

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

**DATE:           APRIL 20, 2023**

**TIME: 6:00 PM**

These notes summarize information that was presented at the April 20, 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 April 22, 2023. The following Board members attended: Jody, Paul, George, Bob, Claudia, Michael, Katherine and Steve. Also, member Allison attended.

We are hopeful that the public health crisis due to COVID-19 has passed. Therefore, our 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. Our next meeting will be **May 18 at 6:00 pm**, featuring a special presentation by San Diego County Archives staff. **You are all invited!** If you are interested in attending this free in-person event, please email Katherine at [khon@honconsultinginc.com](mailto:khon@honconsultinginc.com) or leave a phone message on her land line at 619-294-8990 so we will arrange for enough chairs **and cookies**.

**1.       WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

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

**2.       AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The April 2023 issue of the Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletter presented Part 2 of a History of Crown Point. The University Heights Historical Society is offering a new, free service via email to property owners in University Heights to assess the historic architectural integrity of their property if it is older than 45 years of age, similar to the service NPHS offers. Go to the University Heights Historical Society website at [New! Free Historic Architectural Assessment of Your Older Home or Property — University Heights Historical Society \(uhhs-uhcdc.org\)](http://New!FreeHistoricArchitecturalAssessmentofYourOlderHomeorProperty—UniversityHeightsHistoricalSociety(uhhs-uhcdc.org)) to request an evaluation.

Board member Michael T. offered the backyard of his house on Texas Street for the July 20 NPHS meeting. More details will be forthcoming as that meeting approaches.

**3.       MINUTES ACCEPTANCE**

The summary of information that was presented at the March 16, 2023 meeting has been posted on the website.

**BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING**

**4.       TREASURER’S REPORT**

The financials for this meeting are for March 15 to April 19, 2023 and were sent to Board members on April 19, 2023. In this time period, one member renewed (thank you, Bob!). The total income was \$20.00. 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. We conducted another "practice" tour with invitees from the neighborhood on April 15 at 10:30 am. Claudia was our guide. We had 8 attendees, which is about the maximum we think we should have on the walk, as people tend to get strung out along the sidewalks. All these invitees live in Pauly's Addition, and they were surprised at some of the architectural and historical details they learned about their own neighborhood. They enjoyed learning about some of the historical owners and builders of houses, which George had added to the guide notes, and they liked seeing photos of interiors that Paul obtained from online real estate websites when houses have gone for sale. We think we are ready to do the tour for real. We have tentatively set the date of July 22, a Saturday, for George and Claudia to lead small groups. The Board liked the idea of simply asking for donations instead of charging a set price for the tour. We will use our new personal amplifiers with clip microphones, as traffic noise is a bit of a problem, especially along Texas Street.

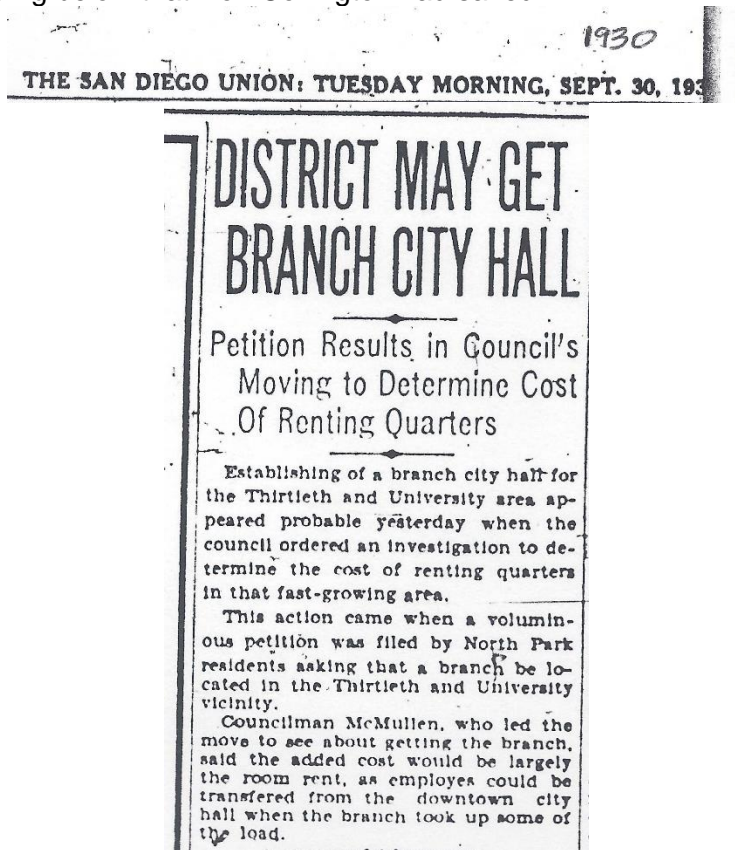


*Steve (center) introduces tour guide Claudia (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) at the start of the Pauly's Addition practice tour.*

Attendee Dan provided some excellent comments, including the idea of having another tour that focuses on a particular type of architecture, like Craftsman or Spanish Revival, and going into more depth about that style. He also suggested finding a few newspaper articles about some of the homes to add to the pictures, especially if there was someone famous (or there was an infamous event) in a house along the route.

## 6. SLIDE AND PHOTO SCANNING PROJECT

We are in the process of scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family. With La Jolla currently in the news about wanting to separate from the City of San Diego, did you know that North Park was almost the site of a branch city hall in 1930? See the news clipping below that Don Covington had saved.



## 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, NPBS 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 April 2023, we responded to requests for information (and received interesting information) and participated or arranged to participate in community activities as summarized below.

1. North Park Main Street's new Executive Director, Mark West, has offered NPBS a table at an occasional Farmer's Market to show our books and posters about North Park history. We proposed June 8, and the Farmer's Market coordinator has confirmed that date is fine.

Also, NPBS will staff a table to answer questions about history at the North Park Main Street Business Forum on May 11 starting at 2:00 at the Haven, located at 3381 30<sup>th</sup> Street.

- 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 first-floor 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. **Everyone is invited to this free in-person event!** If you are interested in attending, please email Katherine at [khon@honconsultinginc.com](mailto:khon@honconsultinginc.com) or leave a voice message on her land line at 619-294-8990 so we will arrange for enough chairs and cookies!



*Photos by Chipper Hatter, courtesy of San Diego County Archives*

- Dan wondered when the asbestos siding was installed on his otherwise intact Craftsman house on Louisiana Street. We found the house was built in 1914. David Argall, who came to the U.S. from Ireland in 1887, bought the house in 1923. He and his wife, Thomasina, had two daughters, Frances and Dorothy, who both became librarians in the public library system and continued to live in the house after their parents died. The sisters sold the house in 1952, when they moved to 3418 Park Boulevard. Their house sale advertisement below highlights a "New Mansville exterior." This is a reference to the asbestos shingles covering the original wood clapboard façade. The asbestos shingle material was made by the Johns Manville Company, which began manufacturing fire-resistant roofing in 1858 as the H.W. Johns Manufacturing Company. This material was very popular through the mid-1900s, but became highly problematic for the health of workers and others exposed to the asbestos fibers.

**CASH TALKS!! 3574 LOUISIANA!  
New Mansville exterior. 5 rooms &  
enclosed porch; fireplace; large  
closets. Tops! \$8750 cash out. J-2139**

*Frances and Dorothy Argall advertised their house on Louisiana Street for sale in the February 28, 1952 Evening Tribune. They are responsible for having the board exterior covered in asbestos shingles and enclosing the porch, which was later re-opened. (Newsbank.com)*

- The Old Spanish Trail Centennial Celebration Association will be focusing their Centennial Convention at the Alpine Community Center on November 2 through 5, 2023. They will not come as far west as the North Park part of old Highway 80 (El Cajon Boulevard). Information is available on their website at [Old Spanish Trail Centennial Homepage](#)



5. Evan asked for an evaluation of his house on Meade Avenue. Although changes through the years may make designation challenging, we found the house built in 1929 had an interesting first owner, Mrs. Josie Collins Wardle, who owned the house from 1929 until her death in 1950. She came to the U.S. from Ireland in 1888. She was in the restaurant business throughout the 1930s at 631 E Street, and worked in the Salvation Army's USO unit during World War 2. Josie and her sisters Margaret and Mary are buried in adjacent plots at Holy Cross Cemetery.

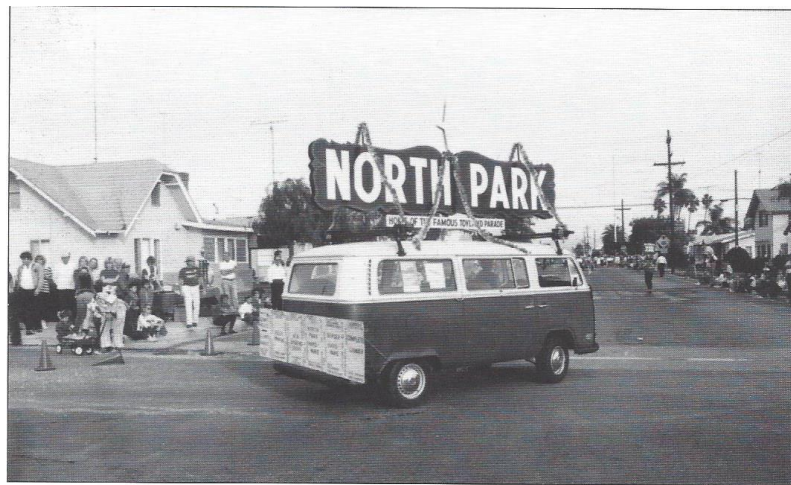


6. Verbatim Books is coordinating a 2023 North Park Book Fair on Saturday, June 24, which will be an outdoor street festival including the North Park Mini Park, which has a built-in stage for poetry and author events. Katherine has requested a table in a shared canopy where she can show NPHS books and her own history and children's books.

7. Anika from Verbatim Books emailed us, wondering if we could help with information about a sign they found that belonged to one of the directors of the North Park Toyland Parade, who said it hung near the entrance of the 805 across University Avenue around parade time.



Anika asked if we had any information or photos of it. We replied we thought that page 104 of our Arcadia book, "Images of America: San Diego's North Park" provides info about the sign she pictured.



REVIVING THE PARADE AND SIGN, 1985. Patrick Edwards of the local business association that would become North Park Main Street led efforts to revive the Toyland Parade in 1985 and restore the North Park sign. This wooden sign is on top of a Volkswagen van driven by Gary Gardner, who made the sign. Edwards has been active in North Park Main Street and other community groups for more than 30 years. (Courtesy of Patrick Edwards.)

## 9. NEW CANOPY WITH LOGO, AND BALLCAPS

In investigating a new canopy personalized with the NPHS logo and name, we learned that local graphics firm A7D could help us with this purchase. We are coordinating with Dave at A7D, and hope to have a branded canopy this summer.

Steve and Katherine had a conversation with AKA, the printing company who made our tote bags, about possibly making branded ballcaps for NPHS. The Board discussed if we should pursue having branded ballcaps made for sale or gifts. The Board approved coordinating with AKA for designs and cost estimates. The Board wondered if we can mix styles, although most preferred the “unstructured” style (bottom hat in the photo) to the “structured” style (top two hats). Some Board members liked the mesh back (middle hat) but some preferred all cloth. Katherine noted that AKA did not think our logo, with its fine lines, would work for an embroidered label (top two hats), although the “heat press” label (bottom hat) might be able to capture it. Instead of our logo, we could have the words “North Park Historical Society” embroidered in a stacked format, which might be two or three lines, depending on the letter size. Steve and Katherine will follow-up with AKA and report back to the Board.



## 10. 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.

## 11. FUTURE MEETINGS

After three years, we have re-started 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 May 18.** Please email Katherine at [khon@honconsultinginc.com](mailto:khon@honconsultinginc.com) or leave a voice message on her land line at 619-294-8990 if you want to attend, so we will be sure to have enough chairs **and cookies** for this special presentation by San Diego County Archives staff.

Prepared by

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Katherine Hon'.

Katherine Hon  
Secretary, North Park Historical Society