

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MAY 2008 MEETING NOTES***

DATE: May 27, 2008

TIME: 6:15 PM

The next meeting will be on **TUESDAY June 24, 2008 at 6:15 pm, at Ed Orozco's Cottage, 3775 Utah Street (across the street from Jefferson School)**

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 (June 17, 2008)

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:

George Franck
Stephen Hon
Katherine Hon
Ed Orozco
Jody Surowiec
Elizabeth Studebaker
Sharon Turner
Bill Vivian
Hilda Yoder

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

Vincent Rivera
Michael Thornhill
Paul Wade

We also welcomed visitors Linda Gwizdak and Dennis Byrne, who are interested in North Park history.

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 NPCA website.***

The Burlingame House Tour is June 7. Bill is going in the morning. Ed, Steve, and Katherine are planning on going. *Update: The five-house tour was interesting, especially from the perspective of differences from what we are planning for our walking tours. The Burlingame tours are arranged once every two years, and focus on the inside of the homes. They had many volunteer docents throughout the homes to monitor visitors, and*

some docents provided more information than others. Dennis provided a particularly good introduction to the house he was at – nice job! It was an event that was definitely worth attending.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The minutes from the April 29, 2008 History Committee meetings were approved and have been posted on our website www.northparkhistory.org. Draft minutes of our meetings will continue to be sent to the NPCA webmaster for posting on the NPCA website as soon as they are prepared. The minutes will be posted on the NPHS website after they are approved at the subsequent NPHS meeting.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. DISCUSSION OF BY-LAWS ISSUES

Katherine prepared a revised draft of the bylaws based on the comments at our Initial Meeting, and sent them to Richard Miller of Lost Your Marbles Too, who is Chair of the Sierra Club's Bylaws Committee, for review. Richard received the draft bylaws and returned review comments. Katherine is balancing his excellent comments that would simplify the bylaws versus requirements for certain clauses to satisfy the federal tax exemption application (IRS Form 1023). *Liz and Dennis volunteered to help review the bylaws.*

We discussed the issue of dues for general “members” who will be supporting associates and not voting members, as decided at our Initial Meeting. We decided that Board members should pay dues. We discussed various possible levels of dues. We decided we should each check on other organization dues and finalize our decisions at the next meeting. A clause stating the “dues shall be set by the Board” should be in the bylaws instead of a fixed set of values.

5. TAX-EXEMPT PAPERWORK FILING

The next task for forming the 501(c)(3) corporation is completing the tax exemption paperwork. *Steve and Katherine are working on drafts for state and federal filings*, based on the guidance in the NOLO book, How to Form a Nonprofit Corporation in California by Anthony Mancuso. We plan to have a draft of the application and supporting narrative attachment for board members to review at the next meeting. Katherine noted that the purpose and objectives have been modified and re-ordered to align better with the requirements of the tax-exemption application. The modified objectives in the draft bylaws are below.

SECTION 1. OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

The primary purpose of this corporation shall be to conduct research and educational outreach in order to facilitate preservation of North Park's cultural and architectural history.

Objectives of this corporation for accomplishing the above purpose shall be:

1. To market and distribute the book on the history of North Park's first 50 years, entitled North Park: A San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946.
2. To coordinate with other organizations on public historical education and preservation efforts, including designation of historical districts and/or structures.
3. To develop and conduct walking tours relating factual educational information about the history of various areas in North Park.
4. To research and write objective articles about the history of North Park's people, landmarks, architecture, homes, commercial buildings, tracts, and other topics for publications.
5. To make and sponsor presentations of factual information useful to helping the public understand the origin and significance of historical resources in the community, including buildings, landmarks, and other structures.
6. To organize, convert to digital format (when possible) and utilize for research purposes documents, slides, data, notes, photos, and various ephemera and records related to history donated to the North Park Historical Society, and to establish a North Park/Covington collection for eventual donation to the San Diego Historical Society for preservation.
7. To conduct outreach to schools regarding neighborhood history.

In addition to approved bylaws, the tax-exemption submittal will require Articles of Incorporation that have been stamped as endorsed by the State. *Update: On June 10, we received the package from the Secretary of State with our stamped endorsed copies of the Articles of Incorporation. The official date of the North Park Historical Society beginning existence as a corporation is May 7, 2008.*

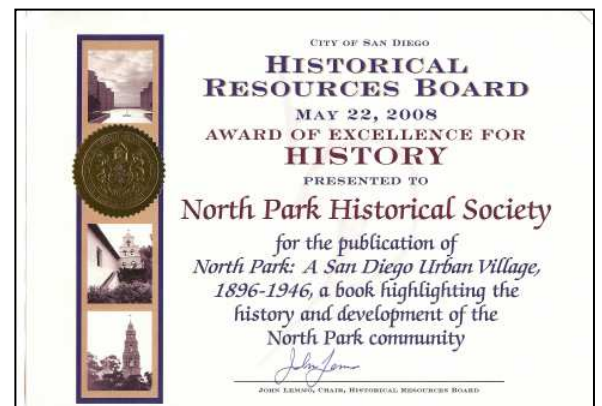
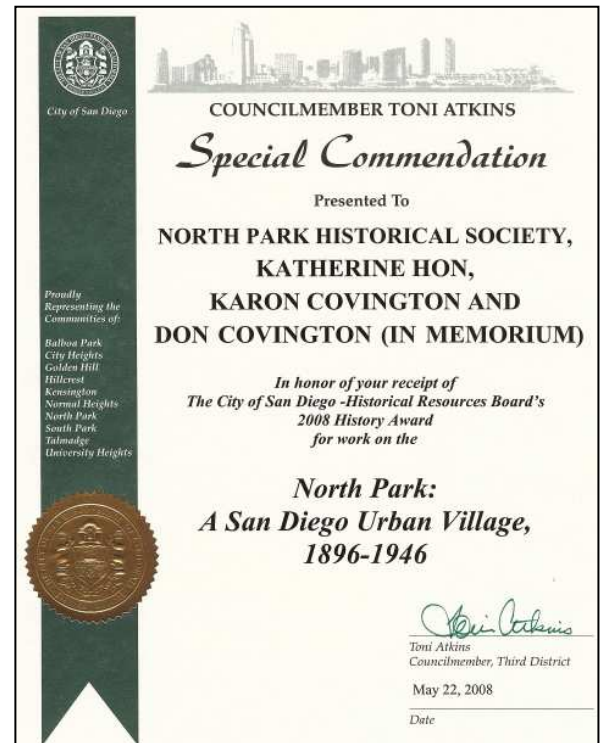
This closes the business portion of the meeting.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

6. BOOK UPDATE

Our excitement in May was the May 22nd ceremony for the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board Annual Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation. The North Park Historical Society, Katherine Hon, Karon Covington, and Don Covington (in memoriam) received the Award for History “for the publication of North Park: A San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946, a book highlighting the history and development of the North Park community.” We also received a Special Commendation from Councilmember Toni Atkins for the HRB award and for our work on the book. Ken Kramer was there to receive his HRB award for Education for the NBC 7/39 show *About San Diego*. Katherine presented Ken with an honorary copy of the book, saying she hoped he “would find many interesting stories about a unique corner of San Diego – North Park.” He very graciously received the gift and said he was sure he would enjoy reading it.

Also, our poster of the book cover looked great in the lobby of City Hall, being first in the row of posters of award-winning projects.



7. WALKING TOURS

We are ready to do an official commercial tour. For the guidebook, we just need to replace the Nordberg building photo since it is finished now. We need to do a dry run of the residential tour with Bill leading. We need to set dates for the real tours so we can develop advertising flyers we can perhaps distribute at some of the Bird Park concerts. Liz verified that we can meet inside the North Park Theatre to start the tour in a quiet area, which will help get people oriented. *Update: Liz, Bill, Michael, Carl, Katherine and Steve met on June 5 to set dates. **Our date for the residential tour is August 23 at 9:30 am**, with a dry run the second week in July. Bill and a few others will meet in June for a pre-dry run. **Our date for the commercial tour is September 13 at 8:30 am**. We will charge \$10 per person, which includes one guidebook. We will charge \$5 each for extra copies of the guidebook.*

A group consisting of Michael, Steve, Liz and Patrick (and anyone else who wants to join them) will finalize the places to stop and talk for the commercial tour, as street noise is an issue. Katherine developed a draft half-page flyer modeled after the index-card book advertisements, and Carl will make it look more professional. We like the idea of having tour helpers in costumes that represent various decades of North Park's development - 1930s and 1940s anyone?

We only want about 15 people per tour as larger groups tend to be more difficult to herd and they find it difficult to hear. If we get a large response, we may stagger the group(s) by 10 or 15 minutes and have another tour guide lead.

8. ONCE UPON A TIME ARTICLE

Bill has written an article about the Richardson house and barn at 3425 31st Street for the May NPCA newsletter, which will likely be electronic format. ***Jody will ask the NPCA board and Newsletter editor when the NPCA newsletter will come out.*** We will post Bill's article on our www.northparkhistory.org website since publication has been delayed. George's article on neon signs in North Park was featured in the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) magazine. It looks great! Congratulations, George! Ed and George are working on spiffing up Ed's article about his cottage for an upcoming SOHO issue. *Update; Bill's article has been posted on the www.northparkhistory.org website on the Archive of Past Articles page.*

9. HISTORY CHATS

We discussed ways in which we can engage the community in gatherings where we informally talk about history. Dennis suggested having a facilitator and a casual meeting place, like . . . the porch of a lovely Burlingame home (thank you, Dennis for volunteering!) where the topic could be defined in advance as a particular tract or neighborhood, or the trolley, and people could come and share stories and photos. We thought the trolley would be a good first topic. We could also set some meeting time aside for just shooting the breeze about North Park in the past, or historical research.

10. MILLS ACT WORKSHOP

A recent article noted that the losses in tax revenue from the Mills Act benefit are offset by the “halo effect” of increased home values in a radius around the designated historical house. The continuation of the Mills Act workshop will be June 6. *Update: Hilda attended this meeting.*

11. REVIEWS FOR CITY OF SAN DIEGO

The City of San Diego requested help in reviewing requests for changes to properties more than 45 years old. The object of the review is to decide if there should be a historic study done of the particular building and proposal for changes. George volunteered to be on this committee, which includes Judi O’Boyle and Ernie Bonn and other folks from Uptown. George has received five referrals, including the new Linkery location on 30th (great restaurant, but it is disturbing that the review was requested after the building had been changed, which is part of the City processing problem).

12. FUTURE MEETING LOCATIONS

Ed has approached the Masonic Lodge on Utah Street, asking if we could use one of their meeting rooms for our monthly meetings. He got a special tour of the interior of this historic building (lucky!) and may be able to arrange a tour for the Board. Katherine will coordinate with Ed on a “Letter of Intent” to explain our request and our purpose and activities for the Masonic Lodge Board to consider. *Update: Ed delivered the letter to the manager on May 29, and the Masonic Lodge Board will let us know in July.*

13. OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE PROJECTS

Katherine received an e-mail from the San Diego Historical Society asking if the North Park Historical Society would like to receive the following items related to the Switzer family that were donated but that do not fit in the SDHS collection:

- 4 - Stamps; souvenir stamps from the Panama-California Exposition of 1915 in San Diego.
- 1 - Booklet; "Why Not San Diego County, California?" from the Panama-California Exposition of 1915.
- 1 - Newsletter and Envelope; of the East End Gang postmarked January 5, 1950.
- 1 - Program; "East End Gang 25th Anniversary, August 6, 1960"
- 1- Announcement; for performance of "Cinderella" cantata.
- 1 - Envelope; "Rural Route No. 5/3".
- 1 - Business Card; from Laske & Marks Jewelry and Optial Co. Inc.
- 1 - Slightly damaged ostrich feather fan

The question is do we want to get into the business of taking materials, since we don’t have a space. After discussion, we decided that in this case, as the materials are small, we could take them. Liz moved and Jody seconded that NPHS accept the donation of North Park relevant items offered by the SDHS. The vote was unanimous in favor. Ed and Jody volunteered to help develop a display if appropriate. *Update: Katherine picked up the materials on June 10. The booklet is especially interesting. It may be something we can scan and make a pdf to put on our website.*

Ed also noted he is acquiring a film of the demolition of the Jefferson School. Sharon said she has a projector. Dennis suggested someone with a digital video camera film the

movie when it is shown, in case of disaster with the film. Dennis will explore getting a light white box, which is made for showing old film.

14. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **TUESDAY** June 24, 2008 at 6:15 pm, at Ed Orozco's Cottage, 3775 Utah Street (across the street from Jefferson School). Thank you, Ed for hosting us again!