

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

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2025**

**TIME: 6:00 PM**

These notes summarize information that was presented at the September 18, 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 September 27, 2025. Board Members Steve, Katherine, Sharon, Bob, Allison, Paul, Claudia, Michael, and George attended. Also attending were NPHS members Tera, Sheryl & Bruce, Lavonne, Steve & Deb, and Bob L. We also welcomed visitors Dan, Roger, Jane, Bjorn, Marty, Lauren, and Becky. Every chair was filled! The meeting was devoted to the lecture by Alexander Bevil about our Engineering Marvels, the Georgia Street Bridge and the North Park Water Tower. 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. **Our next meeting will be October 16.**

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

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

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

We note that a new season of Ken Kramer's About San Diego is starting on KPBS. The first story in the first episode is about the Water Tower, which includes an interview with Alexander Bevil, the historian who is delivering our free presentation.

### **3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE**

The meeting notes from the August 21, 2025 meeting have been posted on the website.

## **BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING**

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

The financials for this meeting are for August 20 to September 16, 2025 and were sent to Board members on September 16, 2025. In this time period, four members renewed (thank you, Cia, Barons Market, and Steve & Katherine!), and three renewing members donated (thank you, Cia, and Steve & Katherine!). Total income was \$660. Expenses in this time period totaled \$3,450, which consisted of a 50% payment to A7D for the website redesign project.

## **ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING**

### **5. PRESENTATION BY ALEX BEVIL**

Alexander Bevil, the historian who prepared the successful National Register nomination documents for the North Park Water Tower and the Georgia Street Bridge, gave an excellent lecture on the history of these two iconic historic landmarks. The 23 attendees enjoyed the informative presentation. Did you realize that the 1.2 million gallons of potable water held by the Water Tower built in 1924 provided not just drinking water but also fire protection throughout the mid-city streetcar suburbs? Although the Water Tower has been empty since the 1990s, it is historically designated at the federal, state and local level. The Georgia Street Bridge is similarly designated, which is why it was restored to its historical appearance instead of being replaced. NPHS is proud to make Alexander Bevil an honorary member of our organization in gratitude for his efforts to preserve these important structures. We also note that he is receiving a Lifetime Legacy Award from the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) as part of their 2025 People in Preservation Awards (see the last page of these notes).



## 6. 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](#)

## 7. 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 \(northparkhistory.org\)](#)

## 8. 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. Our next meeting will be on **October 16.**

Prepared by

*Katherine Hon*

Katherine Hon  
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR SOHO AWARD INFORMATION ABOUT ALEXANDER BEVIL





## Alexander D. Bevil Lifetime Legacy Award



WE ARE HONORED TO RECOGNIZE a true guardian of San Diego's history—a researcher, writer, advocate, and preservationist whose contributions over decades have enriched and broadened our understanding of the past.

Alexander D. Bevil, a retired California State Parks historian, has devoted his career and retirement to uncovering stories too often forgotten, bringing to light narratives that deepen our appreciation of place, people, and the power of memory. His curiosity knows no bounds. From celebrating the indelible imprint of pioneering women aviators to uncovering the astonishing legacy of Jewish merchants in Old Town San Diego, Alex is a seeker of truth in the quiet corners of local history.

Alex's research and nominations have led directly to National Register of Historic Places listings for important San Diego landmarks, including the Georgia Street Bridge in North Park, the University Heights Water Storage and Pumping Station Historic District—with its iconic "Tin Man" water tower—Torrey Pines Lodge, and the Guy and Margaret Fleming House in Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. He has also played a key role in securing many local historic designations and advocating for their preservation, including Temple Beth Israel, the Fire Alarm Communications Building and the San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, both in Balboa Park.

Through his detailed nominations and published works, advocacy, public talks, and community tours, Alex has helped preserve not only individual structures but the broader stories that enrich our cultural heritage.

Take his work on Calle Judeo in Old Town. What began as a site assessment for a former Caltrans building became a deep dive into San Diego's early Jewish community, ultimately revealing more than two dozen historic sites and dozens of names previously unrecorded in our shared heritage. In this, as in so much of his work, Alex brings forgotten communities back into the historical frame with respect and rigor.



Fire Alarm Communications Building in Balboa Park

Through tours for SOHO on Tiki Modernism, the Clairemont community, and La Jolla's Barber Tract, among others, Alex invited us to look again at the familiar and discover something new.



Left to right San Diego Veterans' Memorial Building in Balboa Park; Ohr Shalom Synagogue in Bankers Hill; North Park Water Tower; Fire Alarm Communications Building in Balboa Park. All photos by Sandé Lollis

**THIS LEGACY AWARD** celebrates a lifetime of achievement and the steady flame of a preservationist who has always looked a little deeper, asked a few more questions, and shared the answers freely with his community.

Alex's unflagging dedication to uncovering, documenting, and preserving San Diego's layered histories, especially those often overlooked, has left an enduring mark.