

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
APRIL 2024 MEETING SUMMARY**

DATE: APRIL 18, 2024

TIME: 6:00 PM

These notes summarize information that was presented at the April 18, 2024 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 25, 2024. Board Members Steve, Katherine, Jody, Allison, Claudia, Paul, Bob, and Michael attended. Members Turner and Kit also joined us. Welcome!

All future public meetings scheduled for the **third THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m. WILL BE** held in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church. In addition, we continue to provide information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history and document those communications in our monthly meeting notes. **Our next meeting will be May 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.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The meeting notes from the March 21, 2024 meeting have been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER’S REPORT

The financials for this meeting are for March 20 to April 17, 2024 and were sent to Board members on April 17, 2024. In this time period, we sold 10 coil-bound North Park history books to Verbatim Books at wholesale for total income of \$133.10. There were no expenses in this time period. Arcadia Publishing Co. notified us we earned a royalty of \$28.34 for our Images of America book in the time period for the statement of March 28, 2024. As this is less than their minimum royalty distribution of \$75, the royalty will accumulate and roll to the end of the next distribution period, which is September.

All state and federal organizational reports for the 2023 fiscal year were filed on the dates indicated in the January meeting notes, except for the Statement of Information with the California Secretary of State, which was filed online and approved on April 20, 2024 in advance of the due date on May 31, 2024. NPHS is current on all required state and federal filings.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. SIGNS FOR DRYDEN DISTRICT

Since 2021, NPHS has been pursuing signs for the North Park Dryden Historic District. Three signs now have been installed. The newest sign, which has the correct landmark number, is on the east side of Pershing Avenue just north of Upas Street.



6. WALKING TOURS

Morley Field Walking Tour Last month the Board agreed we should try an advertised tour of Morley Field on a Saturday in early summer. **The date selected is June 22.** We will not charge admission, but ask for donations. We can put up our canopy in the park, and have several helpers stay there to answer questions while the tour group(s) proceed. Allison, Claudia, Sharon, Bob, George and Jody have confirmed they can help. In May, Steve will ask Balboa Tennis Club to put a notice in their newsletter. Katherine prepared a draft flyer for posting on Facebook and emailing to our members. The draft was reviewed by the attending Board members and some changes were suggested, which Katherine implemented. See the last page of these notes for the final flyer. Jody will ask if we can put the flyer up at the pool and the library, and Katherine will bring several paper copies to her.

Pauly's Addition Walking Tour We conducted Pauly's Addition tours for members of the Continuing Education program in the San Diego Community College District's "Rediscovering San Diego" class on April 16 and 18, 2024 from 9:45 am to noon. George and Katherine were guides. Michael and Steve were photo book assistants on Tuesday. Jody, Steve, and "trainee" Jack helped on Thursday. About 25 senior emeritus students attended each day. Their teacher said it is one of her favorite tours so far. She emailed after the tours, "We learned so much about North Park and the architecture there. I think the tours made a huge impact on my students: in the Thursday group, especially, a lot of my students told me they had lived in the area in the 1950s and 60s and they kept pulling me aside during the tour with memories of that time. It was super meaningful for them. Thank you!"



On the left, Katherine, George and Jack get ready to take students on our Pauly's Addition walking tour.

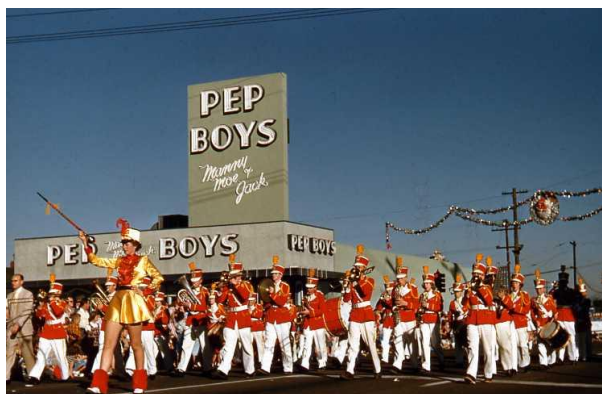
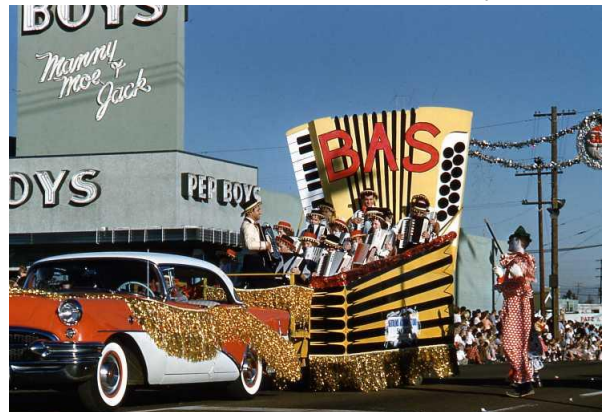


Among the house styles highlighted on the tour are (from left) Tudor Revival, Spanish Revival, and Craftsman.

Other Walking Tours We are still considering conducting an advertised tour of a focused part of the Burlingame Historic District for the general public later this year. George and Katherine have found their guide notes from previous tours, and George is considering the best route.

7. SLIDE AND PHOTO SCANNING PROJECT

We are in the process of scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family and other sources. Stuart Hartley, a professional photographer, has volunteered to help. As a start, he has borrowed the set of color slides of a 1950s Toyland Parade donated by Joe Schloss, paper pages of Dryden District house information compiled by Donald Covington, and a large photo of the groundbreaking for Beth Jacob Synagogue on 30th Street in 1950. When Stuart is finished, we will have much higher resolution color photos of the 1950s Toyland Parade like the following. Tanks, camels and accordions, oh my!



8. COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND ACTIVITIES

In April 2024, we responded to requests for information (and received interesting information) and participated in community activities as summarized below.

1. George was curious about the first owner of one of the houses on Mississippi Street we mention on our walking tour. The Spanish Revival house was built in 1929 and the person who pulled the building permit was Franciska Croxall. Katherine found the first owner was John T. Peterson, with his wife, Mary Louise. Mary stayed in the house after John died in 1947. The house was in their hands from 1930 to 1974, so for about 44 years. John was with the San Diego Police Department starting in 1912. He served as Chief of Police three separate times: in June and July 1932, from September 1932 to September 1933, and from July 1939 to March 1940. This was a time of much upheaval in the police department leadership, and the department kept pulling John out of retirement to smooth the transitions.

2. The City received our letter of support for the historic designation of 2618 Myrtle Avenue. The designation was approved by the Historical Resources Board, and the owner was very appreciative of the letter of support.

9. NPHS WATER TOWER USED IN TOYLAND PARADE

Our valued member, Victor, who portrayed the dancing water tower in past Toyland Parades, has been storing the water tower “costume” in his garage. Member Ed O. said he would like to explore some ideas about making it collapsible, and if it can, he might be able to store it in his attic space. We will coordinate in June. George and Paul both noted their vehicles could transport the water tower when needed.



Sharon contacted Victor to see if he would like to appear at the June 22 Morley Field Walking Tour to encourage people to come to our canopy, and he is willing.

10. PAYMENT FOR NPHS MEMBERSHIP

Steve added a heading below our website banner to “Become a Member,” which goes to a separate page where the form can be downloaded. We have activated Venmo for people to use for membership dues, and it has tested out as working. Our @ is northparkhistorical. On the web page we also note that “We are working on adding an online membership form as well as being able to use a credit card, PayPal or Venmo.”

11. CITY OF SAN DIEGO PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICIES

You can use the following link on the Planning Department webpage to sign up to get updates with the city’s info about the review process and timeline:

[Preservation and Progress | City of San Diego Official Website](#)

You can also request notifications of other city meetings, like the HRB, through this site.

12. 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 completion of the city’s construction activities at the site.

13. 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 OCCUR in 2024**, and we are still providing information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history. Our next meeting will be on **May 16**.

Prepared by

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

Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR JUNE 22 MORLEY FIELD WALKING TOUR EVENT FLYER

NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MORLEY FIELD
WALKING TOUR
SATURDAY
JUNE 22, 2024
10:00 & 10:30
**MEET BY THE POOL AT
MORLEY FIELD**
ON TEXAS STREET SOUTH OF UPAS
LOTS OF FREE PARKING!



Join us for a guided walking tour highlighting the history of Morley Field: the east side of Balboa Park and the site of many sports activities including swimming, cycling, archery, tennis, frisbee golf, pétanque and baseball.

COST: A donation of your choice would be appreciated.

**NO ADVANCED REGISTRATION NEEDED
LOOK FOR OUR CANOPY BY THE POOL**

**Walk is 1 mile & 1 hour
Tour groups leave at 10:00 am
and 10:30 am.**



Learn all about
Tennis star Maureen
Connolly Brinker, Little
League coach Joe Schloss,
namesake John Morley, the
pool, velodrome, landfill (!)
and much more.

FOR INFO, CONTACT
khon@honconsultinginc.com
619-294-8990 (land line)