in. The news report and classifieds are fun to have!"

Helicopter Keeps Boat From Rocks

A Coast Guard helicopter pilot used the wash from the craft's rotor blades to blow a sailboat carrying two boys from the rocky shore of Point Loma yesterday.

The Coast Guard received a report at 2:50 p.m. that the 20-foot sailboat Vonda' B was going onto rocks a half mile north of the sewer outfall after its outboard motor failed.

Lt. Robert L. Johanson, pilot of the helicopter, maneuvered his craft to blow the Vonda' B away from the shore and near the vessel tempest. The latter boat took the sailboat in tow, later turning it over to a Coast Guard cutter.

Those aboard the Vonda' B were identified as Craig Black, 17, of 3768 Louisiana St., and Jerry Whitman, 17.

10. BALLCAPS WITH LOGO

Our branded ballcaps are proving to be very popular. Via email discussion, the Board approved providing one free ballcap per household current on member dues. Ballcaps will be offered for sale at \$20 plus tax.

Because we are out of the navy ballcaps and only have 5 khaki ballcaps left, in advance of the meeting, Steve proposed to the Board via email we order 60 more ballcaps from AKA, consisting of 20 khaki and 40 navy. This was approved by a majority of the Board via email vote, and the additional ballcaps were ordered on August 15, 2023.



If you are a member current on your dues and have not yet taken your free ballcap, you can email Katherine to give your preference, and we'll figure out the best way for us to get your ballcap to you.

11. PLAQUE FOR WATER TOWER

Coordination with City Public Utilities Department staff regarding the feasibility of placing the plaque in a boulder or some kind of low wall next to the two-story building at the Water Tower site is pending the City's completion of construction of improvements to the water system going on at the site.

12. FUTURE MEETINGS

We have re-started our public meetings, which will be scheduled for the third THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m. in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church. **Our next meeting will be on September 21.** Please email Katherine at khon@honconsultinginc.com or leave a voice message on her land line at 619-294-8990 if you want to attend.

Prepared by

Katherine Hon

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Secretary, North Park Historical Society