

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MAY 2026 MEETING SUMMARY**

DATE: MAY 21, 2026

TIME: 6:00 PM

These notes summarize information that was presented at the May 21, 2026 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 May 24, 2026. Board Members Steve, Katherine, Jody, Allison, Claudia, Michael, Paul, and George attended. Visitor Shane also joined us. Welcome!

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 June 18.**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

We hope all our members and friends are having a good 2026!

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Katherine shared the house sale flyer for 3711 29th Street, a beautifully renovated Craftsman house that was the former home of long time North Park resident, dentist, and Lions Club member Dr. James Knott, who died last year. He was affectionately known as “Dr. Whirleygig” for all of the unique statuettes and moving ornaments in his front yard.

Sophisticated Living in the Heart of North Park



3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The meeting notes from the April 16, 2026 meeting have been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials for this meeting are for April 16 to May 19, 2026 and were sent to Board members on May 19, 2026. In this time period, two members renewed and made additional donations (thank you, Donna and Stuart!) for a total income of \$182.00. There were no expenses in this time period.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. REDISCOVERING SAN DIEGO MORLEY FIELD WALKING TOUR MAY 7

We conducted a walking tour for 8 senior citizen students and their teacher in the Rediscovering San Diego program on Thursday, May 7 at 10:00 am. Steve guided and Michael, Ed O. and Sheryl were book holders, with Jody helping as shepherd. Katherine stayed behind at our table to share history information with passersby. Five people signed up to be notified about our next tour. At this meeting, Board Members decided to advertise and conduct another Morley Field tour in July, possibly on Saturday, July 11 or 18. We will finalize plans at the June meeting.



6. UPDATE ON BUNGALOW COURT HISTORIC DISTRICT

The City Historical Resources Board approved support for the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form for the San Diego Bungalow Courts Multiple Property Listing and National Register nomination for Elm Courts located at 1730-1748 29th Street and El Cantorral Court at 2454-2474 Adams Avenue at their April meeting. The State Office of Historic Preservation considered the item on May 7, and Kristin Harms, President of the University Heights Historical Society reported that “the Historic Resources Commission unanimously approved the San Diego Bungalow Court MPDF and associated nominations for Elm Courts and El Cantorral Court...it stayed on the consent agenda which was approved 6-0-0. Several commissioners made very positive comments about the nomination and about the importance of bungalow courts in general...Architectural Historians Amie Gutierrez and Ginger Weatherford have offered to conduct a limited number of [architectural assessments](#) for bungalow court owners throughout San Diego to determine if their property might qualify for the National Register. Thank you again for everyone’s support during this long process. It is gratifying to know these important resources will now have some level of protection they did not have before.” The Press Release for the successful implementation is on the last page of these notes.

7. CITY POLICIES AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES BOARD UPDATES AND SOHO ECONOMIC STUDY

- The following link on the Planning Department webpage has the city’s info about the review process and timeline:

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

Package A was approved by City Council on February 24. Package B, which will include potential changes to the Mills Act program, is now the focus of City staff. The SOHO Economic Study has been released and is available online at

[The Big Picture: Preservation Overreach? The Data Says Otherwise](#)

8. COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND ACTIVITIES

In May 2026, we responded to requests for information (and received interesting information) and participated in community activities as summarized below.

1. The North Park Dryden Historic District sign on Upas near the Portal at 28th Street was damaged months ago, and Steve sent a request to fix/replace the sign through the city’s Get It Done app. Happy news – the sign has been replaced and looks great!
2. In less happy news, the rare 1941 Minimal Traditional house in the North Park Dryden District at 3565 Pershing Avenue and two-story unit behind at 3567 Pershing Avenue, both of which were identified as Contributing resources to the district, have been seriously compromised. Following the death of a long-time resident related to the owner, the house’s original windows and siding have been removed in a callous “remodel” effort conducted without permits or any consultation with the Historical Resources Board.



Current view

Construction has been stopped by the city, thanks to alert District resident Ed C., and the paperwork posted on the fence requires the owner to “Cease work on Historical Resource. Submit required documentation and obtain required permit (s) for modifications to Historical Resource. All removed materials must remain onsite.”



House in 2011

Mr. T. Thomas, Zoning Investigator, City of San Diego Development Services Department-Building and Land Use Enforcement, responded to our email requesting information. On May 15 told us he will “...conduct a thorough inspection. I will inform you of my next enforcement actions based on my findings.”

3. Pauly’s Addition resident Kathleen visited our table at our Rediscovering San Diego walking tour day, and requested an evaluation of her “Storybook” Tudor Revival house on Texas Street. We concluded the house should qualify for individual designation under Criterion C. We found a building permit for a “stucco cottage and garage” at 3420 Texas Street in the December 20, 1924 Evening Tribune. The permit was obtained by Lucille Helen Lainson, whose “Fairy Tale Houses” theme for this address as well as 3406 and 3412 Texas Street was explained in a May 17, 1925 San Diego Union article entitled

“Young Woman Designs and Aids In Building Fairy Tale Houses.” The article mentioned “Miss Lainson explains that these homes are Hollywood types...” which is a reference to Storybook architectural style that started in a 1920s Los Angeles development named “Hollywoodland.” The 50-foot-high and 500-foot-long sign advertising the development has lived on as a famous landmark without its last four letters, which were removed in the 1940s.

Young Woman Designs and Aids In Building Fairy Tale Houses

A young woman house builder—she designs what she has chosen to call “Fairy Tale Houses”—and she puts on overalls and does a good part of the building herself—can drive a nail straight and saw to the line—has made a study of homey dwellings and gets a great deal of enjoyment from her activities as a builder and designer.

She’s a San Diego girl, too—learned home designing at the high school here—and her name is L. Helen Lainson.

Some time ago Miss Lainson bought a piece of property on the west side of Texas street, near the park and it occurred to her that these lots were well suited for improvement. So she designed three Fairy Tale houses with the idea of making their exteriors distinctive and attractive and their inter-

iors commodious and comfortable.

Work on the first one was started last November and within 10 weeks the dwelling was completed. Miss Lainson explains that these homes are Hollywood types, artistic throughout, and that they are Fairy Tale houses in name only. Each is solidly built, is attractive to the eye and has a number of modern features that are extremely attractive. Two other homes on this property are under construction now and it is expected they will be completed within the next

few days.

The three homes might have been designed from some of the illustrations in any Fairy Story book for their outside appearance makes them especially noticeable among the other bungalows on Texas street. One home has a roof of jazz shingles, another has patent colored asphalt roofing and the third is trimmed with tile manufactured here. Each home has five rooms, conveniently arranged and each contains a large, comfortable living room 14 by 20 feet in dimensions.

The homes are at 3406, 3412 and 3420 Texas street and are valued at from \$5500 to \$6200. It is Miss Lainson’s intention to start four additional Fairy Tale houses on another piece of property which she owns fronting on Upas street near Texas.

May 17, 1925 San Diego Union

9. WEBSITE REDESIGN UPDATE

Allison showed design progress on her laptop. We are eagerly awaiting launch very soon!

10. PAYMENT FOR NPHS MEMBERSHIP

As a standing item in the meeting notes, we can accept membership dues and donations via Venmo @ northparkhistory, and if a number code is requested, use 1274.

11. FUTURE MEETINGS

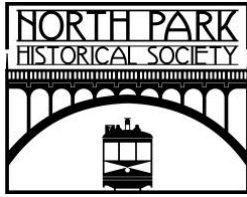
All future public meetings scheduled for the **third THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m.** in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL OCCUR in 2026**, and we are still providing information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history. Our next meeting will be on **June 18**.

Prepared by

Katherine Hon

Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR PRESS RELEASE ABOUT BUNGALOW COURT PRESERVATION PROJECT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

California State Historic Resources Commission Simplifies Process for Nominating Bungalow Courts to the National Register of Historic Places

SAN DIEGO, CA — On May 7, The California State Historic Resources Commission (SHRC) unanimously approved the [San Diego Bungalow Courts Multiple Property Documentation Form \(MPDF\)](#), a landmark decision that makes it easier and more affordable for local bungalow court owners to nominate their property to the [National Register of Historic Places](#).

The MPDF provides a comprehensive historical record and simplified framework for nominating bungalow courts throughout the city. Along with the approval of the MPDF, two specific San Diego properties—[El Cantorral Court](#) in University Heights and [Elm Courts](#) in South Park—were officially placed on the National Register.

“My community partners and I are thrilled that owners of these cherished housing types now have a clear path forward for nominating their properties to the National Register,” said Kristin Harms, President of the University Heights Historical Society. “Volunteers have worked for years to identify, document, and preserve these important historic resources throughout our communities”.

According to city historic surveys, there are approximately [400 bungalow courts](#) remaining in San Diego, including 70 in University Heights alone. These properties are considered vital to the architectural character of the region.

The initiative was a collaborative effort. The University Heights Historical Society contracted with Pasadena-based South Environmental to prepare the MPDF, receiving critical financial support from the North Park Historical Society, Hillcrest History Guild, and the Ocean Beach Historical Society.

Property owners can prepare their own nominations using [National Park Service Form 10-900](#) or hire a consultant for assistance.

Scott Crosby, owner of the newly listed El Cantorral and Elm Courts, encourages other owners to take advantage of this new framework. “Bungalow court owners have a great opportunity to protect these important historic resources which are such a tremendous asset to the character of San Diego’s neighborhoods”.

To support owners interested in nominating their property to the National Register, the University Heights Historical Society is offering [low-cost architectural assessments](#) conducted by experienced Architectural Historians Amie Hayes and Ginger Weatherford. These assessments can help owners determine if their property might qualify for the National Register before they begin the formal application process.

Contact

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