# NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY JULY 2019 MEETING NOTES

DATE: JULY 18, 2019 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 July 30, 2019.

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** <u>August 15</u>, 2019 starting at 6:30 p.m. in a second floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard, corner of Park Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue.

## 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

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

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

Michael Thornhill Claudia Watts

Welcome all!

#### 2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The July 2019 PastMatters column in *Uptown News* presented the history of Harry Kelly, a policeman in San Diego from 1915 to about 1945, who was the first owner of the humble bungalow that is now NPHS headquarters. A scan of this article is at the end of these meeting notes.

#### 3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The minutes from the June 20, 2019 meeting have been posted on the website.

# **BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING**

#### 4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials for the period of June 20 through July 17, 2019 were sent to Board Members before the meeting. During this period, five members renewed (thank you, Judy, Randi, Kate, Robert, and Christine!), and three renewing members gave us donations that totaled \$150 (thank you, Judy, Randi, and Kate!). We got two car show entries and one car show sponsor (thank you, North Park Main Street!). The San Diego History Center paid us \$20 for five tote bags sold in their museum store. Total income in this period was \$390. There were no expenses in this time period.

## **ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING**

#### 5. NPHS CAR SHOW

At the time of this meeting we had 12 cars registered, 4 paid sponsors (Steve, Randy, Observatory and North Park Main Street), and 2 promised sponsors (Barons Market and

Vintage Homes). Steve and Katherine took flyers to the Car Club Council meeting on July 2, and were allowed 2 minutes to talk about the show. The traffic police have been scheduled. They will be onsite for the entire duration of the show, from 6 am to 1 pm, and will bring barricades. Portapotties have been arranged with United Site Services. Katherine noted the cost for each unit and the fee to have weekend delivery and removal on the same day is much higher than last year.

North Park Trophy will provide their wonderful trophies. The photographer who came last year, Michael Carreon, has agreed to take photos again. Steve will arrange to get the no parking signs that must be posted several days before the show, and Paul will help with that effort. NPHS member Christine, who has excellent handwriting in chalk, will help us mark the numbers on the parking lot spaces the day before the event. Jody will let us borrow her canopy, which is always useful for attendees and the trophies to get out of the sun.

The poster by Johnathan Harrison, the designer who prepared the last two posters, was revealed at the meeting. The beautiful colors reflect Johnathan's theme of riding into the sunset in a sharp white 1966 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray. The car has been owned since it was new by one of our long-time exhibitors, who was thrilled to have her car be selected as the final "poster child." **Update**: A7D has printed the posters, and they look great. Look for them to appear in various places around North Park. The poster is pictured on page 4 of these notes.

#### 6. COUNTY GRANT UPDATE

Steve reported that NPHS has received the \$2,000 we requested from the County. The funds are to help with the car show (\$750) and for a public art consultant (\$1,250) related to the Water Tower project. The documentation for the previous grant for 2018-2019 has been submitted to the County.

#### 7. NEW MINI-PARK BEHIND THE NORTH PARK THEATRE - UPDATE

Word is that construction of the new urban park in the parking lot behind the North Park Theatre will begin by January 2020. In anticipation, North Park Main Street has initiated creation of a 501C3 business and neighborhood foundation to allow for tax-deductible donations to provide enhanced maintenance and activity programming in the park.

## 8. 5G TOWER ISSUE

Historic resources advocates have become concerned about the recent state and federal regulations pushing for installation of 5G wireless facilities. The City is currently updating their Land Development Code to include regulations and guidance about new freestanding cellular towers. As directed at the last meeting, NPHS wrote a letter supporting city control of the manner in which new facilities are placed and evaluation of potential adverse aesthetic impacts, especially in designated and potential historic districts. The letter was approved via email by 10 board members and opposed by none. The letter was emailed to all City Council members and Shannon Anthony of the Historical Resources Board staff on July 7, 2019, and appears on page 5 of these notes.

#### 9. POTENTIAL MEETING/EVENT SPACE AT UNION COWORK

Russell Johnson, Community Manager with Union Cowork North Park on 30th Street, offered to let NPHS have meeting space for our monthly meetings at no cost. He also offered space and assistance for a presentation or a "pop-up museum" if we would like to develop an event. Parking would be available at the garage for \$1 per hour or on the street within a few blocks. Katherine met with Russell to see the meeting rooms on Monday, June 24. He later emailed her photos of the space which were shown to the group. It was agreed that the meeting rooms

might be a bit too small for our regular meetings, but the patio space could be nice for an event where people were mingling. The indoor group space does not have enough chairs for a sit-down lecture like we have held at the church Fellowship Hall.

## 10. UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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

- North Park Car Show: Saturday, September 7, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Balboa Tennis Club has agreed to host us for our 10th and Final Car Show.
- <u>Toyland Parade</u>: Sunday, December 8, 2019. This is the second Sunday in December, a change from being held on the first Saturday.

#### 11. SCANNING OF SLIDES — SECOND EDITION

Katherine showed pictures from the Guy/Halac, Kooperman, and Leedy families that Don Covington had made into slides many years ago. This is the second set of slides to be scanned with our new slide scanner. The slides from the Guy/Halac family include an intriguing photo that could be showing the botanical gardens building in Balboa Park under construction in the background (far left). The Kooperman family photos include a cute pair of girls on an interesting swing (center). The Leedy family photos include several of 3552 Texas Street before the porch was enclosed, showing an interesting combination of square and round porch columns (right).







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Prepared by

Katherine Hon

Katherine Hon

Secretary, North Park Historical Society





HORTH PARK





























**FREE TO ALL ATTENDEES** 

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE GO TO NORTHPARKHISTORY.ORG OR CALL (619) 294-8990



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

City of San Diego
District 3 Councilmember Chris Ward
City Administration Building
202 "C" Street, 10th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101
<a href="mailto:christopherward@sandiego.gov">christopherward@sandiego.gov</a>

July 8, 2019

Subject: Land Development Code Update — Protection of Neighborhood Aesthetics and Character in Placement of Wireless Communication Facilities

Dear Councilmember Ward:

The North Park Historical Society (NPHS) is concerned about potential adverse impacts to the aesthetics and character of San Diego's historic communities, including North Park, resulting from uncontrolled installation of new freestanding 5G cellular towers.

NPHS supports the City maintaining control of the "time, place, and manner" in which new wireless facilities are placed. NPHS also supports the City requiring that existing poles and infrastructure be used for new 5G utilities wherever possible, and requiring that new facilities be installed underground or in other ways that minimize aesthetic impacts on historic streetscapes and parkways where existing infrastructure is not available.

NPHS supports language requiring review of historic districts and potential historic districts and compliance with the Secretary of the Interior Standards be included within the Land Development ordinance itself. NPHS also encourages language specifying how to meet Secretary of Interior standards be included within the associated wireless guidelines document.

Thank you for considering this letter in your review.

Sincerely,

Stephen Hon, President North Park Historical Society

c: San Diego City Council
 Historical Resources Board

# Harry Kelly: An extraordinary policeman in an ordinary bungalow

## **Past**Matters KATHERINE HON

Historical research often focuses on buildings and major events. But some of history's most interesting tales are about people. Ordinary and



This photograph of Harry Kelly was taken in the Guy Sensor Studio on E Street in San Diego on Feb. 22, 1936. (Photo courtesy of the San Diego

1-844-420-BEST

extraordinary people occupied North Park's bungalows through the Roaring Twenties. the Depression, and two world wars. They worried about work, rejoiced in family, and suffered loss. The hard-working residents who first moved into North Park's growing neighborhoods included teachers, clerks. policemen, and small business owners. Their stories are as varied as the architecture of their Craftsman homes

A case in point is Harry J. Kelly, who was the first owner of an unassuming 1922 bungalow built on Dwight Street in Pauly's Addition. Early city directories list occupations, and Harry Kelly was listed as a detective with the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) in 1923, the first year he and his wife Julia Helen moved to North Park.

Harry Kelly, the second son of an Irish blacksmith, was born in Piqua, Ohio, in 1891 and came to California at the



The men of the San Diego Police Department's Detective Bureau take a moment from what was certainly a busy schedule in June 1931 to pose for an official photograph. Harry Kelly is seated second from the right in the first row. (Photo courtesy of the San Diego Police Historical Association

Diego was a warehouseman for Cook-Haddock Co., a wholesale grocer. He joined the SDPD on Dec. 20, 1915, and served as patrolman, detective, chief of detectives, and acting chief of police in his nearly 30-year police department career.

A 24-year-old Harry Kelly

age of 19. His first job in San made his first arrest just after midnight on Christmas Eve. 1915. He collared P. Finnegan, an Irish laborer, for disturbing the peace and regretfully had to take his countryman to the station. In the late nights and early mornings of 1916. Harry Kelly arrested waiters, cooks, and laborers for vagrancy and being drunk. One May evening, he arrested a chauffeur for reckless driving. He teamed

with George Sears - who later served as chief of police from September 1934 to April 1939 to arrest two men for battery. He teamed with others to make arrests for highway robbery and manslaughter.

In October 1917. Harry Kelly and George Sears, along with four others, were promoted to investigators. Kelly was later promoted to detective sergeant. and in 1929 he became a lieutenant. In 1932, he was promoted to chief of detectives; he led the bureau for 11 years.

When George Sears retired under pressure from the mayor in April 1939, Harry Kelly - next in rank below Sears was named acting chief of police. He served until July 18, 1939. Though his tenure was brief, Harry Kelly was the chief for the key move of the Police Department into its new headquarters on Market Street. These historic buildings designed by master architects Charles and Edward Ouavle and Alberto Treganza were renovated in 2013 to serve as The Headquarters at Seaport District, a dining and retail destination adjacent to the Embarcadero.

In the summer of 1939, when appointment of a new police chief was imminent, rumors of a Police Department purge flew. In a "local politics" column, Richard Pourade wrote:

"Certain not to be purged is Capt. Harry J. Kelly, chief of detectives, who is acting chief of police. He has lots of friends, his honesty has never been questioned, and there is no officer in the detective bureau rated capable of taking over his job. And, if Captain Kelly is left in the chief's job on a temporary basis long enough, there might not be any cleaning up left for his successor, Captain Kelly has

been accomplishing very quiet-

ly many of the objectives of the

new city administration. And

he has come in for much unof-

ficial praise from Navy officials

on the way he handled the city on the return of the fleet." In July 1939, John T. Peterson was coaxed out of retirement by the city manager to serve as police chief, and Harry Kelly returned to his chief of detectives position. When he retired in 1943, the bureau retired the title with him, appointing his

second-in-charge M.J. Donnelly

to captain of detectives. Around 1945, Harry Kelly and his wife left the North Park bungalow that had been their home for over 20 years. They settled in Berkeley, where he worked as a security guard. He died of cancer on Feb. 4, 1955 in Alameda and was buried with Julia's sisters, brother and mother at Holy Cross Cemetery in San Diego.

If you are interested in learning more about SDPD history, visit the San Diego Police Historical Association's museum at 4710 College Ave. Hours. entry fees and many interesting photos are on their website at sdpolicemuseum.com.

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



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