

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
AUGUST 2018 MEETING NOTES**

**DATE: AUGUST 16, 2018**

**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 August 20, 2018.

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY September 20, 2018 starting at 6:30 p.m.** in the second floor Fellowship Room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard, corner of Park Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue. This meeting will feature a special presentation by historian Alexander Bevil about the September 25, 1978 airplane crash of PSA Flight 182 into a quiet North Park neighborhood 40 years ago.

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

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

Steve Hon	Katherine Hon
Jody Surowiec	Paul Spears
George Franck	Hilda Yoder
Sharon Turner	Randy Sappenfield
Judy Ciampoli	Bob Bauer

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

Claudia Watts	Michael Thornhill
---------------	-------------------

Member Sue joined us. Welcome!

**2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The latest Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletter was circulated for viewing.

George shared information about a celebration of the 100th birthday of late baseball great Ted Williams. The Society for American Baseball Research has organized a gathering at the ball field where Ted Williams played at Idaho Street and Polk Avenue on Saturday, August 25, 2018 at 11:30 am. This is the southeast corner of North Park Community Park; the field is now named Ted Williams Field. After a short chat about the playground, the group will walk a block and a half to the house where Ted Williams grew up and view this private residence from the street. The group will then go to a North Park restaurant for lunch, baseball chat, and a Ted Williams trivia quiz. Non-members of the organization are welcome to attend. Please RSVP no later than 9:00 am on August 25 if you plan to attend. Send your reservation request to [geejdubya@gmail.com](mailto:geejdubya@gmail.com).

Good news was shared about the Education Center site in University Heights. This location at Washington Street, Park Boulevard, and El Cajon Boulevard encompasses the Teachers Training Annex, the historically designated structure remaining from the original Normal School (the forerunner of San Diego State University). The San Diego Unified School District has approved a bond measure for the November 2018 ballot that includes adaptive reuse of the Teachers Training Annex and restoration of the University Heights Library mural, two projects that are important to the University Heights Historical Society and many other organizations in the community.

### **3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE**

The minutes from the July 19, 2018 NPHS meeting have been posted on the website.

### **BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING**

#### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The financials for the period of July 19 to August 13, 2018 were sent to Board Members before the meeting. During this period, we received donations totaling \$100 (from our insurance carrier as a bonus for having claim-free operations). Amazon paid for two North Park history books and one Burlingame book. We received 8 Car Show registrations for a total of \$80, one Car Show sponsorship for \$100 (thank you, North Park Main Street!), and one very generous \$250 Car Show sponsorship (thank you, Miles!). Total income was \$572.41. Expenses in this time period totaled \$511.97 for portapotties to be provided by United Site Services at the Car Show.

### **ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING**

#### **5. WATER TOWER PUBLIC ART PROJECT**

The conceptual design is being developed by the artist team of Bhavna Mehta and Lynn Susholtz. The design is due about mid-October. When the design is approved by NPHS, it will be submitted to the City for consideration as a 5-year loan, and if the City's review is favorable, this design will be used to raise funds for the final design (plans and specifications), manufacture, installation, and maintenance.

#### **6. WALKING TOURS UPDATE**

As a result of Westways Magazine mentioning North Park as a day trip destination and walking tours by NPHS as a potential activity, we have been getting phone calls and emails requesting tours. On August 11, Katherine and Steve conducted a Dryden District walking tour for Tony Wang and his family, including his two young sons. They produce travel videos called "look who's Blogging" from the kid's perspective that they post to YouTube. It was an interesting challenge to talk about architecture, history and North Park to this charming Orange County family. We look forward to seeing the video of the tour in late September.

#### **7. POSSIBLE PAULY'S ADDITION HISTORIC DISTRICT RESEARCH**

The current Chair of the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board (HRB) asked Steve and Katherine if NPHS could provide information about the potential for the historical subdivision of Pauly's Addition qualifying as a historic district. Pauly's Addition extends from Alabama Street on the west to Arizona Street on the east between University Avenue on the north and Upas Street on the south.

Paul, George, and Judy completed their field reconnaissance of this 20-block area, and Katherine has compiled the information into separate tables for each block. Hilda and Katherine are currently documenting more accurate years built using City Lot Books, and expect to be finished by the end of September. Next steps include a double check by other volunteers to make sure the photos of each house match the address recorded in the tables. Then a small group will convene to prepare a letter summarizing our conclusions about the feasibility and potential boundaries of a Pauly's Addition historic district based on the data.

Katherine reported that Historical Resources Board staff have prepared proposed changes to guidance regarding procedures on establishing historic districts. The proposed amendments were circulated in advance of the August 13, 2018 HRB Policy Subcommittee meeting. The

agenda noted that changes were based on "lessons learned and feedback received from the successful completion of the first year of the historic district work program." Among the changes is establishment of the following language regarding property owner support and opposition. The proposed revised guidelines state that "If a majority (50% plus 1) of property owners submit polling responses in opposition, the district nomination cannot proceed unless the district is of "Exceptional Importance" as defined by the National Park Service." Contact NPHS at [info@northparkhistory.org](mailto:info@northparkhistory.org) if you would like a pdf document with the proposed changes.

## 8. PROPOSED PARK BLVD HISTORIC DISTRICT PROCESSING UNDERWAY BY CITY

George wrote an excellent letter of support for the historic district, incorporating the direction from Board members received at the meeting and in subsequent emails. The letter, which was sent to recipients via email on July 30, appears at the end of these notes. A serious concern is the lack of support for a district from the St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church, which owns multiple buildings in addition to the beautiful church and has already demolished two historic homes to create an expanded parking lot.

## 9. UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The annual events NPHS is participating in or organizing include the following:

- North Park Car Show: Saturday, September 8, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Balboa Tennis Club is hosting us in their parking lot at Morley Field. We will have traffic police staff on-site for the entire duration of the show. We could use a few more volunteers on the day of the event to help distribute ballots and pencils so as many attendees as possible vote for their favorite car. **Update:** We now have 31 cars and 7 cash sponsors! Johnathan Harrison of JH Designs designed another wonderful poster, which has been posted around North Park. Thank you to Peter, Randy, Steve, Sharon, Jody, George, Sue, and North Park Main Street for taking posters around. **If you have a fine classic car, now is the time to register! Contact Katherine at [info@northparkhistory.org](mailto:info@northparkhistory.org) for a registration form.**
- Presentation at meeting on Thursday, September 20, 2018. At the September NPHS meeting, historian Alexander Bevil will present "Memories that Will Never Go Away—The 40th Anniversary of the Crash of Flight 182 in North Park" based on his extensive research about the crash that devastated the area at Dwight and Nile streets in 1978. His paper is in the Spring 2018 *Journal of San Diego History*. A flyer will be distributed early next month, but save the date for a fascinating (and free) presentation.
- Toyland Parade: December 1, 2018. We expect the parade to be held the first Saturday in December like last year. More later.

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY September 20, 2018 starting at 6:30 p.m.** in the second floor Fellowship Room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard, corner of Park Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue. As noted above, this meeting will feature a free presentation by historian Alexander Bevil about the 1978 crash of PSA Flight 182. Everyone is welcome!

Prepared by



Katherine Hon  
Secretary, North Park Historical Society



North Park Historical Society  
2226 Dwight Street  
San Diego, CA 92104  
(619) 294-8990

Kelley Stanco, Senior Planner  
Historic Resources Board (HRB)  
City of San Diego Planning Department  
kstanco@sandiego.gov

July 30, 2018

**Subject: Proposed Park Boulevard Residential Historic District**

Dear Ms. Stanco and Historic Resource Board members:

The North Park Historical Society strongly supports the creation of the proposed Park Boulevard Residential Historic District and thanks staff for an excellent Historic and staff report. We monitored the Historic Element of the North Park Community Plan Update, supporting the identification and the high priority assigned to this proposed District. While we support the adoption of the District as proposed in your May 30, 2018 staff report, we offer the following potential changes for HRB consideration:

- **St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church:**

The church sanctuary is a very significant visual element in the proposed District, but we understand that the church opposes historic designation. According to the historic survey, the new parking lot and several of the church-owned buildings on Indiana Street do not contribute to and could be removed from the District area if that would ease the church's acceptance of the District for its buildings facing Park Boulevard.

Buildings that should remain part of the District include the sanctuary, the adjacent congregational building, two multiple family structures at 3697 and 3727 Park Boulevard as well as 3710-3716 and 3720 Indiana Street. We urge the HRB to negotiate some compromise to retain the entire Park Boulevard frontage in the proposed District.

- **Park Royal Apartments:**

Because the revised Significance of the District focuses on the evolution of the area as transportation facilities and land use regulations changed, the Park Royal Apartments should be identified as a contributing resource. This resource, located at 3421 Park Blvd. was built in 1969. This addition would require extending the District's period of significance from 1900-1967 to 1900-1970. Please note that the updated North Park Community Plan identifies the period of significance of the post-war building period as 1948-1970, not 1948-1967 as proposed in the new Historic District report.

- **1923 Post-Victorian house at 3503 Indiana Street:**

The eastern boundary of the proposed District has been extended east of Indiana Street to include the Terrace Park apartment complex. We strongly support this expansion. Because the significance of the District has been expanded to include single family homes, we recommend that this house be added to the District as an example of the low density character of the area in the early years of street car service. This house is located directly north of the Terrace Park expansion.

Other potential historical resources appear to be located on the east side of Indiana Street, especially on the two northern blocks in the proposed District. Evaluation of these potential contributing resources should be considered.

Sincerely,

Stephen Hon, President  
North Park Historical Society

c: Council District 3, SOHO, NPPC, Uptown Planners, University Heights CDC, North Park Main Street