

# **NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOVEMBER 2019 MEETING NOTES**

**DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 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 November 23, 2019.

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY January 16, 2020 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. We will not meet in December 2019.

## **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

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

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

No members of the NPHS Board of Directors were absent.  
Welcome all!

## **2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The latest Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletter was circulated for viewing. The November 2019 *PastMatters* column was about some interesting pictures of materials related to North Park in the City Clerk's Archives (see the last pages of these notes).

## **3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE**

The minutes from the October 17, 2019 meeting have been posted on the website.

## **BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING**

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

The financials for the period of October 17 through November 20, 2019 were sent to Board Members before the meeting. During this period, one household renewed, and they also gave us a donation of \$60 (thank you, Claudia and Tom!). We received \$27 in donations from attendees of the Morley Field walking tours. The San Diego History Center sold two of our tote bags on consignment, netting us \$10. Total income in this period was \$117.00. Expenses in this time period consisted of a correction of the cost of the wireless amplifier (from \$62.00 previously reported to actual cost of \$66.81), for a total of \$4.81. Final financials for the year will be provided in the 2019 Annual Report.

## **ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING**

### **5. ADVISORY SERVICE MARKETING**

Paul, Claudia, and Katherine met with the owners of 3705 28th Street, at the corner of Landis and 28th streets in the Dryden District. This house, built in 1913, was in such an altered condition when the District was formed in 2011, that City staff classified it as likely never to qualify as being a contributing resource to the District. However, in the past few years, the

enclosed porch was opened — revealing original shingle siding that had never been covered by stucco — and porch columns were recreated. The current owners are considering removing the stucco siding to reveal original siding and attic vents that are likely still underneath the facade on the rest of the house. It is possible that this house may become a contributor to the District, which is a real success story.



3705 28th Street in 2011



3705 28th Street currently

A North Park resident who read about Pauly's Addition in the *PastMatters* column in Uptown News contacted NPHS to ask about the construction date of her home. She had understood the house was built in 1932, but found a date of 1923 stamped on the metal inside her fireplace. We found her house listed in the NPHS building permit database on our website NorthParkHistory.org as being built by Benjamin Torgerson, who pulled the building permit on November 12, 1931 with a value of \$5,000. The resident then realized the stamp on the fireplace was the date the patent was issued for the heater inside the fireplace. She was interested to learn that Benjamin Torgerson built several homes throughout North Park, including 3575 Alabama Street in 1927, and 3424 Mississippi Street in 1928.

## **6. WALKING TOUR OF MORLEY FIELD**

We will have more time and resources for walking tours in 2020 since we will not be organizing a car show. Ideas generated at the October meeting for tours included the following:

- Hamilton Street neighborhood emphasizing bungalow courts on January 18 for a group attending a conference about the Tiny House movement
- Burlingame Historic District in the spring
- Dryden Historic District in the summer, and maybe next October for the Rediscovering San Diego class
- Morley Field Recreational Area in September (offered for free to previous car show exhibitors)
- Develop a new walking tour featuring parts of Pauly's Addition.

George, Michael, Jody, Steve, and Katherine will coordinate on conducting a trial run of the Hamilton tour during December sometime after the 10th and before Christmas. Bob mentioned that there is a charming set of small homes in a bungalow court at 4110 Kansas Street (he knows because he once lived in one) that may be of interest to the Tiny House group.

## **7. PLANNING FOR PAULY'S ADDITION WALKING TOUR**

Sharon, Hilda, Paul, Michael, George, Steve, and Katherine are interested in working to develop a walking tour of part of Pauly's Addition. The sub-committee will meet in January to

begin planning. There is a fascinating range of architecture in this area, from pre-1910 to early 1950s and everything in between.

## 8. UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The events NPHS is participating in this year include the following:

- Toyland Parade: Sunday, December 8, 2019, 11 am.

The North Park Historical Society group will be in Division 1, and will mobilize on Utah Street just north of University Avenue starting around 9:00 am on Sunday, December 8. Sharon, Judy, Claudia, Turner, Steve, and Katherine will join Victor, the Dancing Water Tower, to march with our banner. Paul will help with Water Tower transport.

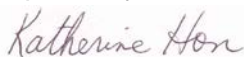
The parade route is shorter this year — along University Avenue from Utah to Herman — guaranteeing good crowds throughout the route. See the map on the next page of these meeting notes. **We welcome all of our members and friends to march with us!** Look for the North Park Historical Society banner, the Water Tower, and a group dressed in clothing from a variety of decades in the staging area on Utah Street between University and Lincoln avenues and line up with us before 10:30 am.

Discussion regarding future events in 2020 is summarized below.

- Festival of the Arts: Saturday, May 9, 2020. This event requires a lot of hauling and set up, including canopy, tables, chairs, posters, easels, products, etc. The group decided to skip exhibiting at the Festival of the Arts in 2020, as several key Board members will not be available to help on that day.
- Presentations for the Community: We have typically arranged for an outside speaker to make a free presentation in May. Steve noted several speakers who presented at the October City Archives Month could be quite interesting, including Steve Willard with the San Diego Police Historical Association, who has written several Arcadia books; and Jerry Handfield, who is organizing the City's archives and gave an eye-opening lecture about the importance of public records. Also, Richard Carrico, an expert on the Kumeyaay-Ipai tribes, is an excellent speaker. Bob noted that since we are not doing a car show, we could arrange more than one community presentation, and the group agreed. Steve will work on contacting these individuals after the holidays.

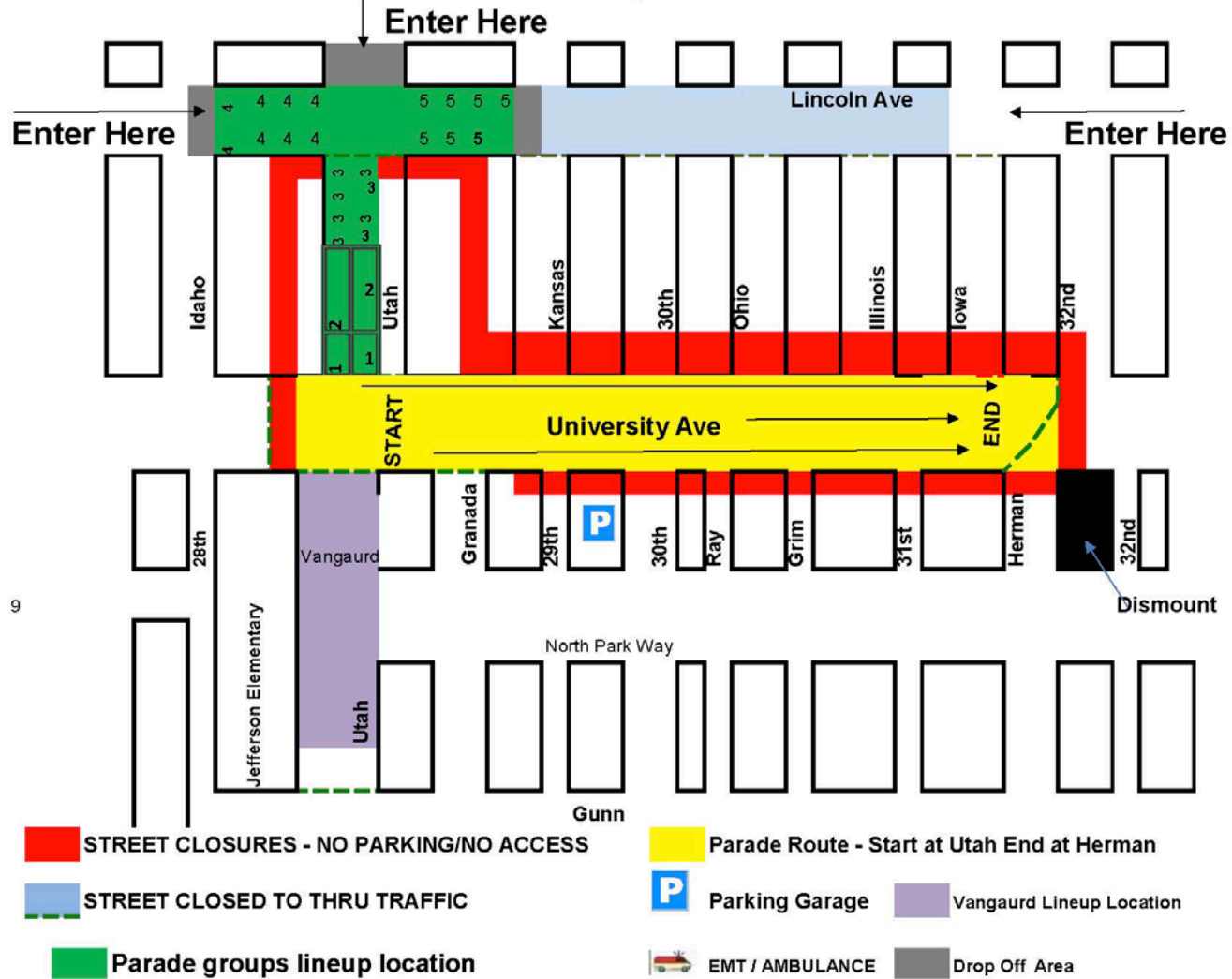
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Prepared by



Katherine Hon  
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

# 2019 North Park Toyland Parade





# Look what's in the city's basement!

## PastMatters KATHERINE HON

During October, the city of San Diego's Office of the City Clerk celebrated their third annual Archives Month with the theme of "Hidden Treasures." Indeed, the basement of the City Administration Building at 202

C St. holds a treasure trove of city records from as early as 1817.

The City Clerk's website notes that the Archives Program was begun in 1987 "to serve as a central source of information and materials regarding the history and development of the City of San Diego."

The functions of the city's Archives Center include

identifying, preserving and storing records that capture the city's history. City staff and volunteers have been diligently digitizing the vast collection for years, amassing the results on the City Clerk's Digital Archives website at [sandiego.gov/digitalarchives](http://sandiego.gov/digitalarchives). You can view land record documents related to taxes, purchases, sales, and assessments; City Directories from 1926 through 1954; and historical official documents such as minutes, ordinances, and resolutions from 1817 to 1966 online from the comfort of your own home computer.

Not everything has been digitized, however. A volunteer examining materials in the City Clerk archives recently contacted the North Park Historical Society to share some photographs and old plans related to North Park. Three images are highlighted in this article.

A 1912 preliminary plan to widen University Avenue east of Park Boulevard includes a sketch instantly recognizable as the venerable concrete arch Georgia Street Bridge. A cut under Georgia Street had been excavated in 1907

to accommodate a single track of the #7 streetcar line out to Fairmont Avenue. A redwood bridge had been built above University Avenue along Georgia Street to keep early residents connected to the south.

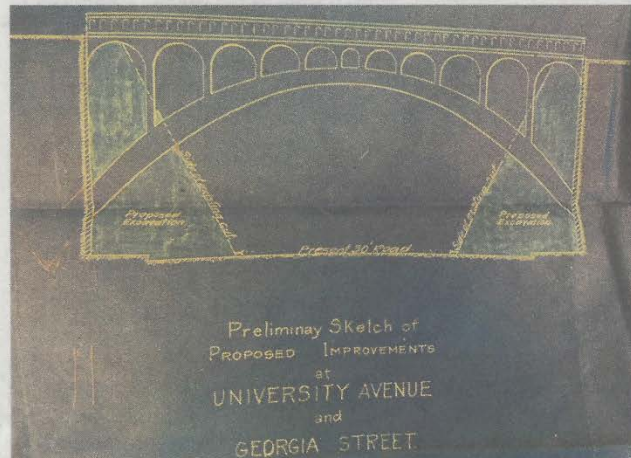
Within just a few years, growth created the need to double track the streetcar line. A letter dated Nov. 20, 1912 from W.M. Rumsey, city engineer, to the city's Common Council transmitted the preliminary plan for widening and paving the existing 30-foot-wide roadway to 52 feet. The plan included the pictured "Preliminary Sketch." Rumsey's letter proposed "a reinforced concrete arch bridge in place of the present wooden bridge which will have to be torn down, if the cut is widened. This widening will require a vertical retaining wall on either side..." The estimated project cost was \$25,000 — about \$660,000 in today's dollars.

The North Park Theatre on



The year of this photo of the North Park Theatre on University Avenue is 1945, based on the movies showing and the exhortation to "Finish the Job — Buy Victory Bonds."

University Avenue has been a popular subject for photographers since its construction in 1929. The timeframe of undated photographs can usually be estimated from the movies being advertised on the marquee. The year of this photograph of the North Park Theatre is 1945, based on the movies showing: "Captain Eddie" with Fred MacMurray and "Lady on a Train" with Deanna Durbin. Also, the marquee exhortation to "Finish the Job — Buy Victory Bonds," refers to World War II.



University Avenue east of Park Boulevard was proposed to be widened in 1912. The concrete arch bridge and vertical walls in this sketch were completed in 1914 and were recently rebuilt to meet current seismic safety standards while keeping their original appearance. (Photos courtesy of City Clerk Archives)

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A photo from the mid-1940s labeled "Looking east on University Avenue opposite Ray Street," shows a rarely seen view of the original J.C. Penney store constructed in 1942. This building was replaced in 1954 with an expanded J.C. Penney department store, which is the building that now houses Target Express. The top of the tower of the original Fire Station #14 on University Avenue can be seen above the roof of the J.C. Penney building. The fire station was damaged during construction of the original department store in the winter of 1941-42. A new fire station was built at its current location of Lincoln Avenue and 32nd Street in 1943, although the tower remained until the department store's expansion in 1954.

A streetcar is in the middle of the street. Electric streetcars ran on University Avenue from 1907 to 1949. On the left is the building at 3050 University Ave. currently housing Fatboys Cornerstore and Deli, and Seven Grand Whiskey Bar. This much-altered building was originally constructed in 1926 in a Spanish Colonial Revival style for offices of the Dixie Lumber Company and other professionals such as doctors and dentists.

Any fan of history will agree with the city clerk that, "By preserving the past, the Archives will enhance the present and enrich the future history of San Diego." To make an appointment to conduct research in the Archives Center or obtain additional information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at 619-236-6143.

— Katherine Hon is the secretary of the North Park Historical Society. Reach her at [info@northparkhistory.org](mailto:info@northparkhistory.org) or 619-294-8990.❖

