

NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY JANUARY 2023 MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: JANUARY 19, 2023

TIME: 6:00 PM

These notes summarize information that was presented at the January 19, 2023 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 January 28, 2023. The public meeting was canceled in advance due to concerns about the coronavirus. Board members Steve, Katherine, Paul, Michael, Jody, Randy, George, Claudia, and George's guest, Kim, attended. Sharon, Bob and Judy were absent.

All future public meetings scheduled for the third **THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m.** in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL NOT OCCUR in 2023** until the public health crisis due to COVID-19 has passed. Although we will not resume our public meetings until then, the Board will gather, and we are still providing information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history and documenting those communications in monthly summaries.

The Board unanimously agreed to skip the February 2023 meeting due to schedule conflicts for the President and Secretary. **Our next Board meeting will be March 16.**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The latest Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletter was shown. They will continue to be collected for viewing.

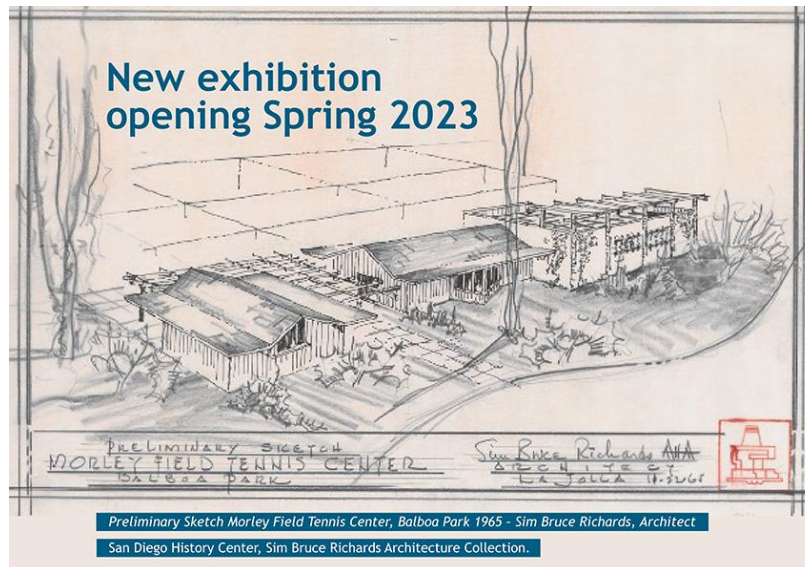
Katherine announced that Board Member Sharon has moved, but will continue to be a Board Member and help with projects, although she probably won't attend many of our evening meetings. Katherine also announced that Board Member Judy has resigned to focus on other interests and obligations. She will continue to be a regular member of NPHS, and will continue to help Paul with our house historical designation evaluations. We now have 10 Board Members, but as our quorum is 5, we do not have to add any Board Members at this time.

Steve announced that the Congress of History will hold their long-delayed annual conference on February 24 and 25, 2023. The theme is "Come One, Come All! Community Events that Bind Us Together." The location will be the Portuguese Hall in Point Loma. This will be their first in-person conference since 2019 due to the pandemic.

Paul shared two designations that will be considered at the January 26 Historical Resources Board meeting. Staff are recommending the Board designate the Edward and Emma Newman Building located at 2906-2912 University Avenue on the northeast corner with Kansas Street (where Claire de Lune used to be once upon a time). Also, staff are recommending the Board designate the Michael and Helen Donnelly House located at 4190 Utah Street. In June 2021, NPHS advised the owners that their house had the potential to be designated.



Steve shared that this spring, the San Diego History Center will be opening a new exhibit chronicling the career, architecture, art and design of Sim Bruce Richards, Architect, whose designs include the Morley Field Tennis Center operated by the Balboa Tennis Club (see architectural drawing below).



3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The meeting summary from the November 17, 2022 meeting has been posted on the website. NPHS does not meet in December, and no meeting summary was prepared.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The financials for the entire year of 2022 were included in the Annual Report sent to Board Members on January 3, 2023.

The financials for this meeting are for January 1 to January 17, 2023 and were sent to Board members on January 17, 2023. In this time period, one member renewed and gave an additional donation (thank you, Robert!) for total income of \$100.00. Expenses in this time period totaled \$114.40, consisting of reimbursement to Steve Hon for purchase of two PA systems with clip microphones, authorized by Board approval at the November 17, 2022 meeting, for use at our walking tours and other events.

The following state and federal organizational reports for the 2022 fiscal year were filed on the dates indicated below:

- 199N State income tax report was filed online on January 4, 2023.
- State sales tax of \$0 was reported online on January 4, 2023.
- 990N federal income tax report will be filed online as soon as the irs.gov website allows.
- California Registry of Charitable Trusts Registration Renewal form RRF-1 will be filed online after the federal 990N form is filed.
- Statement of Information with the Secretary of State was filed online on March 4, 2022. The next Statement of Information will be due by May 31, 2024.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022

The following summary of accomplishments was provided to the Board of Directors in the 2022 Annual Report on January 3, 2023:

The accomplishments of NPHS in 2022 grouped by the seven objectives stated in our Bylaws under the primary purpose are summarized below. Activities and product sales were profoundly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and public health mandated limitations on gatherings that began in early 2020 and continued through 2022.

Objective 1. To market and distribute printed and digital publications consistent with our purpose (e.g., *North Park: A San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946*, our book on the history of North Park's first 50 years).

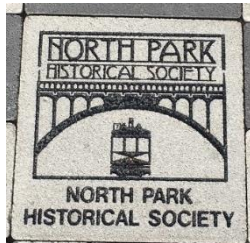
- Local stores continue to sell the book we prepared in 2014, *Images of America: San Diego's North Park* published by Arcadia Publishing Company. During 2022, we believe it continued to be available for retail sale at various locations including CVS and The Book Catapult in South Park. We did not sell any Arcadia books to individuals in 2022. We received a total of \$180.49 in royalty payments from Arcadia for sales by others in 2022.
- We continue to sell our "original" history book: *North Park: A San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946* by Donald Covington, which is published and distributed by NPHS. We sold 35 spiral-bound books wholesale to Verbatim Books for their retail in 2022.
- Our past agreement with Amazon was terminated in 2019. Paras Newsstand closed permanently at the end of 2019. The San Diego History Center closed their gift shop in 2020.
- A total of 0 perfect-bound and 35 spiral-bound North Park history books left our inventory in 2022. Since publishing the book in 2007, we have sold a total of approximately 2,850 copies. We have 85 spiral-bound copies and 16 perfect-bound copies remaining at the end of 2022.
- We sold 10 copies of the book, *Burlingame, the Tract of Character* by Donald Covington wholesale to The Book Catapult in 2022. We have 81 copies remaining.
- In 2017 we had 100 canvas tote bags with our logo printed at [AKA] Apparel-Supplies-Printing. We did not sell any bags to individuals in 2022. We have 23 bags remaining.



Objective 2. To coordinate with other organizations on public historical education and preservation efforts, including designation of historical districts and/or structures.

- NPHS Board Member Paul Spears and a small group of other Board members continued a free advice service helping to inform people on the potential for their house to be designated as a significant historic resource. NPHS received and responded to a total of 7 requests in 2022.
- NPHS provided historical information about 12 houses and one road to people emailing questions.
- Paul provided input on whether a full historical report should be required for 188 building permit applications to the City of San Diego for changes to buildings more than 45 years old.

- NPHS bought a paver to benefit the Mini-Park under construction behind the North Park Theater. The Mini-Park opened to the public with a well-attended ceremony on January 16, 2022. We were pleased with our paver, which incorporated our logo.



- We did not request grant funds from San Diego County in 2020, 2021, or 2022 due to the pandemic limiting our activities and ability to meet.
- NPHS remains committed to installing the bronze plaque that NPHS paid to create in 2015 recognizing the Water Tower as a Local Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, but communication with the City has been hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Objective 3. To develop and conduct walking tours relating educational information about the history of various areas in North Park.

- NPHS continued to develop a tour of Pauly's Addition. On August 17, George led a practice tour with six invited guests on a route for the southern third of the neighborhood focusing on Mississippi and Texas streets from Upas to Landis streets.
- On October 20, George presented a PowerPoint lecture on North Park history for Osher, the senior adult education group associated with UCSD, on campus to about 10 people in the room and 20+ people on Zoom. On October 29, George led a walking tour of the Dryden District for a group of about 15 attendees, and Claudia led another group of 15. Jody assisted George, and Sharon assisted Claudia. Paul provided photos of several interiors. One attendee followed up with us, requesting an evaluation of her bungalow for designation potential.

Objective 4. To research and write objective articles about the history of North Park’s people, landmarks, architecture, homes, commercial buildings, tracts, and other topics for publications.

- More than 700 people like and follow our North Park History Facebook page. We posted six items throughout the year, including a post with photos of the 1994 Bungalow Tour along 28th Street, which ten people liked and three people shared.



Objective 5. To make and sponsor presentations of information useful to helping the public understand the origin and significance of historical resources in the community, including buildings, landmarks, and other structures.

- NPHS Secretary Katherine Hon gave a brief presentation of North Park history highlights at a community mixer event organized by North Park Main Street and sponsored by US Bank on Saturday, July 9 at Subterranean Coffee Boutique, 3764 30th Street. Her highlights included why our crazy streets don’t line up, when the Water Tower was built and how many barrels of beer it could have held instead of 1.2 million gallons of water (40,000 barrels), and how the North Park Theatre invigorated “downtown” North Park in 1929 and 2005. Visuals consisted of several large format photos. There were about 15 attendees, and many came up afterwards to ask specific questions and look at our books and the pictures.



NPHS Secretary Katherine Hon (left) and NPHS President Steve Hon (right) posed with North Park Main Street and US Bank representatives after the presentation. The photo of the North Park Theatre is from the 1950s.

- The NPHS Board met in-person in June, July, August and September 2022 on the Grace Lutheran Church patio and met in a church meeting room in November 2022. The Secretary emailed a “meeting summary” to all NPHS members each month containing information we shared or would have shared from January to November 2022.

Objective 6. To organize, convert to digital format (when possible) and provide the following materials for research and other purposes: documents, slides, data, notes, photos, and various ephemera and records related to history donated to the North Park Historical Society, and to establish a North Park collection for eventual donation to the San Diego Historical Society for preservation.

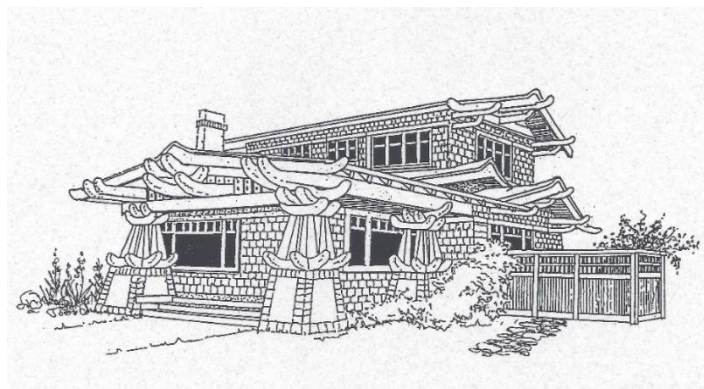
- NPHS provided several photos to an interior designer working on a commercial project, including the classic 1953 picture of what was recently the Western Dental building at the corner of University Avenue and 30th Street.



- NPHS is scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family. We shared 13 pictures in the monthly meeting summaries distributed to NPHS members through the year. We found a rare photo of Donald Covington with some papers about the 1994 Craftsman/Bungalow Tour along 28th Street, in what is now the North Park Dryden Historic District. Don compiled a tour booklet with details about 13 houses. The booklet included his artistic sketches for five of the houses. Don passed away in 2002, while in the process of compiling the definitive history of North Park's first 50 years in the book, "North Park, A San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946." The book was edited and produced in 2007 by members of NPHS and continues to be available at Verbatim Books on 30th Street at North Park Way.



Donald Covington



Donald Covington's artistic sketch of 3553 28th Street

Objective 7. To conduct outreach to schools regarding North Park history consistent with our purpose.

- NPHS did not conduct any formal projects with schools in 2022.

END OF SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. WALKING TOURS

Morley Field Walking Tour On January 12, Steve led a walking tour of the Morley Field Recreational Area for about 25 members of the Continuing Education program in the San Diego Community College District's "Rediscovering San Diego" class. The class tour scheduled for January 10 had to be canceled due to rainy conditions. That tour will be held on May 30, the Tuesday after Memorial Day. The January 12 group was engaged and energetic. The class leader thought it was a wonderful walk and we were all grateful for the beautiful weather that morning. We also had a chance meeting with some firefighters with Station 14, who might be interested in a presentation about North Park history, especially our crazy streets.



The group admired the expansive view out to the Coronado Bridge and beyond from the Velodrome.



Tour guide Steve Hon discussed the history of the pool and tennis courts.

Pauly's Addition Walking Tour The team has developed the route, photo notebook and 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. We have conducted several test tours and plan another "practice" tour with invitees from the neighborhood for the end of March.

6. SLIDE AND PHOTO SCANNING PROJECT

We are in the process of scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family. This ad is for McFadden & Buxton, who developed the subdivision of Burlingame, among other tracts.



7. 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, but we have not heard back yet from Council District 3 staff or any other city staff we have contacted. On January 17, 2023, Katherine contacted Shannon Anthony with the Historical Resources Board, and Shannon promised to investigate. Steve noted that Councilmember Steve Whitburn representing District 3 has new staff, including a new community rep, and we may contact him if Shannon can't help us.



8. COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND ACTIVITIES

In January 2023, we responded to requests for information (and received interesting information) and participated in community activities as summarized below.

1. The San Diego County Archives has reactivated and has confirmed they will provide a speaker for a public meeting on May 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church. The speaker will talk about the value of local government records, the role of the Recorder in preserving official records and making them accessible to the public, and an overview of historic records at the County Archives. **Mark your calendars, because everyone is invited to attend!**
2. Via email, Joan asked about the construction year of her house, and inquired about an interesting door: "Do you know what this door was used for? It is in the living room and connects to the hallway between 2 bedrooms. It looks like our house was built in 1925, when we bought it they said 1922. We want to make sure we celebrate its 100th year because we love it so much." Randy told us that his brother's former Spanish style house had such a door between living/dining rooms, and it still had the wiring inside for a candlestick telephone, so as to be accessible from either room.
3. Brian invited Paul, Judy and Katherine to meet at his house on Dale Street, which he has just completed restoring to its historical condition from many unfortunate revisions by other owners over the years. The house is quite unusual, being made of terracotta block.



These photos show how Brian "forensically" removed the historically inaccurate white brick and false gable (left), among other changes, to restore his house to its original design (right).

4. The City of San Diego Archives have re-opened for researchers to make appointments to review materials in person. The Archives for the city are in the basement of City Hall at Second Avenue and C Street. Katherine visited the Archives on January 24 to review a box full of documents related to street name changes from 1900 to the 1950s, which was all very interesting. The general contact phone number is 619-236-6143, and a specific contact is Anne Miggins (619) 236-7312, Amiggins@sandiego.gov
5. NPHS received an email from Samantha Ely, the City of San Diego Archives Program Manager, to let us know "if you are having any public engagements, we can post your event on the City Clerk's Digital Archives and help get the word out in promoting the event. If you would like to review any past postings for other societies and/or events, please review at [Community Resources | Digital Archives | City of San Diego Official Website.](#)" Sam's contact info is SEly@sandiego.gov

9. OLD SPANISH TRAIL MEETING

Bob and George attended meetings of this organization that is developing events around the centennial of the Old Spanish Trail, a paved highway between Florida and San Diego. The highway connects six centers of historical interest: St. Augustine, New Orleans, San Antonio, El Paso, Tucson and San Diego. George said the group asked for a letter of support for their events being planned. George moved and Jody seconded that NPHS prepare a letter. The motion was approved unanimously by attending Board members. George will write the letter.

10. NEW CANOPY WITH LOGO

Steve continues to investigate a new canopy personalized with the NPHS logo and name. ReproMagic, the company that produced the reprint of our North Park history book, also does this kind of branded item, and we are investigating the process and cost with them.

11. 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.

12. FUTURE MEETINGS

All future public meetings scheduled for the third **THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m.** in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL NOT OCCUR in 2023** until the public health crisis due to COVID-19 has passed. Although we will not resume our public meetings until then, the Board will gather, and we are still providing information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history. **The Board will not gather in February.** Our next meeting will be on March 16.

Prepared by



Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society