

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

**DATE:**       **April 16, 2009**

**TIME:**       **7:00 PM**

The next meeting will be on **THURSDAY May 21, 2009 at 6:00 pm**, at the second floor conference room of the Masonic Lodge, 3795 Utah Street (Utah and North Park Way). **PLEASE NOTE THE SPECIAL EARLIER TIME FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING. WE ARE HOLDING A HISTORY SHOW AND TELL FOR EVERYONE TO TALK ABOUT THEIR PERSONAL HISTORY PROJECTS OR FUN MEMORIES ABOUT NORTH PARK.**

**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 23, 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  
Ed Orozco  
Jody Surowiec  
Michael Thornhill  
Sharon Turner  
Paul Wade  
Hilda Yoder

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

George Franck  
Vince Rivera  
Elizabeth Studebaker  
Bill Vivian

Dennis Byrne and NPHS members Randy Sappenfield, Patrick Edwards and Kristen Arrivee also participated in the meeting. Thank you Patrick and Kristen for joining NPHS!

**2.       AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The April 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 March 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 \$315 from retail sales of 2 books; wholesale sales of books to SOHO (5 books), Vintage Religion (6 books), and Amazon.com (4 books); seven residential walking tour sign-ups; and one new membership.

Sharon made a motion requesting approval for reimbursement of \$54.36 to Steve Hon for purchase of a folding 6-foot long table to use at events, and reimbursement of \$142.60 to Katherine Hon for purchase of a continuation of web site hosting on GoDaddy for 2 years. Jody seconded. Approved unanimously (Steve Hon and Katherine Hon abstained.)  
This closes the business portion of the meeting.

## **ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING**

### **5. WALKING TOURS**

We have 23 sign-ups for the residential tour, with 18 of those paid in advance. Steve, Ed, Sharon and Katherine will help with check-in and herding. Bill and Michael will be our tour guides. Randy will park his amazing 1928 Model A Ford Phaeton at the Portal. Louise prepared evaluation forms. Katherine will bring the waiver form, clipboards, and guidebooks. Patrick noted a megaphone would be helpful for the tour guides. **Are there any former cheerleaders with a vintage megaphone out there??**

Sharon and Ricardo have offered to have their 1915 Dryden house on 28<sup>th</sup> Street open for the tour. The house is empty now, getting ready to be rented. They have put in an incredible effort to restore the exterior and interior.

The Portal weeding party was April 11. It was hard work! Jody, Steve, George and Katherine worked all morning just to get the knee-high grass pulled out. NPHS should initiate a "Friends of the Portal" group for regular gardening so the area doesn't get so out of control. The new owner of Jack Illes' house chatted with us and said she will help garden. She also said we can set our sign-up table in her driveway. Thank you, Kathleen!

For the commercial area, Patrick proposed a discreet number on the featured buildings so people could do a self-guided tour with our booklet. It was noted that tour guides George, Michael and Patrick each have a different perspective and focus, so people would experience a different tour depending on the guide. Next tours we should encourage any repeat attendees to go with a different guide.

*Update: We had 24 paid attendees and several guests. We had two groups. Thank you to guides Michael Thornhill and Bill Vivian for excellent tours. Katherine e-mailed a summary with several photos to NPHS members, tour attendees, and the North Park News. Randy's car stopped passers-by in their tracks, and our participants especially enjoyed going inside the Dryden house. As an unexpected bonus, we got to go inside Kathleen's house at the Portal too.*



*(From left) Randy, Michael, Katherine, Ed and Steve surround Randy's 1928 Model A Ford*

## **6. DRYDEN DISTRICT UPDATE**

Last meeting we reported that HRB staff delayed the Dryden District application in order to have a consultant who will be hired to work on the community plan update review the proposed district boundaries. As suggested by the NPHS Board, Katherine sent an e-mail to HRB staff to ask for clarification, and a letter to Todd Gloria's office with a copy of the Supplemental Application.

Here is the response we got from HRB staff:

Hi Katherine, we felt it was not the best use of limited staff resources to continue processing the North Park district when we are in the process of hiring a historical consultant to update the North Park survey focusing specifically on potential districts. As you stated, the Dryden district was identified in a previous survey. We are now updating that survey and we felt it was premature to take forward the district nomination until the consultant has a chance to review the area in a broader perspective. The intent is not to hold up the Dryden District until the community plan update is completed, but to delay for a short time the district processing allowing the consultant to conduct some of the necessary field work and historic research that would otherwise have to be done by staff. We anticipate asking the consultant to address this potential district as one of their first tasks. Staff will continue with the district processing once the consultant can provide some additional information.

Katherine asked in a follow-up e-mail if the consultant was hired and if anyone had read the information in the Supplemental Application that we provided January 15. This is the response:

Katherine, a consultant is not under contract and I cannot discuss the specifics until that happens. We have not reviewed the new material that was submitted in January.

We are grateful to Councilmember Todd Gloria, who pursued this issue with City staff, and sent a memorandum expressing his concerns to Mayor Sanders, copying William Anderson (City Planning Director) and Cathy Winterrowd (Historical Resources Program Coordinator).

We have drafted an update letter for the district homeowners. We will send the letter and memorandum and ask them to write/e-mail Councilmember Todd Gloria, thanking him for his support and telling him that the application should be processed this year. See the last two pages of these meeting notes for our letter and the memorandum.

## **7. CALENDAR PROJECT**

The Calendar Working Group has started taking photos. They plan to select photos in August.

## **8. PLANNING ISSUES**

George was not available this meeting to provide an update on the 2003 Historical Survey of North Park.

## **9. KLUICKA SCHOLARSHIPS**

Louise received eight applications. The Working Group conducted their evaluation on April 9. Hilda, Jody and Louise selected Julie Le as the recipient for the Kluicka Scholarship. She is a 4.4 W GPA student. Her community service includes Vietnamese American Youth Alliance, beach and lake clean ups, and St. Vincent de Paul. Her extracurricular activities include Aaron Price Fellow, Cardinals Interact Program, Junior Optimist Octagon International, and more. She “wants to help change people's health habits” with her career goal to become a doctor. She attends Hoover High School and was highly recommended by the facilitator of the Aaron Price Fellows Leadership Program and Program Director of the Cardinals Interact, and her AP US History Teacher. All of the students are worthy of the scholarship. It was a difficult decision, but the Working Group all agreed Julie should be the recipient.

*Liz will schedule a presentation of the winner at the Dance Stage of the Spring Festival on May 17.*

## **10. PROPOSAL FOR MAY MEETING**

The Bylaws state our annual meeting should be the fourth Tuesday in May. This is the meeting where we would hold any necessary elections. That day had been set when we were meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Michael moved and Hilda seconded to change the Bylaws for the Annual Meeting to be held in the month of May at a date and time determined by the Board of Directors. The motion was approved unanimously. *Update: The first paragraph of Section 8: Regular/Annual Meeting of the Bylaws has been changed to read as follows (changes in yellow):*

A Regular Meeting of directors shall be held annually in May at a date and time determined by the board of directors. The board of directors shall hold its annual meeting for the purpose of electing directors, officers, appointing the members of

the Executive Committee (if applicable), and transacting such other business as may come before it at the principal office of the organization or other such place as set by the board, **in May**.

We decided to have our annual meeting in May on the regular meeting day of the third Thursday, May 21. The only business item we will conduct will be to fill Board vacancies. The rest of the meeting will be for a history project show and tell, where we will bring our own history research projects to share with the group. The discussion could be about topics for research papers, events to conduct, and issues we've had doing research as well as personal history projects. **We will start the meeting an hour earlier, at 6:00 PM.**

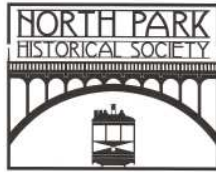
Regarding Board vacancies, our Bylaws allow for a maximum of 15 Board members. We currently have 12 Board members, so we have 3 vacancies. In accordance with our process, nominations from the Board were considered. Randy Sappenfield and Louise Russell were nominated and approved to be on the ballot at our May meeting. ***Katherine will send an e-mail to the Board members for other nominations, and compile the ballot for the May meeting. Since Board members serve two-year terms, this will be the only election issue at the meeting.***

#### **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

Patrick shared some of the books in his extensive collection, including a 1912 Edition of Home Building and Decoration, and a 1913 edition of the Chamber of Commerce Climate of San Diego. He also has a volume with the Better Homes and Gardens magazine that featured the house at 3404 Pershing Avenue (with the urns on the porch). The pages with that article were damaged, and several people had ideas on where to get a replacement article.

#### **12. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on **THURSDAY** May 21, 2009 at 6:00 pm, at the Masonic Lodge, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, 3795 Utah Street. **THIS IS A SPECIAL EARLIER TIME FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING ONLY.**



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

April 24, 2009

## **CITY STOPS WORK ON NORTH PARK DRYDEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT**

Dear Property Owner,

Nearly two years ago, the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) applied to have the area of Pershing Avenue and 28<sup>th</sup> Street, from Upas Street to just north of Landis Street designated as the North Park Dryden Historical District. Potential benefits if the District is formed include property tax reductions through the Mills Act and increased home values, in addition to preservation of the neighborhood's historic community character. We need your help to ensure that the application is presented to the City's Historical Resources Board (HRB) before the end of 2009.

City staff reviewed the initial application in 2008. In response to staff questions, NPHS submitted a Supplemental Application based on additional research to justify the district boundaries in January 2009. The Supplemental Application is on our web site at [www.northparkhistory.org/projects/#Dryden](http://www.northparkhistory.org/projects/#Dryden)

We were assured that City staff would make the Dryden District a priority this year, and would work to hold at least the first hearing for the District by July 2009. On March 19, City staff told us they had stopped working on the District. The City wants to hire a consultant to review the boundaries and provide feedback to staff, even though staff has also told us they have not looked at the extensive information NPHS provided in January.

Councilmember Todd Gloria wrote the attached memorandum to Mayor Sanders expressing his concerns about the delay. Although City staff assured Mr. Gloria that the District application would be processed by December 2009, we are afraid that the City will not make establishing the Dryden District a priority unless the neighborhood speaks out.

If you want your neighborhood established as the North Park Dryden Historical District, contact Councilmember Gloria (see contact information below). Thank him for his support and tell him that as a property owner in the potential historical district you want the application processed this year.

Councilmember Todd Gloria  
City of San Diego Council District 3  
202 C Street, MS #10A  
San Diego, CA 92101  
[toddgloria@sandiego.gov](mailto:toddgloria@sandiego.gov)  
619-236-6633

If possible, copy NPHS on your communication. Please contact us at [info@northparkhistory.org](mailto:info@northparkhistory.org) or 619-294-8990 if you have any questions or comments. Your voice is important. Thank you for your interest.

Best regards,

Stephen Hon  
President, North Park Historical Society





## OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER TODD GLORIA COUNCIL DISTRICT THREE

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 16, 2009  
**TO:** Honorable Mayor Jerry Sanders  
**FROM:** Councilmember Todd Gloria *Todd Gloria*  
**SUBJECT:** Delay in Processing Dryden Historical District Application

---

It has come to my attention that the Historical Resources Section of the City Planning and Community Investment Department has placed the processing of the proposed Dryden Historic District in North Park on hold. It has been explained to me that the purpose for this delay is to allow staff to obtain preliminary feedback from a consultant that will soon be hired to conduct a historical survey of the entire North Park Community as part of the North Park Community Plan Update.

I've learned that while City staff feel it is important to wait for preliminary feedback from the consultant before moving forward with the Dryden Historic District, the delay is not expected to exceed six months. I have also been told that the designation of the contributing properties prior to the end of 2009 would give property owners an opportunity to apply for Mills Act agreements in 2010, just as if there had been no delay.

Members of the North Park Historical Society have been working for over five years to compile the necessary documentation for the Dryden Historical District and put the application together. At the request of City staff, they updated and resubmitted their application in January.

Preservation of the historic character of District Three neighborhoods is of the utmost importance to me and my constituents. It is my hope that the application of the proposed Dryden Historic District will be considered as expeditiously as possible, and that the application will not be delayed beyond the six months that have been described.

Please keep me updated on the status of this application. Thank you for your consideration.

CC: William Anderson, City Planning and Community Investment Director  
Cathy Winterrowd, Historical Resources Program Coordinator