

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NOVEMBER 2015 MEETING NOTES**

DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2015

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 December 6, 2015.

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** January 21, 2016 at 6:30 pm in a second floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard. **There will not be an NPHS meeting in December.** The January 2016 meeting will focus on a presentation by public art consultant Gail Goldman on examples of art concepts, media, and installations that may apply to our Water Tower project.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

Katherine Hon	Randy Sappenfield
Steve Hon	Paul Spears
Michael Thornhill	Claudia Watts
Jody Surowiec	Sharon Turner

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

George Franck	Judy Ciampoli
Bob Bauer	Hilda Yoder
Bill Vivian	

Members Sue and Turner joined us. Welcome!

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve noted that the San Diego History Center will be allowing history organizations to display in the lobby on an assigned free Tuesday. The day for NPHS will be February 9, 2016. Steve and Katherine will staff our table, and welcome others to come by to help or just say hi. We always meet some interesting people and make good connections.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The minutes from the October 15, 2015 NPHS meeting 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. In the period from October 16 to November 14, 2015, the following numbers of books were sold: 5 original North Park history books to the Grove, 5 Burlingame books to The Grove, and 1 Burlingame book to Amazon. Two NPHS members renewed with an additional donation of \$80 from one, and we gained one new member. The total income in this time period was \$263.55. There were no expenses recorded in this time period. **Update:** A check for \$748.60 was written to Awards by Navajo for the Water Tower's bronze plaque; this check has now been cashed and the expense will be included in the year-end financial summary.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. NOVEMBER 5 WATER TOWER EVENT FOLLOW-UP

The event to celebrate the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), San Diego Section proclaiming the North Park Water Tower to be a Local Historic Civil Engineering Landmark and dedicate the plaque was a great success! The crowd was a mix of engineers, City staff, North Park community organization members, elected officials and their staff, local residents, and NPHS members and friends. See below for a few of the excellent photos taken by photographers Stuart Hartley (top two photos) and Donna Posin (bottom two photos) which they shared with attendees and gave to NPHS for our use. Thank you, Stuart and Donna, for your time and talent!



6. UPDATE ON PUBLIC ART WATER TOWER RELATED ACTIVITIES

On November 6, 2015, art consultant Gail Goldman, now under contract with NPHS, and Steve and Katherine met with City Public Works staff to discuss possible concepts for an installation on the Water Tower property, which is on the north side of Howard Avenue. We discussed an installation that would incorporate the bronze plaque, and art options that could be incorporated into a new fence to replace the existing chain link fence, or mural type of installations on the rectangular reservoir walls and the stucco building west of the Water Tower. The City is very interested in exploring options with us, as long as the concepts would not limit the City's ability to respond to emergencies or conduct their operations. They are excited about the engineering landmark designation for the Water Tower and very positive about having the bronze plaque on the Water Tower property in an appropriate location where the plaque will be visible and close enough for the public to read, but also be secure and protected from vandalism.

Gail, Steve, and Katherine will meet with Public Works and Security staff on December 21 to further define requirements related to fencing, decorative lighting, and areas that might be available for a plaque monument structure. We also have a meeting scheduled with City Park and Recreation Department on January 12, 2016 to explore art installation options in North Park Community Park. Results of these meetings will be shared at the next NPHS meeting on January 21, 2016.

The group decided we will ask Gail to present a "slide show" of art concepts, media, and installations that may apply to our Water Tower project at the January 21, 2016 NPHS meeting at our usual starting time of 6:30 p.m. The group also suggested we invite North Park Community Association, North Park Main Street, North Park Planning Committee, and El Cajon Boulevard BIA to this meeting for the presentation. **Update:** Gail has confirmed she will do the presentation on January 21, 2016.

7. PLANNING ISSUES

Steve and George collaborated on a second letter of comment on the Community Plan Update focusing on concerns about certain policies and guidance in the Historical Preservation and Recreation elements. The letter was sent to the City and was included at the end of the September meeting notes. In response, the City added a potential historic district for the Neoclassic and Spanish Revival apartment buildings on the east and west sides of Park Boulevard. We still don't know about response to our zoning comments.

Regarding the Recreation Element comments, the City did make changes in response to our concerns about the historic Morley Field pool and clubhouse, and text now calls for restoration and not replacement. Please see the last two pages of these notes for the main pages of the revised Recreation Element where the Morley Field pool complex is discussed.

8. PRINTING THE BURLINGAME BOOK

We only have 9 Burlingame books left, and we sell at least about 20 each year. The estimate from the printer we have used for our books, Wholesale Reprographics, is \$4.61 per book for 100 copies (total \$461), and \$4.19 per book for 200 copies (total \$838). Sharon moved and Jody seconded that we order 100 copies. This motion was approved unanimously. Katherine will coordinate with Wholesale Reprographics to have the books produced. That supply will probably last for several years, but several of our store customers, including The Grove, SOHO, and San Diego History Center, do order them from us so we want to keep it in print.

9. BEING ON FACEBOOK

On November 5, Katherine sent an email motion to the Board for approval to have a North Park Historical Society Facebook page. She noted that there were many photos taken by various people at the Water Tower event, and they wanted to know if we were on Facebook so they could post them. Claudia volunteered to create a Facebook page for NPHS. In email responses, eight Board members (Sharon, Randy, Jody, George, Judy, Steve, Katherine and Claudia) approved being on Facebook, and no Board members objected. Claudia created a great page. Visit and like us at: <https://www.facebook.com/northparkhistory/>. This is where we will post announcements and photos from our events.

10. TOYLAND PARADE DECEMBER 5, 2015

The Toyland Parade will be Saturday, December 5, 2015 at 11:00 am, and NPHS is in. **Update:** NPHS participants were Claudia, Turner, Sue, Tim, Judy, Michael, Steve, Katherine, and Victor (the all-important and crowd favorite dancing Water Tower). The weather was perfect and the crowds were good along University Avenue. Photos posted on Facebook got a lot of likes! See the next page for some snapshots.



Steve and Tim held the banner.



Katherine evoked the 1870s.



Turner and Claudia represented the '20s.



Michael the Motorman wiggled his moustache for Victor's children.

11. BUDGET CONCEPTS AND PROCESS FOR 2016

Steve will develop a draft budget for the Board to review. He suggested we include funds to buy tee shirts as we have new Board members and regular members who might be interested in buying them. The group agreed. Steve noted that the consultant who helped us revamp our website suggested we get a back-up service that many website managers recommend called "Vault Press." The service is \$5 per month (\$60 per year). Paul moved and Sharon seconded that NPHS get that back-up service for our website. This motion was approved unanimously.

For the County grant, we will request support for our annual car show and for continued assistance with the Water Tower project. Paul suggested we include a request for honorarium funds for artist proposals, which Gail has explained to us is a professional way to invite artists to develop concepts. The group agreed that was a good idea.

Steve suggested he provide the draft budget and initiate discussion via email since we will not meet in December and the January meeting will be largely devoted to Water Tower art discussion. Michael moved and Paul seconded that the budget process be conducted by the Board via email. This motion was approved unanimously.

12. ARTICLES IN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

Uptown News continues to feature articles from NPHS. Katherine announced that the editor asked her to have a regular column and to come up with a name for it. She chose "Past Matters," which *Uptown News* liked, and her first column was about the Water Tower event. Her next column was a tribute to Joe Schloss, who passed away last month. Joe was a long-time North Park businessman who owned A-B Sporting Goods (corner of Ray and University Avenue), was one of the founders of North Park Little League in 1957, and coached Little League for 60 years. See the next pages for scans of these articles.

NEXT MEETING

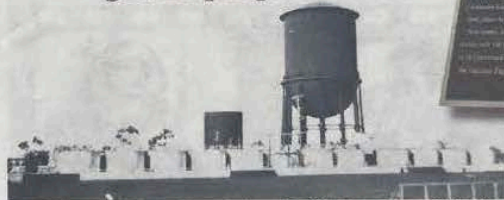
The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** January 21, 2016 at 6:30 pm in a second floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard, corner of Park and Lincoln Avenue. Happy Holiday wishes to all our members and friends!

Prepared by

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Katherine Hon".

Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

Landmark of steel gets its plaque of bronze



(above) Only the water tower remains from this 1947 view of city water facilities looking northward from what is now North Park Community Park. (Courtesy of Alex Bewil); (top right) the landmark plaque (Photo by Katherine Hon); (bottom right) Tootie Thomas (Courtesy of Stuart Hartley)



PastMatters Katherine Hon

The words are now cast in bronze. In 1924, a riveted steel tank raised on 12 steel girders high above San Diego's early streetcar suburbs held more than one million gallons of water for a growing city. Long recognized as a neighborhood icon, the University Heights Elevated Tank — commonly called the North Park Water Tower — was proclaimed a Local Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) in a ceremony on Nov. 5, 2015.

At the ceremony, the elegant plaque explaining the water tower's significance was entrusted by

to 39,000 barrels of beer.) Without municipal water for fire protection and commercial and domestic uses, development of University Heights, North Park and Hillcrest — and other streetcar suburbs expanding from downtown San Diego in the early 1900s — could have stopped.

San Diego county and city officials including County Supervisor Ron Roberts, City Councilmember Todd Gloria and City Public Utilities Department Director Halla Razak joined ASCE, NPHS and El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association (BIA) at the plaque dedication ceremony in view of the water tower at North Park Community Park.

"As kids, seeing the North Park Water Tower was magic," Roberts said. "Its appearance meant you were near the Palisade Gardens



and is the beacon of a new century.

Mark Webb, ASCE San Diego section president, noted that the water tower is joining a prestigious list of landmarks designated by ASCE, including the Georgia Street Bridge, Cabrillo Bridge, Hotel del Coronado and Sweetwater Dam.

Steve Hon, NPHS president, said historical society members are working with public art consultant



(l to r) NPHS Secretary Katherine Hon, Public Utilities Director Halla Razak, ASCE officials Phil Kern and Mark Webb, Councilmember Todd Gloria, Supervisor Ron Roberts and NPHS President Steve Hon (Courtesy of Stuart Hartley)

ASCE to the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) for safekeeping until a suitable monument is constructed where the plaque can be installed.

ASCE is a national professional engineering organization. The San Diego section, which is celebrating its centennial this year, selected the water tower for honors due to its robust and unique design, towering presence and contribution to San Diego's early urban growth. This designation adds to the water tower's national recognition in 2013 when NPHS achieved listing of the structure on the National Register of Historic Places.

Towering 140 feet above the west end of El Cajon Boulevard, the structure can be seen for miles from its location near the corner of Howard Avenue and Idaho Street. A rare example of early-20th century technology for supplying water at adequate pressure, the water tower held 1.2 million gallons of potable water until the 1990s. (In modern North Park terms, that is roughly equivalent

roller rink, Carnation ice cream parlor, fantastic park and in for a day of fun. I'm pleased future generations will continue to have the tower as a reference point in the sky, along with this great new historical plaque on the ground."

"The North Park Water Tower is a landmark worthy of this honor from the American Society of Civil Engineers," Gloria said. "I am proud that this year's city budget included over \$500,000 to preserve the tower and ensure it remains a feature in our mid-city skyline."

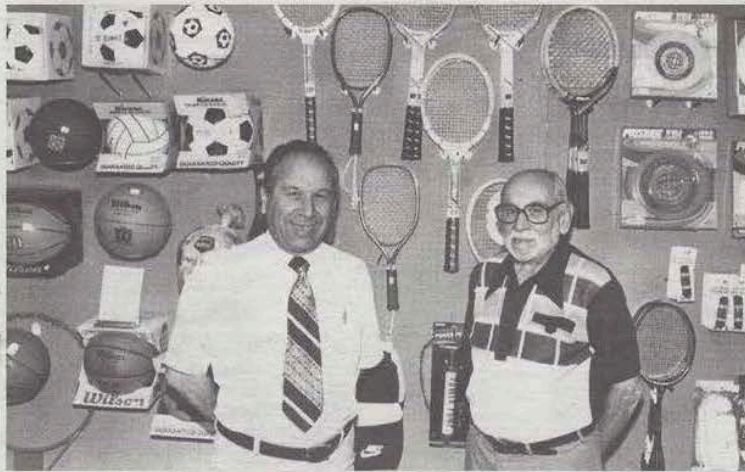
Razak said that many city facilities don't live as long as the 91-year-old water tower, and assured the crowd that it is here to stay. She later reflected, "It was great to hear the memories community members have of this landmark. Glad to participate in making history for future generations."

Tootie Thomas, president of El Cajon Boulevard BIA, eloquently praised the water tower as an iconic marker of time and place that presides over the "Cool-evard"

Gail Goldman to develop concepts for an installation that incorporates informational, educational and artistic elements to tell the story of the water tower and surrounding historical water facilities in an engaging way.

Another special attendee at the ceremony was Gary Hogue, who grew up in the direct shadow of the water tower in a house at Howard Avenue and Idaho Street, earned his civil engineering degree at San Diego State University, and then worked for the city of San Diego in water operations from 1971 until retiring in 2005. An avid hiker, Hogue noted that the water tower is visible from the top of Cowles Mountain, more than seven miles away. For him, the water tower has always been a community landmark, and he is gratified to see it recognized by civil engineers for its many years of service to the city.

—Katherine Hon is the secretary of the North Park Historical Society. Reach her at info@northparkhistory.org or 619-294-8990. »



So long, Joe, it's been good knowing you

North Park loses an icon, Joe Schloss

PastMatters
Katherine Hon

The day before Thanksgiving, North Park Little League posted online the sad news that Joe Schloss, a Little League coach for 60 years, had died following a brief illness. He was 88. The announcement described him as a "World War II veteran, the longtime owner of A-B Sporting Goods in North Park ... a loving husband and proud father. He touched the lives of all those he knew."

Much has been made of Joe's Little League coaching career, and rightly so. As of 2015, Schloss had been coaching continuously since the mid-1950s and helped establish North Park Little League in 1957. The northwest diamond at Morley Field was dedicated to him on May 13, 2000 — when he had been coaching a mere 45 years — and the sign with his name still hangs proudly on the backstop.

This past spring, May 16 was declared Joe Schloss Day, and a special ceremony was held at Morley Field to honor him. His team and San Diego notables including the San Diego Chicken celebrated with him. NBC7 reported that typical for the humble team-player, Schloss was overwhelmed and a little embarrassed by the attention, but thrilled to be there. He credited his longevity as a coach to many co-coaches over the decades, and said, "60 years have just flown by."

But Joe Schloss means much more to North Park than just his impressive coaching career. A family store has been on University Avenue since 1939, when his father David started a radio store at 3022 University Ave. In 1941, David took over A-B Appliance Co. and moved it from 3834 30th St. to 3011 University Ave. In the early 1960s, the store moved to its current location at 3027 University Ave., at the corner with Ray Street. Sporting goods were added to the mix of retail items and to the store name in the late 1960s.

After his Navy service in the Pacific during World War II, Schloss joined his father at the store, first as a salesman and later the owner, through the decades from 1946 to this year. Since 1982, his son Gregg also has been at the store full time. Gregg is assuring the steady stream



The San Diego Chicken joins Joe Schloss (front row, third from left) at the celebration on May 16, 2015. (Photo by Gregg Schloss)

of customers arriving to give condolences that the store will continue its fine tradition of providing outstanding merchandise and service.

Joe Schloss learned early to care about his community. As businessmen on University Avenue, he and his father enthusiastically participated in the Toyland Parade when the annual event that started in the 1930s and stopped during World War II began again in the late 1940s. Inflated balloon figures were part of the 1949 parade, and Schloss remembered getting them set up the day before. He also recalled spending long hours decorating University Avenue for many a Christmas season. Some of the best photographs of the 1958 Toyland Parade came from a well preserved set of his color slides. His father played Santa in the Toyland Parade for nearly two decades, when 300,000 people watched from the sidewalks and entries included real reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh, camels courtesy of the San Diego Zoo, and equestrians from throughout California and Arizona.

Local organizations including North Park Little League and North Park Lions Club benefited from Joe Schloss being a member.



The bats are quiet at Joe Schloss Field, where other coaches will now have to fill Joe's shoes. (Photo by Steve Hon)

He eagerly shared memories and pictures whenever the North Park Historical Society needed them. He is immortalized on page 126 of the book, "Images of America: San Diego's North Park," which he was proud to show to his many loyal customers. The folding chair in front of the store counter is empty now, but Joe will always be there in our hearts, warmly welcoming us to his corner of North Park.

—Katherine Hon is the secretary of the North Park Historical Society. Reach her at info@northparkhistory.org or 619-294-8990.



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Parks/ Recreation Facilities	Existing Useable Acreage	Future Useable Acreage	Parks and Recreation Facilities Descriptions	Parks and Recreation Facilities Recommendations
			game rooms; facilities are outdated to fully serve the community.	recreation facilities designed to accommodate a variety of community oriented meeting and recreation programs for adults.
Morley Field Recreation Center (within Balboa Park)	N/A	N/A	Proposed 20,160 square feet Recreation Center to be located within the Morley Field area of Balboa Park.	Design and construct a new 20,612 square feet recreation center to accommodate community meetings, gymnasium, recreation and fitness programs, and restrooms, consistent with the recommendations in the BPEMPP.
Morley Field Pétanque Center (within Balboa Park)	N/A	N/A	The existing Pétanque Center (formerly a senior center) was built in 1933 and is approximately 1,548 square feet and provides community meeting rooms and play areas for Pétanque	Preserve and restore the existing historic Pétanque Center for community use.
Aquatic Complexes				
Bud Kearns Aquatic Complex (within Morley Field area of Balboa Park)	N/A	N/A	The existing historic Bud Kearns Pool and Clubhouse were built in 1933 and provide one community swimming pool and a building with changing rooms, showers and restrooms.	Preserve and restore and renovate the existing historic Bud Kearns pool facility to serve the Golden Hill and North Park Communities. Provide additional swimming facilities such as children's play pool, therapeutic pool and additional clubhouse pool building facilities to meet the needs for the community. The new facilities would augment and be complimentary to the existing pool and clubhouse without compromising the historic character of the original pool and clubhouse.
Joint Use Facilities				
ALBA Charter School (formerly North Park Elementary School)	0.12		Existing joint use facilities consisting of kindergarten play area, amphitheater, and outdoor lunch area pursuant to long-term joint use agreement. The total joint use acreage is 2.96, of which 2.84 acres is located on North Park Community Park and 0.12 acres is located on School District property.	
Birney Elementary School	0.96		Existing joint use facilities consisting of turf multi-purpose playfield, multi-purpose courts, and hardscape for court games pursuant to long-term joint use agreement. Facility is a total of 1.82 acres and is shared with; North Park (0.96 acres) and Uptown (0.86 acres).	

- e. Provide enhanced pedestrian crossings at all intersections which enter into Balboa Park; engage community input for these designs.
- f. Design and construct the proposed Pershing Recreation Complex to serve the North Park, Golden Hill, Uptown Communities and downtown East Village, when feasible to do so.

RE-1.14 Implement recommendations contained in the Balboa Park East Mesa Precise Plan for the Morley Field area which specifically serves the neighborhood and community park needs of the North Park Community, as follows:

- a. Preserve and restore and renovate the existing historic Bud Kearns pool facility to serve the Golden Hill and North Park Communities. Provide additional swimming facilities such as children's play pool, therapeutic pool and additional clubhouse pool building to meet the needs for the community. The new facilities would augment and would be complimentary to the existing pool and clubhouse without compromising the historic character of the original pool and clubhouse.
- b. Construct four rearranged lighted, ball fields and a common gathering area (sky plaza) for organized sports leagues, including support facilities, such as a concession/restroom building, spectator stands and enhanced pathways/promenades.
- c. Construct one multipurpose lighted sports field east of the ball field complex.
- d. Reconfigure parking to concentrate vehicles for safer and more convenient use.
- e. Construct a group picnic area at the south end of Morley Field.
- f. Construct a group picnic area and two children's play areas between the ball fields and the pool/recreation center area.

RE-1.15 Design and construct a skate park/bike skills park within the former Arizona Landfill area, if feasible, or elsewhere within the community at a location to be determined through a community planning process.

7.2 Preservation

The demand for park and recreation opportunities will continue to grow as the population of North Park continues to grow. Undeveloped land for parks is difficult to find in North Park making preservation of park facilities essential to providing recreation opportunities in the community. Preservation can include improvements to existing facilities to increase their life span, or expand their uses and sustainability. The Morley Field Area of Balboa Park will continue to serve as the main recreation venue for the community. With increased demand and usage, the facilities will need to be reconstructed, upgraded and expanded with sustainable and green technology features. To optimize the space to be fully utilized and to provide new recreation amenities that is needed by the existing and future community residents.

Preservation can also include the enhancement of resource-based parks and open space lands that provide a balance between protecting the natural resources and allowing for a certain level of public recreation use. Within North Park this would include concentrating active recreational use improvements towards larger resource-based parks, such as at Morley Field, and focusing passive use improvements at open space areas, such as Switzer Canyon and Juniper/34th Streets Canyons Open Space areas which are within the Multiple Habitat Planning Areas (MHPA). Aside from trails, only passive uses are allowed in the MHPA, therefore, to protect the natural resources and still add recreation value, interpretive signs at open space parks can educate the public on the unique natural habitat, scenic value and the history of the place. (See Conservation Element for additional information on preservation of natural resources.)

POLICIES

RE-2.1 Preserve, expand and enhance park and recreation facilities to increase their life span, and to optimize their uses and sustainability.