

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

DATE: JUNE 15, 2023

TIME: 6:00 PM

These notes summarize information that was presented at the June 15, 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 June 18, 2023. The following Board members attended: Jody, George, Paul, Bob, Katherine and Steve.

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 **July 20 at 6:00 pm.** If you are interested in attending this meeting, please email Katherine at khon@honconsultinginc.com or leave a phone message on her land line at 619-294-8990.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The May 2023 issue of the Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletter presented photos and information about the Gateway Motel, which used to be at Garnet Avenue and Pacific Highway. Steve provided an update on the Congress of History organization, which pre-Covid held a conference every year. He noted they successfully filled their board so will continue to operate.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The notes for the May 18, 2023 meeting have been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials for this meeting are for May 18 to June 13, 2023 and were sent to Board members on June 13, 2023. In this time period, the total income was \$0. Expenses in this time period consisted of \$1,022 for our liability insurance for the 2023/2024 period, and \$52.80 for a new Square reader so we can take credit cards for book sales, etc. Total expenses were \$1,074.80. Our NPHS bank accounts have been successfully transferred from Union Bank to US Bank, and Square has verified that sales will go to the NPHS checking account.

After the meeting, Jody and Katherine coordinated on the list of members. A number of people have not responded to reminders or paid dues in several years. Jody will notify them: "If you are no longer interested in being a member of NPHS, please let us know and we will remove you from our email distribution list." If that applies to you, please email Katherine at khon@honconsultinginc.com or leave a phone message on her land line at 619-294-8990.

The group discussed getting Venmo capability on our website for remote charges. Steve will ask our website consultant what this would entail and we will discuss again at the July meeting.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

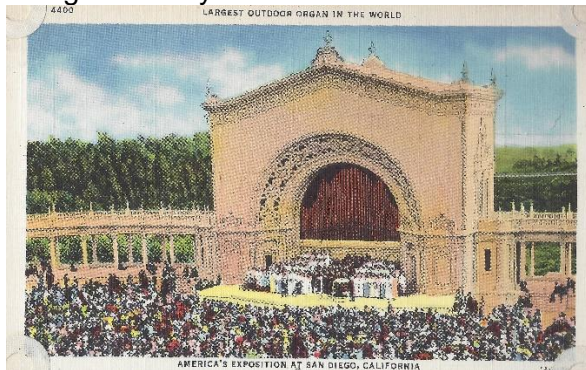
5. WALKING TOURS

Morley Field Walking Tour The May 30 walking tour of the Morley Field Recreational Area for the “Rediscovering San Diego” class was so successful, we have been invited to present a lecture about “North Park Now and Then” on October 10 and October 12 in a classroom.

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 have tentatively set July 22, a Saturday, for George and Claudia to lead small groups starting at 10:30 am. We will ask for donations instead of charging a set price for the tour. We will use our new personal amplifiers with clip microphones. We may advertise with flyers in the neighborhood and asking North Park Main Street if they can publicize.

6. SLIDE AND PHOTO SCANNING PROJECT

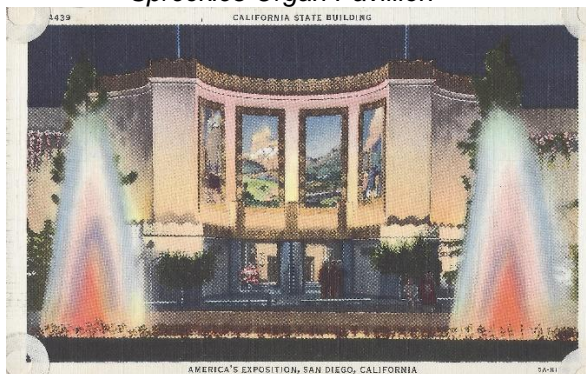
We are in the process of scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family. A treasure trove of 140 historic postcards of San Diego and the 1935-36 California Pacific International Exposition at Balboa Park have been scanned. These were (to an historian’s dismay) glued into a photo album with paper hole reinforcement rings at the corners. The postcards were published by the Western Publishing & Novelty Company of Los Angeles, and M. Kashower Co. of Los Angeles. Below are four buildings everyone will recognize today. We will show scans of more postcards in subsequent meeting notes.



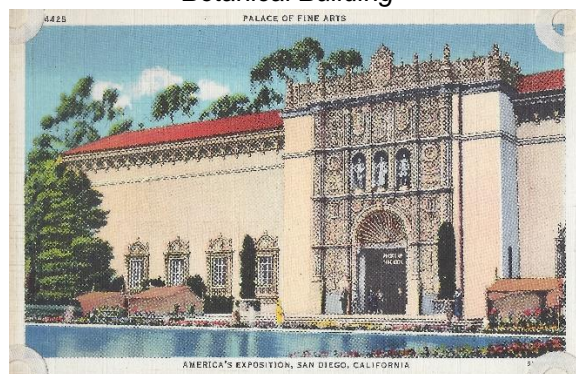
Spreckles Organ Pavillion



Botanical Building



Now the Automotive Museum



Fine Arts Gallery

7. SIGNS FOR DRYDEN DISTRICT

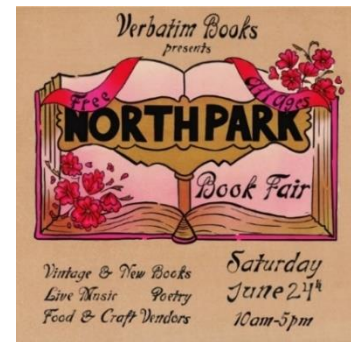
There are no street signs marking the North Park Dryden Historic District as there are for other districts like Burlingame. Since 2021, NPHS has been contacting various City staff about putting up demarcation signs for the Dryden District. We hope Council District 3 staff will come through for us.

8. COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND ACTIVITIES

In June 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 NPHS a table at an occasional Farmer's Market to show our books and posters about North Park history. We are planning to appear in August, when we hope to have our branded canopy and our ballcaps.
2. The Old Spanish Trail Centennial Celebration Association will be focusing their Centennial Convention at the Alpine Community Center on November 2 through 5, 2023. Information is available on their website at [Old Spanish Trail Centennial Homepage](#)

3. 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. Katherine will be at a table answering questions about North Park history and selling NPHS books as well as her own North Park history book "History Snippets: PastMatters Stories of North Park" and several children's books she has authored and produced.



4. NPHS member Tera asked for a letter of support for designation of her house on 30th Street, which was built by Master Builder Alexander Schreiber. Katherine drafted a letter which the Board approved. Tera told us it was perfect.



5. On May 8, Steve and Katherine met with Dan Valerino, who had emailed NPHS, saying, "I am a restaurateur that is opening a restaurant in North Park this coming fall. I have also lived in North Park for the last 5 years and have fallen in love with my community. I am emailing you because I am very curious on the resources you provide and how to tie in our coming restaurant to the history of our neighborhood. The restaurant will be located on the corner of Grim and North Park Way, in the new multi-story apartment building that is still in construction. We know this property exists on what used to be the Hartley farm/lemon grove. We have named the concept 'Finca', which translates from Spanish to 'farm' or 'estate'. It is also what the best vineyards in Spain are called, and since our concept is Southern California Tapas and Wine Bottle Shop, you can see how thoughtful we've been with the name. I have some ideas on how to continue to show reverence for the history of our community in our restaurant and am hopeful to set up a meeting to discuss these ideas with the North Park Historical Society. I will additionally be filling out the membership application and paying the fee to join the society, but will very much look forward to hearing back."

We discussed general North Park history with Dan and noted we can share digital images of photos in our books that we have the rights to, but not photos held by the San Diego History Center. We also offered to conduct a walking tour for him and his staff, make a presentation in the restaurant after they open, or strategize with him on other events in his space.

6. One of our members asked to borrow the original of the map shown in the May meeting notes, which raised an interesting question for NPHS, as we have always operated virtually: Do we want to operate like a library, “lending” out the historic items we have, or should we operate like an archive and just share digital images?

One Board member emailed, “I think I would just share digital images. That particular map is irreplaceable if lost or damaged, and I assume other documents in our archives are also unique. I had just that happen (puncture damage) with a 1920s North Park promotional booklet I have. Let's not set a precedent.” Another Board member emailed, “While I wish that we could lend out original materials, I think it is our responsibility to ensure the safety of the original documents. So, I support operating as an archive.

George moved and Bob seconded that we will operate as an archive only. All attending Board members approved.

George moved and Bob seconded that we pursue getting a full scan and print of the map made so NPHS has a back-up original and full-size digital image. All attending Board members approved. Katherine will work on this.

9. NEW CANOPY WITH LOGO, AND BALLCAPS

We are coordinating with David at A7D for a branded canopy. The graphic image for the logo has been prepared. We hope to have a branded canopy before August.

Steve and Katherine met with AKA, the printing company who made our tote bags, about making branded ballcaps for NPHS. AKA provided a cost estimate for 24 “unstructured” all cloth (hat on left), 12 in khaki with black lettering and 12 in navy with white lettering, plus 24 “structured” style with mesh back (hat on right) in black with white lettering. The total cost estimate for 48 hats was about \$840. Paul moved and George seconded that the order be placed. All attending Board members approved. Steve placed the order on June 16. AKA said it should take about 2 weeks for the hats to be produced.



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 July 20.** Please email Katherine at khon@honconsultinginc.com or leave a voice message on her land line at 619-294-8990 if you want to attend.

Prepared by



Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society