

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JUNE 2009 MEETING NOTES***

DATE: June 18, 2009 TIME: 6:30 PM

The next meeting will be on **THURSDAY July 16, 2009 at 6:30 pm**, at the second floor conference room of the Masonic Lodge, 3795 Utah Street (Utah and North Park Way). **Note we have changed our typical meeting time to start at 6:30 pm.**

NOTE: To help members remember their commitments; action items are noted in *bold italics* in these meeting notes. *Contains updated information as of date of preparation (July 6, 2009)

The first part of this meeting was a Business Meeting of the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) Board of Directors, and the second part was the activities discussion for the organization.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The following members of the NPHS Board of Directors were present:

- Patrick Edwards
- George Franck
- Steve Hon
- Katherine Hon
- Vince Rivera
- Louise Russell
- Randy Sappenfield
- Elizabeth Studebaker
- Jody Surowiec
- Michael Thornhill
- Sharon Turner
- Bill Vivian
- Paul Wade
- Hilda Yoder

The following members of the NPHS Board of Directors were absent:

- Ed Orozco

New NPHS members David Cohen of Hawthorns, Rickey Owens-Smith, and Amy Colony joined us.

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The June Agenda was accepted as proposed. *Steve will develop the next agenda. Katherine will distribute it to her history group and to NPCA for posting on their web site.*

NORTH PARK THEATRE HISTORIC VERTICAL MARQUEE SIGN

David Cohen informed the group that restoring the vertical part of the marquee sign at the North Park Theatre is being planned, and was actually part of the total restoration plan for the theatre, but was never implemented. The PAC will vote on this project at their next meeting on July 14.

Patrick will be at the meeting. Louise moved and Jody seconded that the North Park Historical Society will write a letter to the City supporting restoration of the sign with lettering as in the original sign on the theatre, specifically keeping the text “West Coast” at the top and not adding any other text. The motion carried unanimously. *Update: Katherine drafted a letter for Steve’s signature, and sent it via e-mail to the City’s project manager, copying Patrick, David, and Liz. See the letter attached at the end of these meeting notes. The letter has been received by the City’s project manager and will be presented at the PAC meeting.*

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Katherine noted that she and Steve re-presented the Klicka Scholarship award to Julie Le at the Hoover High School Awards Night, and that Julie also received many other well deserved scholarships and awards. It was a moving experience to see all the students who received scholarships. NPHS member Larry Hall was also at the ceremony to present a scholarship he personally sponsors for Hoover High School students.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

No changes to the draft minutes from the May 21, 2009 NPHS Meeting were suggested. Draft minutes of our meetings will continue to be sent to the NPCA webmaster for posting on the NPCA web site, and also posted on the NPHS web site as soon as they are prepared.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER’S REPORT

Our new income since the last report includes 3 new memberships, payment for 10 residential walking tours, sales of 12 books and sales of 5 guidebooks. We have a total of 33 coil-bound books and 129 perfect bound books left in our inventory.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. OLD HOUSE FAIR

We have our assigned booth at the Old House Fair, which will have a canopy. We coordinated the various shifts. George will bring two folding chairs. *Update: We couldn’t do much about the weather, which was drizzly in the morning, but we got good interest at our booth. We sold 7 history books and 2 residential guidebooks. We talked to a lot of people. Liz brought a demonstration calendar and it received nice comments. Many people stopped to say they already had bought a copy of the history book. Our poster of the historical residential tracts got a lot of attention. Michael suggested we have it laminated to protect it. The participation from our Board Members was excellent! Thanks to Michael, Ed, Liz, Hilda, Jody, Bill, Randy and Sharon who joined Steve and Katherine at the booth at various times throughout the day.*

6. WALKING TOURS

We set the dates for our next residential and commercial walking tours in the fall. They will be:

- October 3, 2009 (Saturday): Residential Dryden Tour, 9:00 am; Michael, Bill and George tour guides.
- October 18, 2009 (Sunday): Commercial Tour, 8:30 am; Michael, Patrick, and George tour guides.

Mark your calendars because we will need helpers!

Katherine will prepare flyers to have at the Old House Fair.

George is working on his Hamilton/Villa Terrace Neighborhood: 100 Years of Urban Planning tour. Christian Michaels has started taking photos for the guidebook, and Jody is going to research information about the trolley stop at University Avenue and Hamilton.

George is starting research for a tour around 30th and Upas, including the Lynhurst Building. Hilda has helped him with the research and George asked if others were interested.

Bill and Hilda have both brought up the idea of developing a podcast of a walking tour. Michael will see if he has a Gaslamp tour that we could use as a template. Paul noted that the podcast wouldn't have to be just audio; we could incorporate video clips into the piece. His friend Ben Norton, who contributed several great photos to the calendar, has done this. Paul, Liz, Michael, Hilda and Bill are all interested in pursuing this project. We should capture some film at our next tours.

Patrick still wants a short megaphone or some amplification device for the commercial tour, as it is sometimes very hard to be heard above the traffic. We will try the next commercial tour on a Sunday morning to see if there is less traffic. It is also important to keep the groups as close to the tour guide as possible. Ideally, we should have at least two "herders" with each of the three groups. *Update: Steve has found a potential source of megaphones on a cheerleading website and will bring the information for discussion at the next meeting.*

7. VIRTUAL LIBRARY

We are making good progress on the project of developing an original building permit database linked to an aerial/parcel boundary base website. KTU+A, a local planning and landscape architecture firm is generously donating staff resources to help make this happen. They are developing the aerial base and website, and a data entry form in the Access database software. Katherine is scanning the handwritten tablets with Don Covington's notations from old Daily Transcript newspapers of building permits, including date, builder, address, and owner. She will prepare packets of pages with the data to be entered. Vince, Sharon, and Katherine have Access 2003 on their computers. Jody, Hilda, Bill and Ed have also volunteered to help with data entry, checking, and research where we have block and lot numbers but not an address. Paul is helping us coordinate on the website questions.

8. 2010 CALENDAR

Paul and the calendar group are aiming for the second week in July to consider photos. It is important to get the calendar done early as we plan to purchase approximately 100 calendars from Café Press to sell, rather than just offering on-line sales. Paul mentioned the idea of offering a prize of a calendar for photo submissions from the general public if selected for the calendar. Katherine will develop a "sandwich" card for the Old House Fair to advertise for photo submissions. Liz will bring a calendar to the booth to show as a demo. We should have a release form. Liz has some information on that kind of form. Our goal is to have a calendar by early September if not sooner.

9. TEE SHIRT ORDER

Let the wild rumpus begin! We needed to have a minimum of 12 tees ordered to do a run of shirts with our wonderful North Park Historical Society logo that Vince designed. We decided that the standard tee for the Board of Directors will be in the black color. The tee for members will be the “Beefy Tee” men’s style in Deep Royal Blue. We got an order of 14 tees, including some extra in Deep Royal Blue to offer to our members who were not at the meeting. ***Katherine will prepare a flyer to send to members.*** *Update: The tees are in and look great! New member David is already wearing his, and Amy volunteered to be the model for the flyer. Thanks to both! Board members are reviewing the flyer, which will be distributed after it is approved at the next meeting. Others who ordered tees (Jody, Patrick, Sharon and Rickey) please bring a check made out to NPHS for your payment to the next meeting, and we will have your tee(s) for you. Short-sleeved tees are \$10.88 (including tax) and long sleeved tees are \$16.31 (including tax). If you have any questions, contact Katherine at info@northparkhistory.org.*

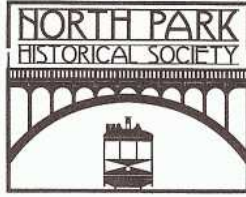
10. OTHER BUSINESS

Patrick brought up the concept of coordinating with Pasadena as a “sister community.” Pasadena has a bridge that is similar to the Georgia Street Bridge and a lot of California bungalows. Patrick moved a joint letter be prepared to come from NPHS and North Park Main Street to start a dialog and coordinate mutual tours. Paul seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. ***Patrick will draft a letter.***

Liz will explore coordinating with Ocean Beach Historical Society on a joint planning meeting. Their regular meetings are the third Thursday also.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **THURSDAY** July 16, 2009 at 6:30 pm, at the Masonic Lodge, 2nd floor conference room, 3795 Utah Street.



North Park Historical Society
2226 Dwight Street
San Diego, CA 92104
(619) 294-8990

City of San Diego
Michael Lengyel, Project Manager
1200 Third Ave., Suite 1400, SD 92101
mlengyel@sandiego.gov

July 1, 2009

Dear Mr. Lengyel:

The North Park Historical Society (NPHS) is thrilled to learn of the plan to reinstate the vertical North Park Theatre marquee sign. This project will complete the miraculous restoration of the theatre, which is one of our community's most important historical buildings. The NPHS Board of Directors voted unanimously to support this plan at our June 18, 2009 monthly meeting. We also support the sign having the original historical lettering, including the words "West Coast" at the top and no new lettering, consistent with the sign as seen in this 1930 photograph. The picture is reproduced from the chapter devoted to the theatre in *North Park: A San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946* by Donald Covington.



North Park Theatre, circa 1930
Photo courtesy of B'hend & Kaufmann Archives

The North Park Historical Society's mission is to preserve North Park's cultural and architectural history through research, education, and public outreach. If our non-profit organization can be of any assistance on this project, please contact us at info@northparkhistory.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen Hon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and the last name "Hon" clearly legible.

Stephen Hon, President

c: Patrick Edwards
David Cohen
Elizabeth Studebaker