

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
JANUARY 2025 MEETING SUMMARY**

**DATE:            JANUARY 16, 2025                                TIME: 6:00 PM**

These notes summarize information that was presented at the January 16, 2025 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 19, 2025. Board Members Steve, Katherine, Paul, Jody, Claudia, Allison, Michael, and George attended.

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 February 20.**

**1.        WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

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

**2.        AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**3.        MINUTES ACCEPTANCE**

The meeting notes from the November 21, 2024 meeting have 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 2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

The financials for the entire year of 2024 were included in the Annual Report sent to Board Members on January 3, 2025. The **SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024** has been posted on our website, announced on our Facebook page, and is in these notes on pages 5-10.

The financials for this meeting are for January 1 to January 14, 2025 and were sent to Board members on January 14, 2025. In this time period, one member renewed (thank you, Ed C!), who also gave an additional donation, for total income of \$100. An expense of \$0.98 reflects accounting of the sales tax payment to the State. During the period of November 20 to December 31, 2024, two members renewed and also gave additional donations (thank you, Linda and Robert!) and one new member joined (welcome, Chelsea!). There were no expenses from November 20 to December 31, 2024.

The following state and federal organizational reports for the 2024 fiscal year were/will be filed on the dates indicated below:

- 199N State income tax report was filed online on January 2, 2025.
- State sales tax of \$14 was reported and paid to the State online on January 3, 2025.
- 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 April 20, 2024. The next Statement of Information will be due in 2026.

## **ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING**

### **5. UPDATE ON BUNGALOW COURT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

George reported the project is proceeding with University Heights Historical Society (UHHS) taking the lead role, and Hillcrest and NPHS the funding partners so far. There are a lot of bungalow courts in Golden Hill, but that area does not have a formal historical organization to contact. A Zoom meeting with the consultant to discuss the Work Program was held on January 17, and George participated. He reported that the on-line meeting on January 17, 2025 included a brief summary of the consultant proposal. In addition, the South Environmental staff said that the consultant cost for nominating an additional site (i.e. bungalow court) for the District would be between \$5,000 and \$7,500; there is no staff fee for additions to the National District. While there are tax benefits at the State and National level for contributing sites, National District sites are not currently eligible for a Mills Act property tax reduction in the City of San Diego. The consultant team will initiate contact on this project with City of San Diego HRB staff. UHHS noted Mission Hills Heritage has declined to participate. UHHS may ask Ocean Beach Historical Society if they are interested. A contract has not been signed yet with South Environmental consultants.

### **6. ACTIVITIES IN 2025 DISCUSSION**

The following activities were suggested as our focus in 2025:

#### **Walking tours**

Claudia noted she would like to see us conduct more walking tours on the weekend. The group agreed Saturdays would be the best. Claudia suggested we plan a walking tour for soon after our next appearance at an event (for example if we are invited to have a booth at a Mini-Book Fair if Verbatim holds another one this year) so if people ask when we are doing a walking tour, we can hand them a flyer for one in the near future. She also suggested we have a sign-up list available to get email addresses for potential attendees to send reminders and advance notices. Steve said he would like to try a Burlingame tour as it was very popular in the past. He is coordinating with a possible guide who is an architect and lives near Burlingame. George and Michael are also interested in being guides again.

#### **Instagram**

Allison would like to set up an NPHS Instagram account. She will look into this. The Toyland Parade photos would be a fun start.

#### **Update Website**

Steve will contact possible consultants who could help us update our website to have a more current format and to get the items we have scanned uploaded so they are accessible and preserved.

#### **Mid-Century Modern Illustrated Report**

George would like to conduct research and develop documentation on houses in this neglected architectural style. We could then upload the results on our website, and maybe make a presentation.

#### **Public Speaker**

Claudia would like to see us re-start having a public speaker in the Spring. Ideas for speakers/topics suggested included restoration of the Botanical Garden building in Balboa Park (perhaps someone from the Balboa Park Committee of 100); Gary Mitrovich, who has written the Arcadia book "East of San Diego: The Lost History of the East San Diego Police

Department” and is also an expert on the history of Lakeside; a discussion from a consultant about the process for historical designation and the Mills Act; and the history of Coronado. If any of our members have ideas for speakers and topics, email Secretary Katherine at [khon@honconsultinginc.com](mailto:khon@honconsultinginc.com)

## **7. SCANNING PROJECT**

We will continue our process of scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family and other sources.

## **8. COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND ACTIVITIES**

In January 2025, we responded to requests for information (and received interesting information) and participated in community activities as summarized below.

1. Katherine will be participating in SOHO’s second year of their Zoom lecture series, “Penning the Past: Insights into San Diego’s Historic Neighborhoods and Architecture.” Her lecture will be October 11 from 11 am to noon. It will be based on her new book, “History Snippets 2: North Park Street Names and Other Stories,” featuring origin stories of several historic buildings in the heart of downtown North Park and highlights from her Street Name Series, which discusses the people behind original street names from the 1870s and later name changes.
2. Other SOHO Penning the Past topics formally announced on the SOHO website at [Penning the Past - Insights into San Diego's Historic Neighborhoods and Architecture](#) include the history of John D. Spreckels, the City of Oceanside, San Diego Trolleys, Torrey Pines Glider Port, Balboa Park, and the East San Diego Police Department.

## **9. CITY POLICIES AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES BOARD UPDATES**

- As a standing item in the meeting notes, the following link on the Planning Department webpage with the city’s info about the review process and timeline is provided: [Preservation and Progress | City of San Diego Official Website](#)
- An item of general interest is on the agenda of the January 23, 2025 meeting of the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board at [Historical Resources Board Agendas and Staff Reports | City of San Diego Official Website](#)

The item is summarized as follows:

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEM ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

**BENCHMARKING** Staff: Kelley Stanco and Kelsey Kaline Heritage Preservation staff will present the findings of a benchmarking effort that examined key aspects of the historic preservation programs of other jurisdictions across the state and the country, as well as how those programs compare to the City of San Diego’s Heritage Preservation Program. Areas covered by the benchmarking study include composition of local preservation boards and commissions, identification and designation of historical resources, regulation of historical resources, and incentive programs. This item will be presented at the Historical Resources Board meeting, and no staff reports or memoranda are associated with this item. The agenda notes that **NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY THE HISTORICAL RESOURCES 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 completion of the city's construction activities at the site. Allison is helping us figure out the construction project status.

**11. PAYMENT FOR NPHS MEMBERSHIP**

As a standing item in the meeting notes, we remind everyone that we have activated Venmo for people to use for membership dues, and it has tested out as working. Our @ is northparkhistorical, and if a number code is requested, use 1274. We have modified the membership form to note that people can pay via Venmo, and they can find the membership form on our website at

[Membership Information | North Park Historical Society \(northparkhistory.org\)](http://northparkhistory.org)

**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 OCCUR in 2025**, and we are still providing information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history. Our next meeting will be on **February 20**.

Prepared by



Katherine Hon  
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

SEE PAGES 5-10 FOR SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024

## Accomplishments in 2024

The accomplishments of NPHS in 2024 grouped by the seven objectives stated in our Bylaws under the primary purpose are summarized below.

### **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 2024, it continued to be available for retail sale at various locations. NPHS sold three Arcadia books to individuals in 2024, all at the Mini Book Fair on June 29, for a total of \$65.97 in revenue. We did not receive royalty payments from Arcadia in 2024, as the total accumulated was less than \$75, so the payment will roll to 2025. We donated 2 Arcadia books to Grace Lutheran Church for their fundraising event.
- 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 15 spiral-bound books wholesale to Verbatim Books for their retail in 2024. We donated 2 spiral-bound books to Grace Lutheran Church for their fundraising event.
- 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 17 spiral-bound North Park history books left our inventory in 2024. Since publishing the book in 2007, we have sold a total of approximately 2,895 copies. We have 38 spiral-bound copies and 16 perfect-bound copies remaining at the end of 2024.
- A total of 5 Arcadia books left the NPHS inventory in 2024. We have 74 copies remaining at the end of 2024.
- We sold 0 copies of the book, *Burlingame, the Tract of Character* by Donald Covington in 2024. We have 81 copies remaining.
- In 2017 we had 100 canvas tote bags with our logo printed at [AKA] Apparel-Supplies-Printing. We sold three bags to individuals in 2024, all at the Mini Book Fair on June 29, for a total of \$15 in revenue. We have 20 bags remaining.
- In June 2023, we had 48 branded ballcaps produced by AKA Printing (12 navy, 12 khaki, and 24 black), and in August 2023 we ordered 40 additional navy and 20 additional khaki ballcaps. A total of 108 ballcaps were produced. Via email discussion, the Board approved providing one free ballcap per household current on member dues. As of the end of 2024, we gave 5 navy, 3 khaki and 4 black ballcaps for free, and sold 2 navy and 3 khaki ballcaps for \$20 each. In 2024, a total of 17 ballcaps left inventory. We have 24 navy, 14 khaki, and 15 black ballcaps — a total of 53 — remaining.
- With the help of Allison, our newest Board Member, we added Venmo as a way for people to pay dues and buy merchandise, which has been very popular.



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

- NPHS Board Members Paul and Claudia 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 2 requests in 2024.
- NPHS provided two letters of support for house designations (2618 Myrtle Avenue and 3545 Mississippi Street) and a letter of support for establishment of the Talmadge Historic District. We also supported a letter SOHO authored to the Historical Resources Board noting concerns about the lack of progress on establishment of historic districts promised in the North Park Community Plan Update.
- Paul provided input on whether a full historical report should be required for 141 building permit applications to the City of San Diego for changes to buildings more than 45 years old. Of these, 87 included ADUs.
- We responded to 16 email requests for information about historic homes, historic photos, and other questions.
- 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 construction going on at the Water Tower site.
- Since 2021, NPHS has been pursuing signs for the North Park Dryden Historic District. City staff sent the work order in August 2023. Kudos to “eagle-eye” Board Member Jody, who was the first to see a sign installed on the north side of Upas Street just east of the Portal at 28<sup>th</sup> Street. Another sign was installed on the east side of 28<sup>th</sup> Street near Landis Street. One additional sign was installed on the east side of Pershing Drive north of Upas Street.



*On Upas near 28<sup>th</sup>*



*On 28<sup>th</sup> near Landis*



*On Pershing just north of Upas*

- South Environmental, a company in Pasadena, asked for the Water Tower historical report, and it was easy to direct them to the document, which is on our website at [northparkhistory.org](http://northparkhistory.org).
- In October, we donated 2 copies of the North Park history book, 2 copies of the Arcadia book, and 2 black ballcaps to Grace Lutheran Church, our long-time host for our monthly meetings, for a fundraiser event.

- NPHS Secretary Katherine hosted a table at the North Park Mini Book Fair at the invitation of Verbatim Books on June 29.
- At the September 19, 2024 meeting, NPHS Vice President George Franck and University Heights Historical Society (UHHS) President Kristin Harms presented a proposed project to establish a framework for National Register Nomination of bungalow courts in San Diego via Multiple Property Documentation (MPD). The board approved contributing \$1,810 toward the cost of a consultant to prepare the necessary documentation.

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

- **Commercial Area Walking Tour** North Park Main Street requested a walking tour of the commercial core of North Park for their Board of Directors. On Wednesday, January 24, at 4:00 pm, George guided an enthusiastic group of eight, and Jody, Allison, Steve and Katherine assisted. Mark West, Executive Director of North Park Main Street (front row, with glasses), took the selfi photo below and emailed us, *“I hope that everyone enjoyed themselves as much as I did last night. It is obvious to me that the NP Historical Society is a wealth of knowledge and that we need to work together closely as the District is going to see a multitude of new projects in 2024 and beyond. Preserving our historical integrity of North Park is part of our mission and I will remain committed to it.”*



*You can identify North Park Historical Society members by our cool ballcaps!*

- **Morley Field Walking Tour** We conducted an advertised tour of Morley Field on Saturday, June 22. We put up our canopy in the park around 9:00 am, and helpers were there to answer questions. Steve conducted the 10:00 tour with George and Jody showing photos. There were five attendees. Claudia conducted the 10:30 tour with Bob showing photos and Allison and Victor attending. Katherine stayed behind to staff the canopy. About 10 people besides tour attendees stopped by. We received \$14 in donations and sold one khaki hat.



- 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.

- Dryden Historic District Walking Tour** Kyle and Becky from Louisville, Kentucky, emailed NPHS requesting a walking tour of a historic neighborhood where they could see examples of San Diego's Craftsman homes — a tailor-made request for a Dryden District tour! Katherine and Steve guided them on a tour of the Dryden District on November 17, a sunny and peaceful Sunday morning. They really enjoyed the tour, and noted that Louisville has lost most of its Craftsman homes, so they were happy to know the designation of the North Park Dryden Historic District would help preserve this architectural style.



3536, 3546, and 3554 28th Street by David O. Dryden, Built 1915-1916



Plaque at the "Portal" to the Dryden District Upas and 28th streets



**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 1,000 people like and follow our North Park History Facebook page. We posted 7 items throughout the year, including a post with pictures of the Toyland Parade in the 1950s scanned by Stuart Hartley from slides donated by Joe Schloss. Nineteen people liked this post and five shared it to their own groups. Nine people liked the post about our booth at the North Park Mini Book Fair.

**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 PowerPoint presentation over Zoom on North Park history. The lecture was arranged by SOHO, and was the first in the monthly series they called “Penning the Past: Insights into San Diego’s Historic Neighborhoods and Architecture.”
- The NPHS Board met in-person at meetings open to the public in January through November 2024. Meetings were held at Grace Lutheran Church. The Secretary emailed a “meeting summary” to all NPHS members each month containing information we shared.

**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 is scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family and other sources. Professional photographer Stuart Hartley is helping us with this effort. He created high-resolution scans of color slides of the 1950s Toyland Parade donated to us by Joe Schloss, and scans of oversized materials.

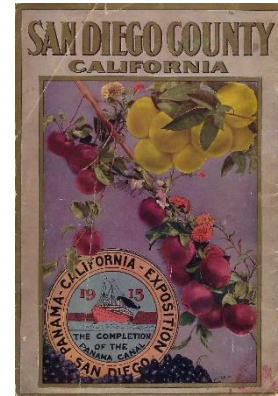


*This street scene is looking east from around 29<sup>th</sup> Street and University Avenue.*

*The hanging North Park sign is in the center distance.*

*At this time, the IOOF building on the left hosted MacLean’s Electric Appliances and Smith’s Shades. The tan building in the background on the left is what was more recently the Western Dental building, originally the Stevens Hartley Building on the northwest corner of 30<sup>th</sup> Street and University Avenue.*

- We shared 25 pictures in the monthly meeting notes distributed to NPHS members through the year. Twelve of the pictures were the scanned slides of the Toyland Parade, and four were from a booklet compiled about San Diego County for the 1915 Exposition donated years ago by Celeste Ball, a relative of the Switzer family.



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

- In October 2024, Jefferson Elementary School teacher Caroline requested another downtown North Park walking tour for two new classes of third graders. George was the guide for one group with Jody helping, and Katherine was the other guide with Steve helping on two successive days. The dates were Wednesday, November 6 at 11:00 am, and Thursday, November 7 at 9:00 am. Just like last year, the students were amazed that so many buildings were older than their grandparents, and that there had been so many grocery stores in their immediate neighborhood.
- Kristen emailed us: “I am a parent at McKinley Elementary and I'm helping the school with a display in honor of its centennial milestone this coming February. I'm wondering if you may have pictures we could copy that would showcase McKinley's past. I did come across [this article](#) but the links to the pictures have expired, so I'm wondering if you might have an archive of old pictures. I did also see there is a North Park book and I will try to get a copy at Book Catapult this weekend to see if there are any pictures of McKinley in it. Anyway, if you have any ideas on other places I might look to find old pictures of the school I would greatly appreciate any leads! All the best, Kristen”

With the permission of the school principal, we emailed Kristen files with all of the photos we scanned from McKinley School’s photo albums in 2013 for the Arcadia book, “Images of America: San Diego’s North Park,” including some pictures that did not make it into the book, like this one of a bake sale.



**END OF SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024**