

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019

The North Park Historical Society (NPHS) was formed in 2008 to educate residents and visitors about the history of North Park. The primary purpose of NPHS is "to conduct research and educational outreach in order to facilitate preservation of North Park's cultural and architectural history."

Accomplishments in 2019

The accomplishments of NPHS in 2019 grouped by the seven objectives stated in our Bylaws under the primary purpose are summarized below.

Objective 1. To market and distribute printed and digital publications consistent with our purpose (e.g., *North Park: A San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946*, our book on the history of North Park's first 50 years).

- Local stores continue to sell the book we prepared in 2014, *Images of America: San Diego's North Park* published by Arcadia Publishing Company. It is available for retail sale at various locations including SOHO, San Diego History Center, CVS, and Paras Newsstand. NPHS sold 3 books to our members and friends in 2019. We received a total of \$136.95 in royalty payments from Arcadia for sales by others in 2019.
- We continue to sell our "original" history book: *North Park: A San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946* by Donald Covington, which is published and distributed by NPHS. We sold 5 spiral-bound books to Paras Newsstand, 10 books to the San Diego History Center, and 20 books to Verbatim Book store for their retail sale. We sold 4 to individuals.
- Amazon paid for 1 final perfect-bound book under our past agreement, which is now terminated.
- A total of 0 perfect bound and 39 spiral bound North Park history books left our inventory in 2019. Since publishing the book in 2007, we have sold a total of approximately 2,751 copies. We have 34 spiral-bound copies and 16 perfect-bound copies remaining.
- We continue to sell copies of the book, *Burlingame, the Tract of Character* by Donald Covington. We sold 2 books to individuals in 2019. We have 94 copies remaining.
- In 2017 we had 100 canvas tote bags with our logo printed at [AKA] Apparel-Supplies-Printing. We sold 6 bags to individuals in 2019. The San Diego History Center took 14 bags for sale on consignment in 2019. We have 22 bags remaining.

Objective 2. To coordinate with other organizations on public historical education and preservation efforts, including designation of historical districts and/or structures.

- We continued to explore developing an art installation to celebrate the Water Tower during 2019, but received disappointing news from the city in March. In 2017, in coordination with the City's Commission for Arts and Culture, a 100-foot length of fence on top of the concrete reservoir facing Howard Avenue was identified as the most appropriate "canvas" for the installation and identified the project as a 5-year "temporary" installation. At a meeting on March 28, 2019, city staff informed NPHS that any art installed on the fence would have to be removed by early 2022, and the city wanted the draft proposal showing the initial 23-foot-long centerpiece to show the concept for the entire 100-foot-long expanse of fencing. In view of the significant reduction in allowable exhibition time and city's new recommendations for expanded design and documentation, the NPHS Board voted to terminate the project in April 2019.

- NPHS remains committed to installing the bronze plaque that NPHS paid to create in 2015 recognizing the Water Tower as a Local Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.
- NPHS Board Member Paul Spears provided input on whether a full historical report should be required for about 175 building permit applications to the City of San Diego for changes to buildings more than 45 years old.
- Last summer, NPHS investigated the potential for the historical subdivision of Pauly's Addition to qualify as a historic district. Pauly's Addition encompasses 20 blocks extending from Alabama Street on the west to Arizona Street on the east, and between University Avenue on the north to Upas Street on the south. The Chair of the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board (HRB) was very interested in the information that NPHS provided to him in a letter and would like to discuss it further. The HRB Chair also said he showed the material to staff, and they said they would be open to receiving a community-nominated historic district application. The tables of information about each house in the historical subdivision were posted on the NPHS website.
- Paul and a small group of other Board members activated a free advice service helping to inform people on the potential for their house to be designated as a significant historic resource, how historic designation happens, where there are resources explaining what needs to be done, the difference between historic designation and the Mills Act property tax reduction contract, and what factors into a structure qualifying as a significant historic resource. NPHS received and responded to a total of eight requests in 2019.
- NPHS President Steve Hon and Secretary Katherine Hon attended a very interesting meeting at the North Park Theatre (Observatory North Park) in February 2019 with Representative Susan Davis (D-CA-53) and Representative Virginia Foxx (R-NC-5) as part of the American Congressional Exchange program launched by the Bipartisan Policy Center. Rep. Foxx was very congenial and enjoyed learning about the history of the theatre and how its restoration stimulated a renaissance in the heart of North Park.
- NPHS joined other historic resources advocates in writing to the City supporting city control of the manner in which new 5G facilities are placed in historic neighborhoods.
- NPHS wrote a letter to the city HRB staff supporting designation of the Streamline Moderne building at 3093-95 El Cajon Boulevard.



Objective 3. To develop and conduct walking tours relating educational information about the history of various areas in North Park.

- The following tours were conducted:
 - Tour of the Dryden Historic District on July 20, 2019 for 7 people
 - Tour of Morley Field Recreational Area on October 15 and October 17, 2019 for a total of about 60 senior students with the “Rediscovering San Diego” class of the San Diego Continuing Education, San Diego Community College District Emeritis Program.



Objective 4. To research and write objective articles about the history of North Park's people, landmarks, architecture, homes, commercial buildings, tracts, and other topics for publications.

- Press coverage was good this year in the *Uptown News*. Highlights include the following:
 - Nine articles written by NPHS Secretary Katherine Hon in her monthly column "PastMatters" were published in *Uptown News* on the following topics: the Red Fox Room, sidewalk stamps and the contractors who poured them in the 1920s, Pauly's Addition details, Pekin Café, Paras Newsstand, Policeman Harry Kelly, Master Builder Edward F. Bryans, the Granada Building, and information in the City Clerk's Archives.
 - The University Heights Community Association re-published an article written by Katherine about their street names in the October 2019 issue of their newsletter.

Objective 5. To make and sponsor presentations of information useful to helping the public understand the origin and significance of historical resources in the community, including buildings, landmarks, and other structures.

- On October 3, 2019, Katherine presented a PowerPoint lecture on "North Park and How It Grew" for the City of San Diego Office of the City Clerk as part of their third annual Archives Month. The theme was "Hidden Treasures."
- NPHS held the 10th and Final Car Show, hosted for the 8th time by the Balboa Tennis Club, on September 7, 2019. There were 66 cars onsite (3 exhibitors who registered in advance did not show, and 5 exhibitors who had not registered drove up on the day of the show). We filled all but one space. There were seven \$100 sponsors and one \$200 sponsor. A total of \$650 was collected from car entries, and we received \$51 in donations on the day of the show. The FAVORITE CAR VOTING SUMMARY follows.



First Place Grand Trophy to 1969 Ford Van "Van Tiki."



Second place to red-and-white two-tone 1955 Ford Fairlane Crown Victoria.



Third place tie between green 1969 Chevrolet Camaro SS 396 RS and a crazy 1946 GMC Truck "Rat Rod" that looked like something from the Mad Max movie.

- NPHS displayed at the San Diego History Center on March 12, 2019.
- NPHS displayed at the North Park Festival of the Arts on May 11, 2019. A fun highlight of the day was watching the Lucky Lion Dancers, who stopped to honor the Lions Club members in the booth next to us.



Jody and Randy at the booth



Lucky Lion Dancers

- NPHS marched in the Toyland Parade on Dec. 8, 2019, with member Victor Flake once again as the dancing Water Tower re-created in 2013 by the Old Globe prop department.

Objective 6. To organize, convert to digital format (when possible) and provide the following materials for research and other purposes: documents, slides, data, notes, photos, and various ephemera and records related to history donated to the North Park Historical Society, and to establish a North Park collection for eventual donation to the San Diego Historical Society for preservation.

- Using the slide scanner purchased with Board approval in March, 88 slides originally given to Donald Covington and donated to NPHS by Karon Covington were scanned to digital files in 2019. These include 34 slides from the Essery family, 17 slides from the Guy-Halac family, 22 from the Hartley family, 5 from the Kooperman family, and 8 from the Leedy family.



Essery Company office at 4141 El Cajon Blvd.



The North Park Grays baseball team



*Mary Jane Hartley
Matriarch*



*James Monroe Hartley
Patriarch*



*Jack Hartley
Eldest son*

- NPHS found a photo of Donald Covington with a newly installed storyboard in the sidewalk on University Avenue to give to the North Park Maintenance Assessment District to help guide the restoration of the now-fading storyboards.

Objective 7. To conduct outreach to schools regarding North Park history consistent with our purpose.

- NPHS did not conduct any formal projects with schools in 2019.

