

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NOVEMBER 2009 MEETING NOTES\***

**DATE:**        **November 19, 2009**

**TIME:**        **6:30 PM**

The next meeting will be on **THURSDAY January 21, 2010 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. NO FORMAL MEETING IN DECEMBER 2009 – HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

**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 (December 9, 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  
Louise Russell  
Elizabeth Studebaker  
Jody Surowiec  
Sharon Turner  
Bill Vivian  
Hilda Yoder

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

Ed Orozco  
Vince Rivera  
Randy Sappenfield  
Michael Thornhill  
Paul Wade

Special guest Bertha Klann also joined us.

**2.        AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The November Agenda was accepted as proposed. **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:** Bertha, who is an original North Park History Committee member, gave a file of historical information to George that will be useful for the new book and Once Upon a Time in North Park articles. Thank you, Bertha! It's always good to see you!

### 3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The draft minutes from the October 15, 2009 NPHS Meeting were accepted.

## BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

### 4. TREASURER'S REPORT

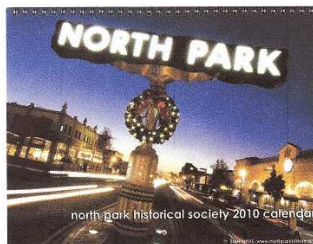
Sharon reported we have had 4 members join/renew in October, with additional contributions of \$95. Thanks for renewals from Ed and Jody on the Board, and welcome to new members Vicki Granowitz (and husband Bill), and Juliet Chan. We also sold 21 books, 12 of which were purchased wholesale by SOHO for their museum stores. The Grove bought 5 books wholesale, 2 were sold on Amazon.com, and 2 were sold locally. Other revenue in October included 11 walking tours and one member tee shirt. Update: *Also welcome to our newest member, Afton Miller, who joined in November and who will always be our first and best book customer (she bought 12 of our North Park history books in May 2007, when it was first published).*

## ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

### 5. 2010 CALENDAR

The calendar is even more beautiful this year than last, with a holiday photo of the North Park sign by Christian Michaels of Flashpoint Pictures on the cover, a classic Craftsman kitchen shot by Paul Wade for November (nice stove, Randy!), and a nighttime picture of a brightly-lit bungalow on Spruce Street by Louise Russell for December. Thanks to everyone marketing this high-quality product, including Broker Bill Vivian, who is handing out hundreds of flyers; Ed Orozco, who is distributing our announcement card (see to the right) and arranged for us to sell the calendars at Vintage Religion; Liz Studebaker and Amy Colony at North Park Main Street, who put the announcement in their newsletter; Vince Rivera, who designed a great advertisement for the *North Park News* (below); and Louise Russell, who also distributed flyers and announcement cards. Vintage Religion has sold 11 as of this meeting. Bill moved and Patrick seconded to repeat the ad in the next issue of the *North Park News*. The vote

#### ***A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT!***



The 2010 North Park  
Calendar!

Featuring current photos of a  
charming historical  
San Diego neighborhood

Produced by the North Park  
Historical Society  
A non-profit 501c3 organization

Available at Vintage Religion, 3821 32<sup>nd</sup> Street for only \$15

Or buy on-line: [www.northparkhistory.org](http://www.northparkhistory.org)

*Give the gift of North Park!*

**The 2010 North Park Calendar**

Available at Vintage Religion  
3821 32nd Street  
619-280-8408

**\$15**

Produced by The North Park Historical Society  
[www.northparkhistory.org](http://www.northparkhistory.org) 619-294-8990

was unanimous for approval. ***Katherine will coordinate with North Park News.***

Update: Sales picked up in December and we only have about 15 in our supply. People can still purchase calendars for \$20 on our website, [www.northparkhistory.org](http://www.northparkhistory.org) when we sell out (but if you want one for \$15, better hurry to Vintage Religion!).

## **6. NOTE CARDS PROJECT**

The photos for the note cards are still in process of being selected. The group suggested the calendar committee take the time to meet and pick the best photos. Since note cards are not time sensitive the way calendars are, there is no need to rush. Also, having the cards produced at other printers could be explored, in addition to Café Press.

## **7. BOOK PROJECT**

**New Book 1946-Present.** The New Book Committee had a productive meeting to strategize on topics and general organization of the book. General topics mentioned in the brainstorming included events, organizations, architecture, businesses, arts, politics, sports, and the never-ending discussion about North Park's boundaries (Where in the World is North Park??) We need a release form for photos and stories that community members may provide. Questions that will be discussed as the project continues include who will be the author(s), where will credits be noted, and how far forward from 1946 should the North Park story be taken. It's exciting to see this new project begin! Anyone wanting to contribute a photo or story can contact NPHS at [info@northparkhistory.org](mailto:info@northparkhistory.org)

**Reprinting the History Book 1896-1946.** We currently have 90 perfect bound books (popular for gifts and coffee tables), and 20 coil-bound books (useful for researchers and public display). Patrick moved and Liz seconded to proceed with printing about 200 coil-bound books, which can be produced by Wholesale Reprographics very cost effectively, and about 20 laminated cover, velo-bound versions for heavy use, as long as the total cost is below \$1,500.00. The vote was unanimous for approval. *Katherine will coordinate with Wholesale Reprographics.*

## **8. DRYDEN DISTRICT UPDATE**

The City has hired a consultant to write the North Park historical context statement and do the historical survey. Staff has said the survey first will address the area of the Dryden District and to the east. Most recently, however, Mayor Sanders has proposed slowing down historical district processes and laying off City staff who work on historical designations. We are discouraged by the Mayor's failure to value our unique homes and neighborhoods, and his failure to recognize that home values rise with historical designations, and that restoration creates jobs for local craftsmen and women.

## **9. VIRTUAL LIBRARY**

We have 330 entries in the database. KTU+A reviewed the file and fixed some aspects of the template so we can enter data more efficiently. They will test the sample on-line to see how the database works on the Web. The group will keep entering data.

## **10. COORDINATION WITH OTHER GROUPS**

No report on Pasadena. Steve and Liz plan to meet with the Ocean Beach Historical Society to discuss possible coordination.

## **11. TOYLAND PARADE**

The parade is December 5 on University Avenue from Utah to Iowa. Bill will drive his car, and has the magnetic "posters" for the car doors. Marching are Patrick, Steve, Ed, Vince, Michael, and the WATER TOWER (courtesy of Ed's special guest). Louise and Katherine are riding on

the back of Bill's car and doing the beauty queen wave. Vince has a new costume planned, but we won't spoil the surprise. Update: *NPHS had a blast! A special report is being prepared with photos. Watch for it soon.*

## **12. HOLIDAY PARTY**

Save our typical meeting date of December 17 at 6:30 pm for a holiday get-together. We are exploring appropriate places (thanks to Bill, Ed, and David for our choices). There will be a special notice soon.

## **13. OTHER BUSINESS**

Sidewalk Stamps: The Gensler employee we met on the commercial walking tour provided files to George. Katherine now has the CD. We will explore ways to put the data on-line or incorporate into the virtual library database. Vince has noted that there is a list on the web of sidewalk stamp photos, possibly compiled by University Heights. We agreed to give a copy of the North Park history book to Tom at Gensler for being so helpful. Update: *George wrote a letter and delivered a copy of the book to Tom.*

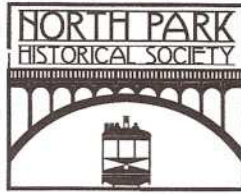
Support to University Heights: Ernie Bonn asked for a letter of support for their plan of adaptive reuse of the Normal School building on Park Boulevard as a joint-use library with the elementary school. SOHO and the University Heights Historical Society support this project. Liz moved and Patrick seconded we provide a letter. The vote was unanimous for approval. ***Katherine will write a letter for Steve's signature.*** Update: *The letter was e-mailed to Ernie on November 27. Ernie Bonn replied on December 8: Thanks so much for the support letter. We had a very positive meeting this morning with Sup't Kowba and members of his staff plus the Vice Pres. of the School Board, Richard Barrera. Our request for a letter of intent will move forward to the School Board in January. I will keep you posted.* See the letter at the end of these meeting notes.

Support for North Park Theatre Marquee Sign: A few City Councilmembers are questioning the expenditure for completion of the theatre marquee with the vertical ("dagger") sign component. The theatre would appreciate a letter of support being sent to all Councilmembers prior to the upcoming vote. Patrick moved and Liz seconded NPHS send a letter. The vote was unanimous for approval. ***Katherine will write a letter for Steve's signature.*** Update: *The letter was e-mailed to all City Councilmembers November 20. The project has been approved, and we look forward to participating in "grand opening" ceremonies early next year.* See the letter at the end of these meeting notes.

Community Plan Update: George is helping on this project. Also, Katherine is participating on the North Park Community Plan Update Advisory Committee.

## **14. NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be on **THURSDAY** January 21, 2010 at 6:30 pm, at the Masonic Lodge, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, 3795 Utah Street. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**



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

November 27, 2009

Superintendent William Kowba  
& School Board Members  
San Diego Unified School District  
4100 Normal Street  
San Diego, CA 92103

Re: Consideration of a Joint-use University Heights Library in the  
Nationally Designated Teachers Training Building Annex #1

Dear Superintendent Kowba and Members of the School Board:

The North Park Historical Society strongly supports the efforts of our sister community, University Heights, to restore and adaptively reuse the Teachers Training Building Annex #1 as a joint-use library.

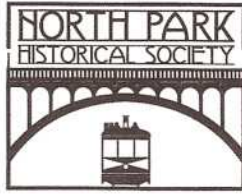
The site is a key reminder of the earliest development in Greater North Park, when the College Hill Land Association envisioned a community with a branch of the Methodist University of Southern California in Los Angeles as its centerpiece. As related in *North Park: A San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946* by the late Donald Covington, "The University was to be called the San Diego College of Arts of the University of Southern California, and it was to be located where the present day Board of Education is on Normal Street. The *Golden Era Magazine* in November 1888 said, 'Where could a more desirable location be found? Here nature has eclipsed art, and here art will do its utmost to eclipse nature.' When the 'Boom Went Bust' in the 1890s, construction of the college ceased, and in 1896 the USC directors reconveyed the site and unfinished foundation to the company, provided land would be donated to the state for a normal school."

A joint-use library in the historic Teachers Training Building would benefit students of Alice Birney Elementary School, University Heights, the Greater North Park area, and all of San Diego by opening this site to the public and returning the educational use of the building in a revitalized form. We hope that the SDUSD and School Board will support this goal.

Sincerely,

Stephen Hon  
President





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

November 20, 2009

City of San Diego Council Members:

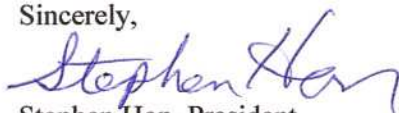
The North Park Historical Society (NPHS) Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the plan to reinstate the vertical North Park Theatre marquee sign at our June 18, 2009 monthly meeting. This project will complete the miraculous restoration of the theatre, which is one of our community's most important historical buildings. What could be a more effective sign that the City values revitalization of North Park's commercial core than the full restoration of this historical icon consistent with the following 1930 photograph? Please vote to expend the committed redevelopment funds to complete the theatre restoration, as supported by all North Park community planning groups and organizations.



North Park Theatre, circa 1930  
Photo courtesy of B'hend & Kaufmann Archives  
(Source: *North Park: A San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946*)

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](mailto:info@northparkhistory.org).

Sincerely,

  
Stephen Hon, President

c: Patrick Edwards  
David Cohen  
Elizabeth Studebaker