

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
FEBRUARY 2022 MEETING SUMMARY**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2022**

**TIME: XX PM**

These notes summarize information that was planned to be presented at the February 17, 2022 Business Meeting of the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) Board of Directors, and the activities discussion for the organization. These notes include updates as of February 26, 2022. The public meeting was canceled in advance due to concerns about the coronavirus.

All future public meetings scheduled for the third **THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:30 p.m.** in a second-floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL NOT OCCUR in 2022** until the public health crisis due to COVID-19 has passed. Although we will not resume our public meetings until then, we are still providing information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history and documenting those communications in monthly summaries.

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

We hope all our members and friends are staying safe and healthy.

**2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletters will continue to be collected for future viewing.

**3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE**

The meeting summary from the canceled January 20, 2022 meeting has been posted on the website.

**BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING**

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The financials for this meeting are for January 19 to February 16, 2022 and were sent to Board members on February 16, 2022. In this time period, there was no new income. Expenses in this time period totaled \$25.00, consisting of our annual fee for renewal of our registration as a California non-profit with the state Registry of Charitable Trusts.

**ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING**

**5. UPDATE ON PLAQUE FOR WATER TOWER**

Coordination with City Public Utilities Department staff regarding the feasibility of placing the plaque in a boulder or some kind of low wall next to the two-story building at the Water Tower site is pending return to some kind of normalcy.

**6. PLANNING FOR PAULY'S ADDITION WALKING TOUR**

The team has developed the route, photo notebook and draft guide notes for the southern part of Pauly's Addition. The current tour starts at Upas and Texas, heads west on Upas, north on Mississippi to Landis, east on Landis to Texas, and south on Texas back to the park. This route is approximately one mile and includes six designated houses and a wide range of ages and architectural styles.

## 7. SLIDE AND PHOTO SCANNING PROJECT

We are in the process of scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family. In addition to scanning notebooks and individual slides, in November 2021, NPHS had about 350 slides in six slide carousels scanned in bulk by George's Camera. We are now organizing the photos as digital files so we can put photos on our website and use them in future walking tours and presentations. Here is a photo of a streetcar on the Number 11 line from one of the carousels.



## 8. SIGNS FOR DRYDEN DISTRICT

There are no street signs marking the North Park Dryden Historic District as there are for other districts like Burlingame. NPHS is exploring the possibility of the City putting up demarcation signs for the Dryden District. NPHS President Steve Hon contacted Councilmember Stephen Whitburn directly as we had not heard back from Council District 3 staff for months. Councilmember Whitburn's Director of Community Engagement then responded, apologizing for the delay. He said he contacted the city department that is responsible for signs, much like the ones in Mission Hills, which he said is a different department from the Historical Resources Board. He promised to continue to follow up and keep NPHS updated "so we can get this done."



## 9. COMMUNITY COORDINATION

In February 2022, we responded to requests for information (and received interesting information) as summarized below.

1. Sharon reported that on Nextdoor someone posted, "I am trying to learn the history of San Diego, can anyone please tell me the 1st original street to be made in SD? I tried Google and it failed me." There were a lot of suggestions and Ellin posted this – "For North Park history, you can buy a lovingly made spiral back book called North Park, A San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946. By Donald Covington. Bought mine at the big white book store on the corner of 30th St and North Park Way." Thank you, Ellin, for the free advertising for the North Park history book and the Verbatim bookstore! The book was indeed a labor of love. Note that the Verbatim Books building is now painted mint green along the 30<sup>th</sup> Street frontage and has an amazing mural all along the side facing North Park Way.

- NPBS member Bill sent us a link to an article he saw online about Craftsman bungalows in Chicago. The article by Zach Mortice published in the Bloomberg City Lab is part of Bloomberg CityLab's ongoing series exploring the iconic home designs that shaped global cities. In contrast to North Park, Chicago's bungalows are brick! This is a logical response to the 1871 Chicago Fire, which tore through timber-frame neighborhoods. Read the article here:

[The Bungalow Home Design That Unifies Chicago - Bloomberg](#)

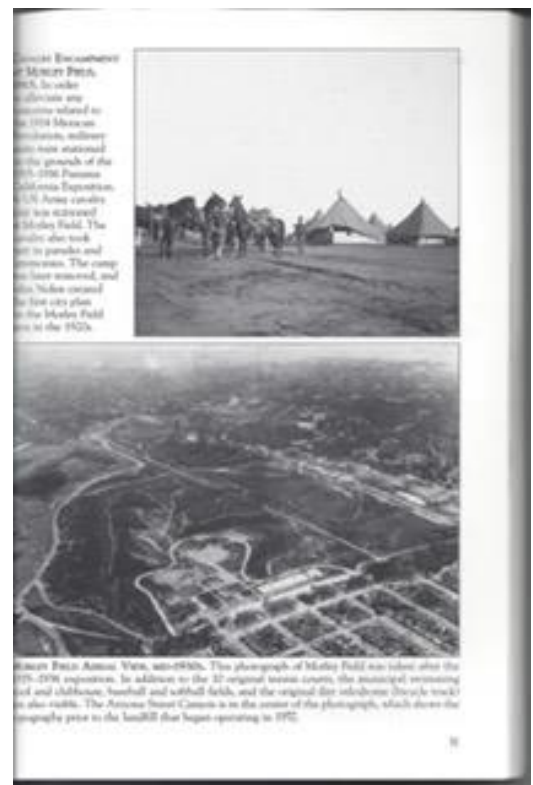


*About a third of Chicago's single-family housing stock consists of bungalows like these, built by the tens of thousands in the early 20th century. Photographer: Justin Olechiw/Chicago Bungalow Association*

- Marilyn asked: I grew up in North Park and I could swear there was a road that crossed the Florida canyon and came up directly onto the main road through Balboa Park, prior to the fountains etc. I think the road was covered over during the Arizona Canyon landfill years. Do you have any pictures of that road and what was it called?

We replied: Is the road you are thinking of in the bottom photo of the attached scan of page 31 of our Arcadia book, "Images of America: San Diego's North Park"? Pershing Drive is on the left, Florida Drive cuts diagonally across the middle. Zoo Place road is the remnant left of the road you may be describing, which can be seen in the upper middle of the photo connecting Pershing Drive with Park Boulevard. Let me know if that is right. It is a very interesting question!

She replied, I think that could be it. I was actually looking at that picture in my copy of the book but needed some "bearings." My older sister remembers it being steep down to Florida and I thought it came up right onto the main road in Balboa Park. We used that road to get to our dentist near Mr. A's in the late 50s and 60s.



4. Last month, we reported that a neighbor bought a dilapidated and unoccupied Craftsman house on Granada Avenue and Landis Street and is in the process of restoring it. Great progress is being made!



*House at the start of restoration.*



*As of February 24, 2022: the house has been painted, windows are installed, and roofing is in process.*

## **10. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

NPHS participation in future events will have to wait until a return to some kind of normalcy.

## **11. FUTURE MEETINGS**

All future public meetings scheduled for the third **THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:30 p.m.** in a second-floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL NOT OCCUR in 2022** until the public health crisis due to COVID-19 has passed. Although we will not resume our public meetings until then, we are still providing information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history.

Prepared by

*Katherine Hon*

Katherine Hon  
Secretary, North Park Historical Society