

**NORTH PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
HISTORY COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 2008 MEETING NOTES\***

**DATE:** February 26, 2008

**TIME:** 6:30 PM

**NOTE:** To help members remember their commitments; action items are noted in *bold italics* in these meeting notes. **CONTACT KATHERINE FOR OUR NEXT MEETING LOCATION.**

\*Contains updated information as of date of preparation (March 13, 2008)

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Steve welcomed our continuing members Bill, Vince, Ed, Michael, Bertha, Hilda, Liz, and George.

**2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Steve reviewed the agenda; there were no changes suggested. *Steve will develop the next agenda. Katherine will distribute it to the committee and to Beth for posting on the website.*

**3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE**

The minutes from the January 22, 2008 meeting were accepted.

**4. MEMBER COMMENTS**

Vince is working on an artist's rendering of an historic view of the Georgia Street Bridge, which could be used as a logo.

**5. BOOK UPDATE**

From January 9 to February 26, we sold 3 books, and Main Street sold 23 books. A letter was sent to NPCA, and the book sponsors have received their seed money. Katherine gave about 40 index-card sized book announcements to Bill.

**6. WALKING TOURS**

The next dry run tour will be of the commercial area and will be held March 29 starting at 9:00 am. Hilda's next-door-neighbor, who is a teacher, has gathered a group of about 16 people to be our next guinea pigs. Michael will lead the tour. *George will e-mail Michael the leader text. George and Michael need to do a practice run to review what we learned the last time.* When we do the tours for real, we are anticipating charging \$5 for a guidebook, \$10 for a tour (includes a guidebook), and \$15 for a couple for a tour (get one guidebook to share). For publicity ideas, we discussed contacting Rod Luck with KUSI, Ken Kramer (also tell him about the book), and Dave Scott, KUSI weather guy.

George noted that University Heights Historical Society printed about 500 of their walking tour guidebooks, and have sold about 180. We should do our printing in smaller increments, because we may make changes as we conduct the tours.

## **7. ONCE UPON A TIME ARTICLE**

Vince completed his article about street lights in the commercial district, which were installed and lit at a “Carnival of Light” in 1926. We aren’t sure if any of the remaining lights on University are original. *Liz will ask Jay Turner.*

*For the May newsletter, Bill will write an article about the Richardson house and barn at 3425 31<sup>st</sup> Street. For the July newsletter (or in case Bill gets delayed), Katherine has written an article about how the Piggly Wiggly grocery store got its name. For September, Bill promised to do an article about John F. Kennedy’s campaign parade on The Boulevard. For November, George will write an article about the history of the Toyland Parade.*

## **8. NORTH PARK DRYDEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT**

Katherine reported that the City has the proposed Dryden District on the 2008 HRB Work Schedule. Staff should begin reviewing the application in June.

## **9. NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

This idea has been discussed for some time. Excerpts from past meeting notes are presented below.

October 21, 1999 History Committee Meeting: North Park History Committee would like to become an entity in order to obtain the 501C3 standing.

June 26, 2007 History Committee Meeting: We would have enhanced stature and influence as a stand-alone historical society, like La Jolla, University Heights, La Mesa, and many other communities. The proposed North Park Historical Society would be a separate non-profit, tax exempt organization called a 501(c)(3), which could accept donations that would be tax deductible for the donors. We would be able to qualify for grants with this kind of status. Karon noted more people would be willing to donate money if they could have a tax deduction. We are just starting to consider this possible activity. Questions from attendees included:

- Would the proposed historical society be competing for the same donations as other North Park organizations?
- What would happen to the NPCA History Committee?
- Who will maintain the historical society?
- How can we get legal advice regarding set up and issues to consider?

January 22, 2008 Committee Meeting: We talked about “graduating” from a committee of NPCA to the North Park Historical Society. After 20 years, maybe it is time. The kinds of activities we may be able to do differently include conducting advocacy without potential conflicts with NPCA, fundraising as a 501(c)(3) entity so donors could get a tax write-off, applying for grants for larger efforts, and having equal status with our peers such as the University Heights Historical Society and many groups that form the Congress of History.

In the current meeting, we noted that as a committee, we have accomplished a lot, including completing the book and the proposed Dryden District application, and

planning walking tours. If we were a stand alone group, we could acquire our own resources to do advocacy and education. We would have more clout in the preservation community. We could sponsor a lecture series, and attract good speakers. Liz noted North Park Main Street needs help in protecting historical buildings from demolition.

**At the completion of the discussion, George moved and Hilda seconded that we take action to establish the North Park Historical Society. The motion was approved unanimously.**

We need to develop a work plan or proposal to NPCA, outlining our vision of how we separate and how we continue to work together. The book, the Dryden District, and the walking tours are three projects we would want to continue to manage as the North Park Historical Society. Areas where we would continue to cooperate with NPCA include providing “Once Upon a Time in North Park” articles and participating in the Renaissance awards judging. We will meet again on March 11 to review a draft proposal. *Update: An “Agreement between NPCA and the Newly Founded North Park Historical Society” has been drafted and will be sent to the NPCA Board by March 19 so they have time to review it before the Board meeting on March 26.*

We need to register North Park Historical Society as a fictitious business name to reserve the name while we prepare the paperwork to establish a 501c3 nonprofit entity. *Update: The name has been reserved. When we file as a 501c3, we will need to re-file the name as a nonprofit corporation.*

Tasks we need to accomplish to establish a 501c3 corporation include:

- File Articles of Incorporation with State
- Apply for state and federal income tax exemptions
- Determine operational structure
- Write corporate bylaws
- Select a Board of Directors
- Hold an initial meeting
- Start a North Park Historical Society bank account

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE PROJECTS**

Michael showed the *North Park News* from September 1998, which had a big article about the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PSA plane crash that occurred on September 25, 1978. The plane crashed in the vicinity of Dwight and Nile, and Saint Augustine’s was a temporary morgue for the victims. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this tragic event will be this September. There are several plaques about the crash. We could contact Terence at the *North Park News* to see if he is planning another retrospective, and do our own article.

## **11. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on **TUESDAY** March 25, 2008 at 6:30 pm. Call Katherine at 619-294-8990 or e-mail us at [info@northparkhistory.org](mailto:info@northparkhistory.org) for the meeting location.