NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARCH 2011 MEETING NOTES

DATE: March 17, 2011 TIME: 6:30 PM

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. These notes include updates as of April 8, 2011.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

George Franck Steve Hon Katherine Hon Vince Rivera Randy Sappenfield Michael Thornhill Sharon Turner Hilda Yoder

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

Patrick Edwards
Ed Orozco
Louise Russell
Liz Studebaker
Jody Surowiec
Bill Vivian
Paul Wade

Members Bob and Paul joined us.

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The March Agenda was accepted as proposed.

The group was very saddened to hear that our generous member Robert Hoy, who initiated and funded the water tower designation project, passed away on February 28, 2011. Robert's *Memories of North Park* article appeared in the *North Park News* in the February 2011 issue of the West Coast Craftsman (pages 5 & 7). His wife Rosemarie wrote to us "He loved having to look back and being able to talk about the old days. Thank you for the article you mailed us, he loved it!" We will miss Robert's stories about growing up in North Park, and hope that heaven has hot rods as fine as his car in this photo.



3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The draft minutes from the February 17, 2011 NPHS meeting were accepted and have been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials were sent to the Board in advance of the meeting. Sharon presented a summary of activity from February 15 to March 13. We had revenue from selling 2 residential guidebooks, 14 Burlingame books, and 18 North Park history books, and from 43 sign-ups for the Burlingame walking tour. The ad in the North Park News for the Klicka scholarship cost \$147, and printing 10 Burlingame posters cost about \$35.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS PRESENTATION FOLLOW-UP

We appreciated Kristin Harms with the University Heights Historical Society (UHHS) presenting a summary of the community planning efforts going on now for the North Park and Uptown planning areas. George noted that the work is related to the community plan updates. Important goals are to protect single family housing and maintain the character of the neighborhoods. Conservation areas seem to be desirable for helping to protect neighborhood character, but at this point the controls that would be established and where the areas would be have not been clearly defined.

6. CAR SHOW PLANNING

We are still planning for the date of September 10, 2011 for our second annual North Park Car Show. Bob, Steve, and Katherine attended the PAC meeting to get a better understanding of the issues regarding the parking lot behind the North Park Theatre. The only area that is planned to be fenced would be by the dumpsters, lining up with the corner of the theatre building, which is good news. However, the property has been transferred to another department of the City and there may be issues regarding liability. George moved and Hilda seconded that we contact Todd Gloria's office to see if our District 3 Councilmember can find out more and support the parking lot being used for the event. The motion was approved unanimously. **Steve will contact Anthony of Todd Gloria's staff.**

7. KLICKA SCHOLARSHIP

Hilda said that there will be a meeting of the scholarship application review group on March 26. Update: Louise reported that they have selected Goni Dubnov as the scholarship recipient. She is a senior at the School of Creative and Performing Arts, is a circus performer, has just completed an AFS stint in a rural Japanese town, is passionate about mathematics, and has been accepted at Mills College. We had applicants from San Diego High, Hoover High, and the School of Performing Arts, a total of 4 applicants. Also of note, Goni's father saw the ad in the North Park News, prompting the family to submit an application. Todd Gloria has scheduled his attendance at the North Park Festival of the Arts on May 15 to present the scholarship.

8. DRYDEN DISTRICT

The district process is proceeding well. At the March 14 HRB Policy Subcommittee meeting, there was some discussion about the district name. Kelley with the City noted that all of the suggested names that will be on the property owner ballot for consideration will include "Dryden." Upcoming milestones are as follows:

- March 17 (approximate): Property owners will receive self-addressed stamped ballots from the City that will provide owners an opportunity to voice their support of or opposition to the district.
- Thursday April 28: First hearing by the HRB to review adequacy of the nomination, as required by District Policy.
- Thursday May 26: Second hearing by the HRB to make their decision on designating the district.

There are some homes that have been identified by City staff as non-contributing that we believe should be considered contributing to the district. The Dryden group is researching these homes.

9. BURLINGAME WALKING TOUR

The March 12 historical walking tour of the Burlingame Historical District based on the book we just reprinted, *Burlingame: The Tract of Character, 1912-1929* was very successful with more than 40 attendees, about half of whom were walk-ups. George did a great job handling the big group, but we realized that we always need to have 3 trained tour guides to keep the groups at smaller sizes, especially in case of a tour guide's sudden illness (we missed you, Michael!). If any of our friends and members are interested in getting trained as a volunteer guide, please email us at info@northparkhistory.org.

A summary of the tour is on the website at NorthParkHistory.org.

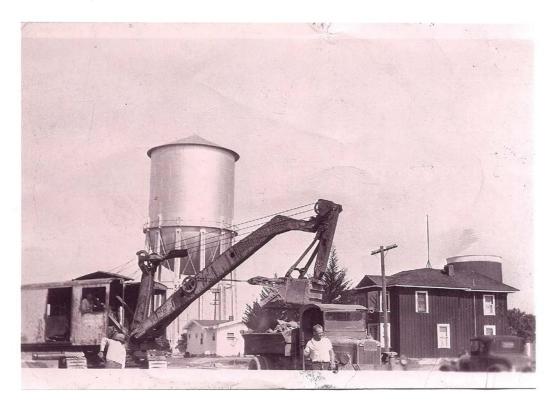
Sharon suggested we investigate getting a wireless microphone, as handling the megaphone and tour notes can be awkward. *Katherine will contact Patty Fares, who does walking tours to ask what she uses.*



George strides off to lead the group across Laurel

10. NORTH PARK WATER TOWER DESIGNATION PROJECT

George continues to coordinate with the El Cajon Business Improvement District and the University Heights Historical Society in preparing the application. George will meet with City HRB staff tomorrow. Alex Bevil, who often helps the University Heights Historical Society, has volunteered his time to research the history of San Diego's water supply system in order to place the Water Tower in its proper historic context. He had already done that in the historic background report he did around 1991 for the Greater North Park/Mid-City Historic Survey. Alex recommends that the entire complex, including the steel water storage tower, two concrete water reservoirs, and the site of the 18-million-gallon concrete reservoir south of Howard Avenue (between Idaho and Oregon streets) to Polk Avenue be included in the nomination for designation because of their contribution to the development of San Diego's water supply system. The tower is just a part of the larger complex. We have found and been given some interesting pictures, including this donation from a North Park resident who saw the article about the water tower project in the *North Park News*.



11. BOOK PROJECTS

New Book, 1946-Present: The group will meet March 24 at the Hon's to review photos to potentially be purchased from the San Diego Historical Society (now the San Diego History Center) using the County grant we obtained last year. Bob Page, owner of the *North Park News* donated issues from the 1990s to present.

12. HISTORICAL SURVEY MEETING

George reminded the group that the City will provide updates on the historical surveys being conducted for Uptown, North Park, and Greater Golden Hill on March 19. George and Paul Spears plan to attend.

13. CALENDAR PROJECT

There was no discussion as calendar goup members were absent. Goals for the calendar project in this year should be discussed in more detail with the Board at a future meeting.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

Remember that the North Park Festival of the Arts is Sunday, May 15. We need all members possible to come and help staff the booth. Michael, Hilda and Randy said they will join Sharon, Katherine, and Steve. We will have a sign-up sheet at the April meeting.

The Old House Fair is Saturday, June 18, 10 am to 4 pm. NPHS will have a booth. Mark your calendars to help.

Vince can create another poster using the photos we have of North Park commercial streetscapes in the 1950s. The poster he made of North Park structures that are gone or severely modified is very popular and generates lots of great discussions.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

George gave out a postcard from SOHO encouraging attendance at meetings about the proposed changes to the Cabrillo Bridge.

Hilda announced that the San Diego Museum of Art will have an exhibit on Stickley furniture in June. She showed us the beautiful exhibition book, and said she can take us on a tour.

Steve passed along some interesting information from a survey of trees in the public right of way that the company West Coast Arborist did for the Maintenance Assessment District. There are about 7,000 trees in North Park (these are trees along street parkways or medians, not associated with parks or on private property). The value of these trees is about \$9 million. About 36% of the trees are palms. There is room for about 3,000 more trees in these public areas.

16. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** April 21, 2011 at 6:30 pm in the second floor conference room of the Masonic Lodge.