

NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY FEBRUARY 2024 MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2024

TIME: 6:00 PM

These notes summarize information that was presented at the February 15, 2024 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 February 20, 2024. Board Members Steve, Katherine, Jody, Allison, Claudia and George attended.

All future public meetings scheduled for the **third THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m. WILL BE** held in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church. In addition, we continue to provide information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history and document those communications in our monthly meeting notes. **Our next meeting will be March 21.**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The latest Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletter was shown.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The meeting notes from the January 18, 2024 meeting have been posted on the website. A file with the **SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023** was distributed to all our members in an email on January 27, 2024. The summary for 2023 plus summaries for 2019 through 2022 have been added to the website under a separate menu item.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials for this meeting are for January 18 to February 14, 2024 and were sent to Board members on February 14, 2024. In this time period, three members renewed (thank you, Bob, Allison and Marcella!), and one new member joined (thank you and welcome, Lu!) for total income of \$80. Expenses in this time period included the annual registration fee with the California Registry of Charitable Trusts (\$25), annual fee with GoDaddy for two of our domain names (\$45.34), and \$2.04 in miscellaneous fees for online payment of our sales tax and Registry fees. The sales tax paid to the State for 2023 was \$30.54 (rounded up to \$31). Sales tax expense is tracked under our organization's Liabilities.

The following state and federal organizational reports for the 2023 fiscal year were/will be filed on the dates indicated below:

- 199N State income tax report was filed online on January 1, 2024.
- State sales tax of \$31 was reported and paid to the State online on January 5, 2024.
- 990N federal income tax report was filed online on January 31, 2024 and has been accepted by the IRS.
- California Registry of Charitable Trusts Registration Renewal form RRF-1 and other required information files were filed online on January 31, 2024 and are noted on their website as "e-accepted."
- Statement of Information with the Secretary of State was filed online on March 4, 2022. The next Statement of Information will be due by May 31, 2024.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. SIGNS FOR DRYDEN DISTRICT

Since 2021, NPHS has been pursuing demarcation signs for the North Park Dryden Historic District. On November 9, 2023, our city contact emailed that they sent the work order in August 2023 and the street division department usually installs these kinds of signs within 90 days or less. Katherine requested an update in an email she sent to our city contact on January 9, 2024, and there has been no response so far. The signs have not appeared yet, but city staff have all been very busy with storm drainage infrastructure issues from the recent heavy rainstorms.

6. WALKING TOURS

Morley Field Walking Tour Last month the Board agreed we should try an advertised tour of Morley Field on a Saturday in early summer. The possible dates we considered were June 22, June 29, July 13, and July 20. Steve asked the Balboa Tennis Club about timing to be sure we don't conflict with any major tournaments, and **June 22** seemed to be the best date. Later this year, he will ask the club to put a notice in their newsletter. We can put up our canopy in the park, and have several helpers stay there to answer questions while the tour group(s) proceed. Allison is agreeable to doing computer searches for information about houses upon request, like she did at the Farmer's Market, which was very popular. Katherine will prepare a flyer for Facebook and email to our members. Jody will ask if we can put the flyer up at the pool. We will not charge admission, but ask for donations. Claudia can be another guide, and will practice with Steve later this spring. Jody and George will also be available to help.

Pauly's Addition Walking Tour We have scheduled two Pauly Addition tours for members of the Continuing Education program in the San Diego Community College District's "Rediscovering San Diego" class for April 16 and 18, 2024. The tours are mid-week, on a Tuesday and Thursday, starting about 10 am. We will probably have to divide each class into two groups of 10 to 15 each, depending on attendance. George and Katherine can be guides. Jody and Steve can be photo book assistants. We will see if any other members can be helpers, but we recognize these mid-week tours can be difficult for our working members.

Commercial Walking Tour North Park Main Street was very pleased with the walking tour George conducted for their Board of Directors on January 24. Thanks also to Jody, Steve and Allison, who showed photos.

Burlingame Walking Tour We discussed the possibility of conducting an advertised tour of a focused part of the Burlingame Historic District for the general public later this year. Steve has asked an architect friend who conducted one of the groups of Burlingame tours in 2014 for Rediscovering San Diego if he would like to do a Burlingame tour this year, and the answer was positive. We will explore a Saturday in early fall as a date. A possible route would include Kalmia Street from 32nd Street to San Marcos Avenue then north on San Marcos Avenue to the Swiss Chalet houses. George and Katherine have found their guide notes from previous tours.



7. SLIDE AND PHOTO SCANNING PROJECT

We are in the process of scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family and other sources. The scanned photos from the 1915 Exposition booklet, which included pictures from downtown San Diego and environs, continue to fascinate, so here are a few more.



U. S. Grant Hotel, facing Plaza Park. Constructed at a cost of \$2,000,000. Erected by U. S. Grant, Jr. as a memento to his father General U. S. Grant.



Mission San Luis Rey, 1798, situated near Oceanside some 50 miles from San Diego.

8. COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND ACTIVITIES

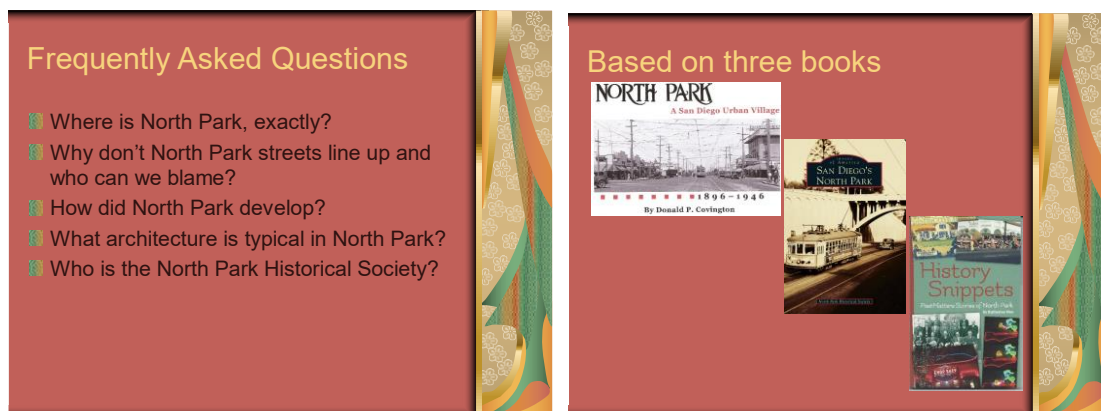
In February 2024, we responded to requests for information (and received interesting information) and participated in community activities as summarized below.

1. Steve, owner of Original 40 Brewing on University Avenue, emailed asking for any photos they could get enlarged and framed to put inside their establishment. He said, "We named Original 40 Brewing after Hartley's original 40 acre citrus farm. The older and closer in time to the farming time period would be great. Including any pictures of farms, farming, fields, tractors. It would also be great to see photos of North Park streets, older buildings or homes back when there was lots of space between them, trolley lines, old commercial buildings, or businesses. The older and closer in time to the farming time period would be great." We sent him one of our favorite photos from "North Park, a San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946" by Donald Covington.



*Jack and Paul Hartley (and Don the dog)
at the Lemon Ranch - now North Park, circa 1900
Photo courtesy of the Hartley Family*

2. Katherine was the first lecturer in SOHO's new Zoom lecture series, "Penning the Past: Insights into San Diego's Historic Neighborhoods and Architecture." Her lecture was February 10 from 11 am to noon. The PowerPoint presentation answered some Frequently Asked Questions about North Park history and included photos and information from three books: "North Park: A San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946" by Donald Covington and distributed by NPHS since 2007; "Images of America, San Diego's North Park," authored by NPHS and published by Arcadia Publishing Company in 2014; and "History Snippets: PastMatters Stories of North Park," authored and published by Katherine Hon in 2019. About 40 people registered for the Zoom event, and comments afterwards were positive. You can register for future lectures about other neighborhoods at this link on the SOHO website: [Penning the Past - Insights into San Diego's Historic Neighborhoods and Architecture \(sohosandiego.org\)](https://sohosandiego.org/penning-the-past)



Here is a link to the video of Katherine's lecture: <https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/9TEpabVzs5>

3. Steve and Katherine joined the sold-out crowd attending a KPBS interview with the beloved Ken Kramer of the television show, "About San Diego." Ken is a wonderful storyteller and gracious host, who took time to personally greet everyone in the room with his magnetic smile. Brand new episodes will start to air in April and we got a sneak peek at a few.



9. NPHS WATER TOWER USED IN TOYLAND PARADE

Our valued member, Victor, who has portrayed the dancing water tower in the most recent past Toyland Parades, has been storing the water tower "costume" in his garage. We continued to discuss ideas for alternate storage in case he would like to give it back, and ideas for holding an NPHS event where the water tower could make a comeback even if the Toyland Parade never returns.



Katherine asked NPHS member Robert if there are any ideas for how to make it collapsible to be easier to store. He said, no, it can't be altered, and the props person with the Old Globe who made it has retired. The Old Globe does not have space to store it.

We will ask North Park Main Street if they have room or ideas. And we will see if Victor would like to appear at the Morley Field Walking Tour to encourage people to come to our canopy.

10. PAYMENT FOR NPHS MEMBERSHIP

A recent article in the Union Tribune business section mentioned check theft from the mail and subsequent fraud is on the rise, and last month the Board agreed we should give our members alternate ways of paying their annual dues. Steve and Allison activated Venmo, and it has tested out as working by Allison and a new member who paid their dues using it. Our @ is northparkhistorical

11. CITY OF SAN DIEGO PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICIES

You can use the following link on the Planning Department webpage to sign up to get updates with the city's info about the review process and timeline:

[Preservation and Progress | City of San Diego Official Website](#)

You can also request notifications of other city meetings, like the HRB, through this site.

12. 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 completion of the city's construction activities at the site.

13. FUTURE MEETINGS

All future public meetings scheduled for the **third THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m.** in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL OCCUR in 2024**, and we are still providing information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history. Our next meeting will be on **March 21**.

Prepared by



Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society