

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MARCH 2023 MEETING NOTES**

DATE: MARCH 16, 2023

TIME: 6:00 PM

These notes summarize information that was presented at the March 16, 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 March 25, 2023. The following Board members attended: Jody, Paul, George, Bob, Claudia, Katherine and Steve.

We are hopeful that the public health crisis due to COVID-19 has passed. Therefore, our future meetings scheduled for the third **THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m.** in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL BE** open to the public, starting with our meeting in April. We will continue to provide information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history and document those communications in the monthly meeting notes. **Our next meeting will be April 20 at 6:00 pm.**

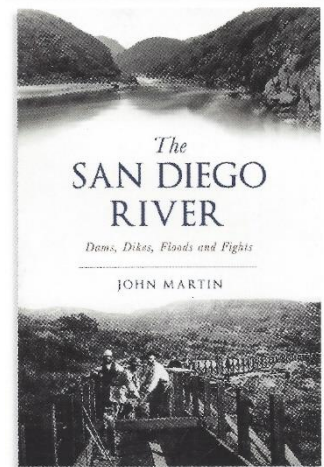
1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletter will continue to be collected for viewing. The March 2023 issue presented Part 1 of a History of Crown Point.

Steve announced the availability of a new Arcadia book about the history of the San Diego River. Find it on the Arcadia Publishing Company website at [The San Diego River: Dams, Dikes, Floods and Fights by John Martin | The History Press Books \(arcadiapublishing.com\)](https://www.arcadiapublishing.com)



3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The summary of information that would have been presented at February 16, 2023 meeting has been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials for this meeting are for February 21 to March 14, 2023 and were sent to Board members on March 14, 2023. In this time period, one new member joined and one member renewed; both gave an additional donation (thank you, Tram Lynn and Ed C.!). Also, Verbatim Books purchased 20 copies of the spiral bound North Park history book at wholesale for sale in their store. The total income was \$356.20. There were no expenses in this time period.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. WALKING TOURS

Morley Field Walking Tour On May 30, the Tuesday after Memorial Day, Steve will lead a walking tour of the Morley Field Recreational Area for members of the Continuing Education program in the San Diego Community College District's "Rediscovering San Diego" class, because the class tour scheduled for January 10 had to be canceled due to rainy conditions.

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 will conduct another "practice" tour with invitees from the neighborhood on April 15 at 10:30 am. Claudia will lead.

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 is a photograph of the street tile Don Covington designed explaining the history of the Stevens Hartley Building, now the new home of North Park Main Street.



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. Since 2021, NPHS has been contacting various City staff about putting up demarcation signs for the Dryden District. We hope Council District 3 staff will come through for us.

8. COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND ACTIVITIES

In March 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 confirmed they will provide a speaker for our public meeting on **May 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm** in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church. The San Diego County Archives team will talk about archival records in the County's new state-of-the-art Archives facility in Santee. The County Archives includes an estimated 65,000 recorded maps; 250 cubic feet of historic birth, death and marriage records; 600 cubic feet of official records; and around 40,000 rolls of microfilm. **Mark your calendars, because everyone is invited to this free in-person event!** If you are interested in attending, please email Katherine at khon@honconsultinginc.com or leave a phone message on her land line at 619-294-8990 so we will arrange for enough chairs and snacks!

2. North Park Main Street has a new Executive Director, Mark West, who was active in the North Park Community Association in the early 2000s. NPHS President Steve Hon and NPHS Secretary Katherine Hon met with Mark at the North Park Main Street new offices on the second floor of 2948 University Avenue (most recently the Western Dental Building). They discussed ways that North Park Main Street and NPHS can work together, including: Mark offered NPHS a table at an occasional Farmer’s Market to show our books and posters illustrating various aspects of North Park history. Mark is interested in attending our practice Pauly’s Addition tour on April 15. NPHS can staff a table to answer questions about history at an upcoming Business Forum, and could conduct a commercial walking tour for North Park Main Street members.

3. Paul announced that 3461 Olive Street, an impressive French Eclectic house that we evaluated in 2020 and concluded would be eligible for designation, has been determined to be an Individually Significant Historical Resource by the San Diego Historical Resources Board. Congratulations to the owners! Paul also announced that the former “Claire de Lune” building on the northeast corner of Kansas Street and University Avenue has been designated.



3461 Olive Street (Google Earth Streetview)



The “Claire de Lune” building at Kansas Street and University Avenue in 2017

9. FILM DONATION TO SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER

In November 2005, Karon Covington gave the History Committee — the predecessor group of the North Park Historical Society — a movie reel showing the construction of the North Park Theatre in 1928. In October 2006, the 16mm film was transferred to DVDs by a film company in Burbank courtesy of Jack Montgomery of the Lyric Opera, who had just taken on operation of the restored North Park Theatre. The film company thought that the 16mm film was produced in the 1960s from an original film made in 1928 (which has been lost to time). Based on History

Committee notes from the late 1990s, we learned that the 16mm film was rescued by a former employee of the theatre right before the theatre closed down. That historic hero is Robert Simonet, and we are very grateful to him for saving this unique documentation of how one of North Park's most important buildings was constructed 95 years ago.

Since 2005, the movie reel has been stored at Steve and Katherine Hon's house. On March 13, 2023 via email vote, the NPHS Board approved donating the reel and one copy of the DVD to the San Diego History Center, where it can be properly stored and preserved. To determine the interest of the San Diego History Center, NPHS President Steve Hon contacted them via their online message page, saying: "I am President of the North Park Historical Society. We obtained a copy of a film recording the building of the North Park Theatre in 1928. We had the film converted to a digital format but still have the original film. We actually have two film versions a 16 mm version and I believe 32mm version. We do not have the appropriate storage facility in terms of climate controls to store the film and would like to donate it to the SD History Center in order to preserve it and make it available to the public etc."

The San Diego History Center replied: "Hi Stephen Hon, Thank you for your interest in donating the film recording of the construction of the North Park Theatre. We will be more than happy to take both film versions that you have in your possession. Along with the physical films, would it be alright if you give us a copy of the digital format as well? Having both physical and digital versions will allow us to preserve the film and make it accessible for researchers and the public."

The materials were taken to the San Diego History Center on March 16, 2023. We now believe the "32mm" film is actually a public service announcement film, and not a duplicate of the theatre construction film.

10. NEW CANOPY WITH LOGO

In investigating a new canopy personalized with the NPHS logo and name, we obtained an estimate from ReproMagic, the company that produced the reprint of our North Park history book. However, the estimate was rather expensive, so we will continue to investigate other options.

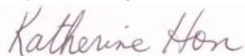
11. PLAQUE FOR WATER TOWER

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

After three years, we are re-starting public meetings, which will be scheduled for the third **THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m.** in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church. **Our next meeting will be on April 20.** Please email Katherine at khon@honconsultinginc.com if you want to attend, so we will be sure to have enough chairs.

Prepared by



Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society