

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

DATE: March 19, 2009

TIME: 7:00 PM

The next meeting will be on **THURSDAY April 16, 2009 at 7:00 pm, at the Masonic Lodge, 3795 Utah Street (Utah and North Park Way).**

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 (April 7, 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:

Steve Hon
Katherine Hon
George Franck
Ed Orozco
Vince Rivera
Elizabeth Studebaker
Michael Thornhill
Sharon Turner
Hilda Yoder

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

Jody Surowiec
Bill Vivian
Paul Wade

NPHS members Randy Sappenfield and Louise Russell also participated in the meeting.

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The March Agenda was accepted as proposed. ***Steve will develop the next agenda. Katherine will distribute it to the committee and to Beth for posting on the NPCA web site.***

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

No changes to the draft minutes from the February 19, 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

Sharon reported on our income of \$500 from sales of calendars, books, guidebooks and residential walking tour sign-ups. As of April 7, 2009, the remaining supply of books with NPHS is 37 coil-bound and 142 perfect-bound.

Sharon investigated utilizing Paypal for online memberships. We decided to defer this for now.

This closes the business portion of the meeting.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

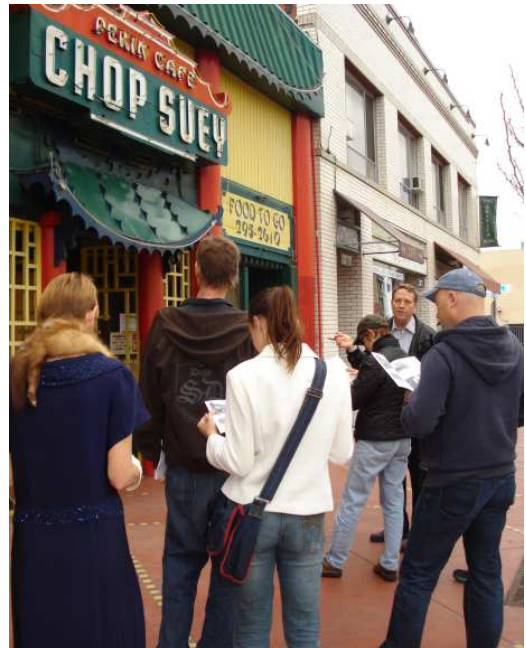
5. WALKING TOURS

Liz has over 20 sign-ups for the commercial tour, with 17 of those paid in advance. Steve, Ed, Louise, Hilda and Katherine will help with check-in and herding. Randy will park his beautiful 1930 Plymouth in front of the North Park Theatre. Liz has clearance to end the tour on the top floor of the parking garage. Louise will bring evaluation forms. Liz has the waiver form, clip boards, and guidebooks.

Update: More than 30 people attended. We had three groups. Thank you to guides Michael Thornhill, George Franck, and Patrick Edwards for excellent tours, and to Liz for her organizational efforts.



Michael Thornhill leads his group across 30th Street



Patrick Edwards (facing camera) describes the Pekin Restaurant and Granada Building



George Franck (fifth from left) discusses architecture in front of Hartley's Row

We set the date of April 11 for the weeding party. Jody has volunteered to help Sharon, Katherine and Steve. *Update: Katherine sent an e-mail on April 6 to see who can help weed.*

We should ask Manny with the *North Park News* about putting in an announcement for the walking tour in the Craftsman part of the paper. *Update: An announcement was in the North Park News, Scene Section of the February issue. As of April 7, we have 13 paid sign-ups for the residential tour.*

6. DRYDEN DISTRICT UPDATE

We received terrible news on March 19. Kelley Saunders with the City left a phone message with Katherine saying HRB staff decided to have the consultants who are working on the community update review the proposed district boundaries. Kelley is not working on the Dryden application and does not plan to until after July at the earliest. She is working on a project for Kensington instead. In July 2008, the City requested more documentation on why the area of the proposed district was special, and more detailed information on Edward F. Bryans to nominate him as a Master Builder. Katherine delivered a detailed Supplemental Application package on January 15, 2009. The Supplemental Application presents extensive new research conducted by Katherine, George, and Steve.

The group was discouraged and upset by news of the delay. No one understands why the proposed district boundaries need to be reviewed again. The district was proposed by Wayne Donaldson (now the State Historic Preservation Officer) as part of the community planning process in 1996. A change in the boundaries will slow the process even further. The group decided we need to send an e-mail to HRB staff to ask for clarification, and send a letter to Todd Gloria's office.

Update: Steve and Katherine spoke with Todd Gloria at the El Cajon Boulevard Sign Celebration on March 20. He was surprised that City staff had stopped working on the Dryden

District, and didn't understand the connection to the community planning process. Katherine delivered a complete copy of the Supplemental Application to Todd Gloria's office on March 26, including the transmittal letter at the end of these meeting notes. On April 3 we received this e-mail comment from the District 3 office: "District Three is home to many historic homes and buildings worthy of preservation," said Councilmember Todd Gloria. "I appreciate all of the work the residents of the Dryden district have done to preserve the character of this corner of North Park."

We should send an update letter to the district homeowners, and ask them to write/e-mail the HRB and the District 3 office. The project will obviously not be a priority for the City until the stakeholders speak out.

The three parts of the Supplemental Application have been posted on the NPHS website, www.northparkhistory.org on the Our Projects/Dryden District page. The Supplemental Application discusses three main issues. Section 1, the Supplemental Statement of Significance, discusses why the neighborhood qualifies as a historical district under Criterion A (exemplifies or reflects special elements of North Park's historical, social, economic and architectural development). Section 2, the Supplemental Boundary Justification, presents a detailed historical analysis of the District boundaries. Section 3 provides a nomination for Master Builder for Edward F. Bryans, who built more than a dozen homes in the proposed district.

7. CALENDAR PROJECT

The Calendar Working Group began meeting to start the process for the 2010 calendar, and will meet again in June.

8. PLANNING ISSUES

Last month, Paul noted that the LED signs recently mounted on the Sterns Gym building detract significantly from the appearance of this historically important North Park building. Vince provided an update. He said the City Development Services Department approved the sign being installed without the proper permit clearance, but the City planning staff decided that removing the signs would cause even more damage to the building.

George provided an update on the 2003 Historical Survey of North Park conducted by the Gensler company. The City wanted to have a consultant update the historical inventory, but no consultants responded to the Request for Proposal. A group of volunteers will help City staff in this effort, which will take about 1 year, and then be wrapped into the community plan update. Liz noted that an Advisory Group for the community plan update is forming. Various North Park groups are represented, including the MAD, PAC, Main Street, and University Heights Historical Society. Would anyone want to represent NPHS on this advisory group? Contact Liz if so.

9. KLUICKA SCHOLARSHIPS

Louise has received one application so far. The group discussed the evaluation criteria and provided input. The Kluicka Scholarship Working Group is Louise, Hilda, and Jody. *Update: Louise has received 7 applications as of the deadline. The Working Group will conduct their evaluation on April 9.*

Liz will schedule a presentation of the winner at the Dance Stage of the Spring Festival on May 17. Steve Whitburn is moderating that stage. The Working Group will see if the Klicka's want to come also.

10. UPDATE ON CONGRESS OF HISTORY EVENT

Our display table was next to SOHO at the conference. We sold 6 books and 2 guidebooks. We also provided 5 books to SOHO for sale by them in their store, and sent them an invoice for the books at our wholesale price of \$13.31 per book (no sales tax), which they paid as of April 7. The display tables were in the same room as the presentations, so Katherine and Steve got to hear many excellent talks on a variety of topics, including the history of surfing in Oceanside, and the forced relocation of Native American tribes to allow the construction of El Capitan Reservoir, which led to the establishment of the Barona and Viejas Reservations.

11. PROPOSAL FOR MAY MEETING

For our regular meeting in May, we proposed to have a history project show and tell, where we would conduct no business but bring our own history research projects to share.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

Liz met with District 3 and Engineering & Capital Projects staff about the Georgia Street Bridge. The Council office wants to make the bridge a centerpiece with better lighting and historical plaques.

George is attending the Neighborhood Historic Preservation Coalition meetings. He wanted to make sure it is ok to mention our activities, and the group agreed that was fine. Other groups, including Mission Hills and University Heights have been very accommodating about announcing our tours.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **THURSDAY** April 16, 2009 at 7:00 pm, at the Masonic Lodge, 2nd floor conference room, 3795 Utah Street.

March 23, 2009

City of San Diego
Council District 3
202 C Street, MS 10A
San Diego, CA 92101
Attn: Councilmember Todd Gloria

Subject: **Nomination of the North Park Dryden Traditional Historical District**

Dear Todd:

The North Park Historical Society (NPHS) sincerely appreciates your interest in our efforts to achieve designation of the **North Park Dryden Traditional Historical District**. As you know, the proposed district boundaries are 28th Street on the east, Pershing Avenue on the west, Upas Street on the south, and Landis Street on the north.

The Dryden District Working Group submitted the initial nomination package to the City Historical Resources Board (HRB) staff in May 2007. The application was prepared with guidance from HRB staff, including Diane Kane and Cathy Winterrowd. In response to the City's request for additional information in their review letter dated July 18, 2008, the Working Group submitted a Supplemental Application in January 2009. A copy of the City's review letter and our complete 2009 Supplemental Application are enclosed for your reference. The Supplemental Application presents the results of substantial additional research conducted by Working Group members Katherine Hon and George Franck. The submittal provides a Supplemental Statement of Significance for HRB Criterion A, a detailed Supplemental Boundary Justification, and documentation for nomination of Edward F. Bryans, who built 15 homes in the proposed District, as a Master Builder. To demonstrate the consistency of the proposed District boundaries with more than 15 years of research and planning conducted by the City of San Diego, the pocket of the submittal includes the brochure for the 1996 Historic Greater Mid-City San Diego Potential Historic Districts and Tour Route Map.

The NPHS was dismayed to learn on March 19, 2009 that HRB staff has ceased working on the Dryden District application, contrary to assurances in January that the goal was to hold at least the first hearing for the District by July 2009. Apparently staff want to have the District boundaries re-evaluated as part of the community plan update process. This is ironic because the initial recommendation for a Dryden District in 1996 evolved from a historical survey undertaken to implement the 1986 community plan. We are extremely upset and discouraged by this delay, and appreciate any assistance your office can lend in reinstating the North Park Dryden Traditional Historical District as a priority for this fiscal year.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Katherine Hon, NPHS Secretary at 619-294-8990, or khon@honconsultinginc.com.

Best regards,

Stephen Hon, President
North Park Historical Society

Enclosure: One binder