

## NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOVEMBER 2025 MEETING SUMMARY

**DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

**TIME: 6:00 PM**

These notes summarize information that was presented at the November 20, 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 November 23, 2025. Board Members Steve, Katherine, Jody, Allison, Michael, Claudia, Randy, and George attended. Members Turner and Kit also joined us. 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. **We do not meet in December**, so our next meeting will be on **January 15, 2026**. Happy Holidays to all!

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

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

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

Michael suggested he pursue researching earpiece amplifiers called “whispers” that we might use on our walking tours. These kinds of devices are often used by tour companies to help attendees hear the guide, especially in noisy environments. We look forward to what he finds out at the January 2026 meeting.

### **3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE**

The notes from the October 16, 2025 meeting have been posted on the website.

### **BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING**

### **4. TREASURER’S REPORT**

The financials for this meeting are for October 14 to November 17, 2025 and were sent to Board members on November 18, 2025. In this time period, one member renewed and donated (thank you, Bill!). Total income was \$100.00. Expenses in this time period consisted of a \$45.38 annual fee to GoDaddy for renewal of two domain names.

Allison reported that our application for a City grant of \$3,000 was not successful. But this is our first try, and it was a good experiment. She noted that our Council District is one of the most competitive, with many organizations applying. She also said we will try for a County grant in the next application period next year, to help pay for the website redesign.

### **ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING**

### **5. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM ON WEBSITE REDESIGN**

Allison reported that she, Steve and Katherine met with staff of A7D Creative Group on October 30 to review the initial Web Content Flow diagram they prepared for the NPHS website redesign project. We discussed changes in that meeting and A7D quickly sent a revised version to the team. Allison coordinated a few additional changes and a second draft version was sent by A7D on Nov. 17, which was sent to the Board via email on Nov. 18 and presented at this Board meeting. See the last page of these notes for the draft diagram.

Board members not in attendance commented via email. Paul commented that information about our Free Advisory Service evaluating the potential for a house to be historically designated should be included prominently in the website. We will ask A7D to add that title under Resources, just below the Where is North Park info. Claudia will work with Paul to develop the content we want to be added, which might be a fillable form, or just instructions to email a request. Comments received from Sheryl via email included raising EVENTS to be part of a main page titled "WALKING TOURS & EVENTS," adding "Summary of Accomplishments" to the content under the ABOUT page, and adding text about why join NPHS, what members support with their dues, and how they can get involved to the MEMBERSHIP page. Ed suggested via email that we have the "donate" and "become a member buttons" appear more than once. Allison will compile the requested changes in an email to A7D after the Thanksgiving holiday. Michael moved and Claudia seconded that the Board approve the basic organization presented in the flow diagram so A7D can move forward. The motion was approved unanimously by all eight attending Board members.

## **6. WALKING TOURS FOR JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS**

We have confirmed three days of walking tours with Caroline, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher who has been our contact for the last two years. They have three classes of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders this year, and they want to have each class on a different day and to divide the class into three groups on each day. Our first tour was November 19 at 10 am. We really lucked out with the weather, which was sunny and dry! George, Steve, and Katherine were guides and we had great assistance from photo book holders/group helpers Michael, Jody, Ed O., Robert, and Tera.

The next tour days will be Monday, December 1 and Wednesday, December 10, all starting in front of Jefferson Elementary School at Utah Street and North Park Way at 10 am. We expect our guides on December 1 will be George, Katherine, and Michael, with help from Jody, Steve, Sharon, Christine, and Ed O. Our guides on December 10 will be George, Katherine and Steve, with help from Jody, Ed O., and Sheryl. We could use a few more helpers on Wednesday, December 10. Email Katherine at [khon@honconsultinginc.com](mailto:khon@honconsultinginc.com) if you can join us.

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

George provided 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. He said that the National District application has been submitted, UHHS is awaiting State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) feedback but no clarification has been received from State Historical staff yet. The review should be completed by the end of the year.

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

The Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) is coordinating an economic study by PlaceEconomics to document the costs of the Mills Act to the city and the positive effects 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. George noted the consultant has collected most of the data they need. Alana Coons with SOHO provided the following update to George via email:

*"Let [the NPHS Board] know that...The draft PlaceEconomics report has hit a couple of snags. They have been unable to get the data that they require from the city or the county, which they have said is highly unusual. In all of the cities across the country they have ever worked in, which are a large number, they have never had this issue come up before. And they have worked in Los Angeles and other California cities. They are trying to find some ways around it, but it is complicating the effort."*

## 9. SCANNING PROJECT

We continue our process of scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family and other sources. In last month's meeting notes, we presented information about a house on Collier Avenue whose first owner was Robert C. Dent. He was the co-owner of Harmer & Dent, a prominent shoe store at 2936 University Avenue. His business partner was Dan Harmer, pictured below (on the left) advertising that he won a 1927 World Series bet with another important North Park businessman, Paul Hartley, who is operating the "Fresh Air Taxicab" carting Mr. Harmer. This photo was scanned from slides made by Don Covington from photos shared with him by the Hartley Family.



Allison has set up an Instagram account for NPHS, with the username northparkhistory. The link is <https://www.instagram.com/northparkhistory/> She has made 7 posts so far, and we have 99 followers.

## 10. COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND ACTIVITIES

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

1. Dave emailed us with concerns about the Water Tower. He noted, in part, "Over the past few years living near the tower, I've observed its ongoing deterioration—visible rust, trash accumulation at the base, inadequate fencing, and, most notably, graffiti that has remained untouched for nearly a year towering over the neighborhood. I submitted a Get It Done request for the graffiti about seven months ago ..., but unfortunately, no action appears to have been taken. I wanted to check in with you ... Do you have any updates, background information, or insight into the city's plans—if any—for maintenance, restoration, or improvement of the site? I remember hearing that the elevated soccer fields were deemed unsafe some years back due to structural concerns. I'm now at the point where I feel compelled to advocate more strongly for the site's upkeep and to ask the City what Capital Improvement Plans exist to restore and preserve it in a way that reflects the pride of North Park residents. Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated."

We responded, "Yes, we share your concerns about the Water Tower. The inadequate fencing is a big problem, which allows access for the people defacing the tower with graffiti. The elevated soccer fields are the top of a water reservoir, which we understand is still an active part of the City's water system. We understand that the Public Utilities Department is starting to plan for a maintenance project of that rectangular reservoir, including rehabbing the roof and the caretakers house (also historically designated as it is part of the Water Tower Historic District). As part of that, maybe the fencing will be improved and the site will be cleaned up. Several years ago (before Covid, which feels like a lifetime ago), the City invested over \$1 million in a seismic retrofit of the Water Tower to secure the "feet" and other structural aspects, so we appreciated that investment. The tower cannot be "painted" because it is actually coated, so it will likely continue to have its historic patina. That is what we know at this point. Thank you for your concerns!"

Dave replied, "Thank you for your detailed response! I'm going to personally reach out to the City regarding my get it done graffiti report that's aged 7 months now and ask if they have a schedule for removing graffiti. I know it's likely complex due to the height and climbing required, etc. I'm thinking they may contract the removal out; but if I find out any new info I'll share."

2. The city mailed NPHS a notice that the Craftsman house at 3575 Alabama Street, in Pauly's Addition, will be considered for Designation as a Historical Resource at the HRB meeting on November 20. This house was built in 1927 by Master Builder Benjamin Torgerson, and City staff recommended designation in the staff report.



3. George drafted a letter of support for the historical restoration proposed for the 1926 Stern's Gym/New Life Chinese Laundry Building at 3829 Granada Avenue. We contacted the owner's representative to ask if our NPHS Board-approved letter of support would be useful at this time. The owner's consultant said they are going to proceed with preparing a historic designation report, and that City staff have told them the building should qualify under both Criterion A ("Exemplifies or reflects special elements of the City's, a community's or a neighborhood's historical, archaeological, cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering, landscaping, or architectural development"), and Criterion C ("Embodies distinctive characteristics of style, type, period, or method of construction or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship"). So, they do not need a letter of support at this time. But they will appreciate one when their designation package is presented at the HRB for approval.

Meanwhile, Katherine found a few historical newspaper articles about the building, which was built around 1925 for Frank J. Crover's furniture store, which had been on University Avenue from about 1921. Crover and his wife lived upstairs in the newer brick building for a few years until they moved into a house on Utah Street.

**Furniture for Sale 101**

BARGAIN hunters manage to find North Park Furniture and Stove Market, 3829 Granada ave., in North Park. Others pay higher prices for furniture and stoves. We have extra large stock all types wood, coal, oil, gas, gasoline, heaters and cast cook stoves, gas ranges. Guaranteed service at prices easy to reach. Saleable exchange solicited. Located near North Park Theatre 20 years. Wishing you all a Merry Xmas. Frank J. Crover, Prop.

December 19, 1933 Evening Tribune

**CROVER**—Frank J., Oct. 23, a native of Germany. Survived by his wife Christina Crover and his three children, Mrs. Russell A. Harris, William J. and Frank J. Crover Jr.; brother of Mrs. John Ferguson, Arthur J. Crover and Mrs. Frances McGauley; grandfather of Mary Suzanne and Carol Lee Harris. Friends are invited to attend the recitation of the Rosary this evening (Wednesday), 8 o'clock, Goodbody's Ivy Chapel. Requiem Mass Thursday morning, 9 o'clock, at St. Mary's church, El Cajon, Calif. Interment, Holy Cross cemetery.

October 25, 1939 Evening Tribune

## 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](#)

George provided an update. The Community Planners Committee (CPC) voted unanimously to reject Package A in October. However, the Planning Commission approved it, and SOHO still has many concerns about potential City Council approval, summarized in an email to George sent by Alana Coons with SOHO below, which George summarized.

*"Let [the NPHS Board] know that it's going to be an all-hands-on-deck situation when Package A goes to City Council. That is supposed to be late January or early February. There's not a date set for that yet. We're really going to have to rally each of our communities and have them write in and show up to let the City Council know that we are against the majority of these 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 northparkhistory, 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 \(northparkhistory.org\)](#)

Please note that as of September 2025, we changed the Venmo name to match with our website name, [www.northparkhistory.org](http://www.northparkhistory.org)

## 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. We do not meet in December, so our next meeting will be on **January 15, 2026**. Happy Holidays to all!

Prepared by

*Katherine Hon*

Katherine Hon  
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

