

## **NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAY 2025 MEETING SUMMARY**

**DATE: Meeting Canceled**

**TIME: Meeting Canceled**

These notes summarize information that would have been presented at the May 15, 2025 Business Meeting of the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) Board of Directors, and the activities discussion for the organization. These notes include information as of May 10, 2025. At the April meeting, the board decided to cancel the May meeting due to schedule conflicts of several Board members. In general, our meetings will be held on the **third THURSDAY of each month starting at 6:00 p.m.** and open to the public. Meetings generally will be held in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church. **Our next meeting will be June 19.**

### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

### **2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Claudia, the new NPHS Vice President, and Allison, the new NPHS Treasurer, have been added as authorized signatories on the NPHS checking account.

### **3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE**

The meeting notes from the April 17, 2025 meeting have been posted on the website.

## **BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING**

### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The financials for this meeting are for April 16 to May 9, 2025 and were sent to Board members on May 9, 2025. In this time period, two new member households joined (thank you, Gavin & Sue and Jade & John!). We sold one Arcadia book (thank you, Ed O.!). Total income was \$60.41. There were no expenses in this time period.

## **ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING**

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

At the June meeting, George will provide an update on the project with the University Heights Historical Society (UHHS) to establish a non-geographic multi-property National Register bungalow court historic district.

### **6. WALKING TOUR – BURLINGAME HISTORIC DISTRICT**

July 12 is the Saturday chosen for the Burlingame walking tour event. Katherine will coordinate with George and Michael to find a good date for a practice tour early in June.

### **7. APRIL 26 EVENT IN MORLEY FIELD**

We put up our canopy in Morley Field and conducted walking tours of the park and Pauly's Addition on Saturday, April 26. There were about 7 people in each tour group. Thanks to George, Jody, Paul, Sharon, Allison, Steve and Katherine for helping on the tours and at the canopy. One attendee at the canopy told us they saw the event advertised on Instagram. Six people signed up to get reminders about the Burlingame tour. Attendees included former Board Member Ed O., and new member Sheryl. Thanks to all who joined us! Some photos of the day follow.



*Steve starts the Morley Field tour.*



*George gets his group ready to tour Pauly's Addition.*



*George and Allison at a French Eclectic house on Upas Street, and a Spanish Revival beauty on Mississippi Street. (Photos by tour attendee Debbie W.)*

## **8. SOHO ECONOMIC STUDY ON IMPACT OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

The Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) is coordinating an economic study by PlaceEconomics, a nationally renowned consulting firm, to factually document the positive effect historic preservation has on housing, climate change, and community equity and diversity. The study is being overseen by representatives of various historical groups, and George is the representative for NPHS. Alana Coons with SOHO provided the following email update for everyone:

Dear PlaceEconomics Study Donor, As promised, I'm writing to keep you updated. Thanks to your support, the PlaceEconomics study is underway, and we're pleased to share an important next step: the PlaceEconomics team will be in San Diego the week of June 16 for a comprehensive site visit. Their itinerary includes visits to all historic districts and meetings with a wide range of stakeholders, including SOHO and study preservation partners, Historical Resources staff, and city and county agencies. These in-person engagements are a crucial phase of the project, allowing the team to deepen their understanding of San Diego's preservation landscape and gather firsthand insight. This visit brings us closer to the evidence-based findings we'll use to advocate for fact-based preservation, counter misinformation, and help shape smarter city policy. We'll continue to keep you in the loop as things progress. For now, just know that this important work is moving forward—and it's happening because of you.

With heartfelt thanks, Alana Coons, SOHO Education & Communications Director

## 9. SCANNING PROJECT

We continue our process of scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family and other sources. Professional photographer Stuart Hartley told us he has developed a method for scanning/photographing the oversize items he took in March.

Allison has set up an Instagram account for NPHS, with the username northparkhistory. The link is <https://www.instagram.com/northparkhistory/> She has posted four photos so far, and we have 12 followers.

## 10. COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND ACTIVITIES

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

1. Jeff emailed us, saying, "I'd love to know more about the history of our house, and appreciate your offer to dig some up." We researched his house at 3584 28<sup>th</sup> Street in the North Park Dryden Historic District, and found the first time a value of improvements appeared in the city Lot Books was January 1925. The owner of the lots starting in 1924 was Frank Albert Spivak. He is listed in the North Park Historical Society building permit database at [Historical Building Permit Searches | North Park Historical Society](#) as pulling Building Permit #11107 on January 24, 1924 for a frame and stucco cottage at the address. In 1924, Frank and his wife, Flora, were listed in the city directory as living at 4141 Central Avenue in East San Diego, and his occupation was "electrician." In the 1925 city directory, they were listed at 3584 28<sup>th</sup> Street, where they lived until 1941. Frank Spivak's occupations in city directories included "Builder" in 1926; "carpenter" in 1927; "gas station" at 2803 University Avenue (where the Mission restaurant is now) in 1930; and "carpenter" in 1940. We can assume Frank Spivak was the builder of the house. In the 1930 Census, Frank was listed at 3584 28<sup>th</sup> Street with his wife, four children (son Leslie age 16, son Archie age 15, daughter Beryl age 12, and daughter Arline age 10) and his father, Caspar, age 83. That's a lot of people living in a North Park bungalow!

### Frank A. Spivak dies at age 90; services Friday

Funeral services will be held here Friday afternoon for Frank A. Spivak, 90, who died Tuesday morning in Tracy Community Memorial Hospital following a lengthy illness.

A native of Minnesota, Mr. Spivak was a carpenter in Minnesota before retiring 22 years ago. He lived in Tracy the past 11 years, living with his son, Archie L. Spivak, 222 Portola.

Other survivors are another son, Leslie A. Spivak of Sacramento; two daughters, Mrs. Beryl Holloway of Stockton and Mrs. Arline Clenin of Billings, Mont., eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

His wife, the late Flora L. Spivak, died in 1970.

Mr. Spivak was a 70-year member of the Masonic Lodge in Center City, Minn.

Services will begin at 1 p.m. Friday at Hotchkiss Mortuary. Interment will be in Tracy Cemetery.

2. Keep **September 18 at 6:00 pm** on your calendar for a lecture by Alex Bevil, the historian who prepared National Register nomination documentation for the North Park Water Tower and the Georgia Street Bridge, on the history of these two iconic historic landmarks in North Park. More details to follow as the event approaches.
3. Ken Kramer emailed to tell us he wrote an article for Giving Back Magazine about his interview with Alexander Bevil regarding the Water Tower. Read it on pages 56-57 of the recent issue at [GB Magazine May 2025 Edition](#) Ken used several of the photos we sent him, including a great tattoo seen at 2013 North Park Festival of the Arts, shown at right. Ken said the TV segment will probably air in the Fall.





4. A7D Creative Group is coordinating the production of a video series for Explore North Park featuring local entrepreneur Rory Pendergast of Rory Law interviewing various North Park business owners about community, creativity, growth and their unique stories. They asked NPHS to provide some historical context, and Katherine chatted with Rory on May 1. He sent a nice thank you note, saying, "It was great meeting you last week and talking North Park! For me, this process of talking w/ NP business owners has been fascinating and the history side completes it. I hope we get to do something like this again."

5. North Park Main Street and Verbatim Books are combining forces on **June 7** at the North Park Music Fest and Creator Fair. The North Park Historical Society will have a booth at the Creator Fair! Verbatim Books describes the event as follows:

*Discover The Creator Fair — a vibrant celebration of local creativity hosted by Verbatim Books in partnership with Visual Art Supply at the North Park Music Fest on Saturday, June 7th starting at 11AM. This **free** curated pop-up experience brings together zine makers, book artists, illustrators, and indie creatives for a day of inspiration and discovery.*

*Browse handmade books, literary-inspired goods, original artwork, and one-of-a-kind treasures along Ray Street and North Park Way.*



RAY STREET X NORTH PARK WAY  
**CREATOR  
FAIR**  
MUSIC • ART • BOOKS

DISCOVER THE CREATOR FAIR

A VIBRANT CELEBRATION OF  
**LOCAL CREATIVITY**  
HOSTED BY VERBATIM BOOKS + VISUAL ART SUPPLY

**Look for the North Park Historical Society canopy, where we will be selling our books, ballcaps, and tote bags!**

#### 11. 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](#)
- The following summarizes an update provided by SOHO on their review and comments on the city's process:

**Write-In Event:** SOHO will be organizing an in-person **postcard and letter-writing event** at the Marston House. Dates still to be determined.

**Mills Act Contract Mail Campaign:** The City's HR department will be sending SOHO the Mills Act contract addresses. With this data, SOHO will launch a direct mail postcard and/or letter campaign targeting these contract holders alerting them to potential threats and encouraging them to contact their representatives with advocacy actions to take.

**Advocacy Letters to HRB:** The HRB (City Historical Resources Board) has received three letters in regard to overall first impressions of the P & P. SOHO is now drafting a formal letter to the HRB and staff focused on the reforms *SOHO wants to see*—moving beyond defense into proactive advocacy. This letter will push for true preservation-supportive reforms.

## **12. PAYMENT FOR NPHS MEMBERSHIP**

As a standing item in the meeting notes, we remind everyone that you can use Venmo for membership dues. Our @ is northparkhistorical, and if a number code is requested, use 1274. You can find the membership form on our website at

[Membership Information | North Park Historical Society \(northparkhistory.org\)](https://northparkhistory.org/membership-information)

## **13. FUTURE MEETINGS**

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 continue to be open to the public. 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. Due to the absence of several Board members in May, the Board decided to **cancel the May meeting**. Our next meeting will be on **June 19**.

Prepared by



Katherine Hon  
Secretary, North Park Historical Society