

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

DATE: AUGUST 18, 2022

TIME: 6:00 PM

These notes summarize information that was presented at the August 18, 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 August 24, 2022. The public meeting was canceled in advance due to concerns about the coronavirus. However, NPHS Board members Sharon, Jody, George, Bob, Claudia, Michael, Steve and Katherine did gather outdoors on the Grace Lutheran Church patio to discuss the information presented in this summary.

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 July 21, 2022 Board gathering has been posted on the website at [NPHS Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes | North Park Historical Society \(northparkhistory.org\)](https://northparkhistory.org).

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials for this meeting are for July 17 to August 16, 2022 and were sent to Board members on August 16, 2022. In this time period, one member renewed for two years (thank you, Christine!), and Verbatim Books bought five spiral-bound North Park history books wholesale. Total income in this time period was \$106.55. Expenses in this time period consisted of paying for five years of website hosting of our northparkhistory.org website on GoDaddy for \$719.40.

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. George led another practice walk with Jody showing photos and Katherine and Steve helping on August 17 at 6 pm with a few invited guests. Thank you, Christine, Ryann, Livi, Ed O., Jeff, Ed C., and Claudia for attending and providing follow-up comments. George, Katherine and Claudia are revising guide notes and the photo notebook. We will plan another test tour when revisions are complete.

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.



Tour attendees and assistants listen while George introduces the tour at the starting point in Morley Field.

7. DRYDEN DISTRICT LECTURE AND TOUR FOR OSHER

On October 20, George will present a PowerPoint lecture on North Park history for Osher, the senior adult education group associated with UCSD, and on October 29, he will conduct a walking tour of the Dryden District. There may be about 30 people for the walking tour, so an extra guide to allow for smaller groups would be good. Claudia would be available to guide if needed. Sharon and Jody can assist, and we will confirm some additional helpers for the October 29 tour before the next meeting.

8. MORLEY FIELD TOURS FOR REDISCOVERING SAN DIEGO CLASS

Tara with the Continuing Education program in the San Diego Community College District contacted us with a request for a tour for their "Rediscovering San Diego" class early next year. All their students are seniors. The tour dates would be January 10 and January 12, with about 25 to 30 attendees each day. We decided to offer the tour of Morley Field Recreational Area, which has many interesting historical features, including the swimming pool built during the Depression in 1933, tennis courts, and bicycle racing track ("velodrome"). We will be lining up our guides and helpers for these tours soon.

9. SLIDE AND PHOTO SCANNING PROJECT

We are in the process of scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family. This month we have been focusing on scanning various documents, including a copy of the booklet compiled in the early 2000s for the “North Park Magical History Tour” of the commercial area along University Avenue and 30th Street. Do you recognize the buildings on this page and what businesses are in them now? (Trick question- the Woolworth building is still vacant.)



(4) National Dollars Store/1946

3038 University Avenue

Modern streamline architectural style. Note relief between windows.

(5) Nordberg Building/1926

3049 University Avenue

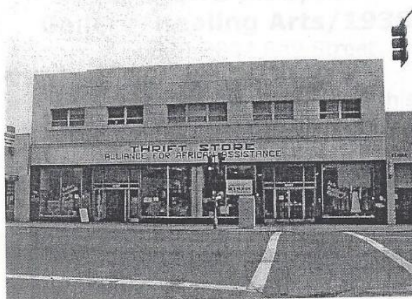
Italianate detailing, massively structured. Held first, original North Park library.



(6) Woolworth Building/1946

3067 University Avenue

Streamline architectural style, terrazzo, awning windows.



10. 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. Council District 3 staff promised to continue to follow up and keep NPHS updated but they have not done so, and we are disappointed such a simple request is being ignored.



11. COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND ACTIVITIES

In August 2022, we responded to requests for information (and received interesting information) and participated in community activities as summarized below.

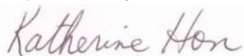
1. Sarah asked: "I'm looking for a local contact who could restore some original wood windows. Do you know anyone in the San Diego area?" We responded, "Congratulations on recognizing the value of original wood windows! We suggest you consult the resource directory on the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) website, found at: <http://www.sohosandiego.org/resources/resourcedirectory.htm> " She replied, "Thank you! Just the page I was looking for!"
2. Karl wondered if raising the height of the wall on the stairwell and landing of his 1924 Mission Revival house could affect potential historical designation. And if it did, if there was a better option that would help provide the safety and current code, but still allow historical designation - wrought iron railing, for instance. Paul reviewed the photos of the house, and advised that raising the height of the prominent front landing and stairway walls could prevent the house from being designated as a historic resource. He noted that the height of the current walls not meeting current code is irrelevant in terms of building code requirements. When a historical resource is renovated, the building code requirements for the renovation are the "historic building code" not the current building code (with the exception of seismic). If railing were added to raise the height of the existing walls, he felt this could also invalidate designation.

We mentioned to Karl that the City Historical Resources Board pays close attention to house features that can be seen from the street/public right-of-way when they consider designation. Original windows, façade materials, porch openings, porch stair materials, and other architectural features that define the house style and historic character are very important. We suggested that a professional company that prepares historic designation nomination reports could help answer specific questions. They have the direct experience of assessing what kinds of features would be likely to be original, what may have come later, and what matters when the City decides yes or no for historic designation as an individually significant historic resource. We provided the link to the website for Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO), which has a "resource directory" with companies that do many different kinds of work for folks with historic homes, including "architectural research historians/HABS Documentation." Karl appreciated the advice.

12. FUTURE MEETINGS

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Prepared by



Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society