

# **North Park – Maintenance Assessment District Community Advisory Committee Minutes**

**[DRAFT see next month's minutes for corrections, if any.]**

## **March 11, 2013**

Lucky Morrison, Chair, called the regular meeting of the North Park (NP) Maintenance Assessment District (MAD) Community Advisory Committee to order at 6:00 p.m. at the North Park Adult Activity Center, 2719 Howard Avenue, in San Diego, CA.

### **1. Roll Call**

#### **Present:**

Chair Lucky Morrison, North Park Planning Committee (NPPC)  
Vice-Chair Rob Steppke, North Park Redevelopment Project Area Committee (PAC)  
Secretary Beth Swersie, North Park Community Association (NPCA)  
Beryl Forman, El Cajon Blvd Business Improvement Association (ECBBIA)  
Virginia Sherwood, Burlingame Neighborhood Association (BNA)  
Jody Surowiec, North Park Historical Society (NPHS)  
Kevin Clark, North Park Main Street (NPMS)  
Kitty Callen, Altadena Neighborhood Association (ANA)  
Karen Gross, San Diego County Apartment Association (SDCAA) (arrived 6:05 p.m.)

#### **Absent:**

Laurie Coskey, Resident Homeowner

#### **City Staff:**

Cory Peterson, Parks and Recreation  
Mike Rasmusson, Grounds Maintenance Manager  
Anthony Bernal, City Council District 3  
Ed Clancy, Transportation Engineering

### **2. Approval of minutes – February 11 meeting**

Approved 8-0-0 with correction of spelling of Jody's first name (Surowiec, Steppke) (prior to Gross arrival).

### **3. Chair's Report**

- Lucky reminded members to speak only when recognized by the Chair, and not to interrupt or have side conversations.
- Lucky noted that the Mini-Park behind the theatre may be funded in 2014.
- Lucky sent the attached letter regarding tree trimming to Cory, to be forwarded to the appropriate city staff people).

### **4. Councilmember's report – Anthony Bernal**

- Anthony noted that the Texas Street improvements were celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new North Park/University Heights sign at the foot of the hill (at Camino del Rio South).
- Anthony distributed the D3 newsletter and noted the page 4 article about the decision on Academy of Our Lady of Peace renovation plans.

### **5. Non-agenda Public Comment - none**

## 6. Main Street trash can request: replacement, placement and movement

Kevin presented the 3 requests (see attached exhibits for details), which were discussed and voted upon separately:

- 1) replace 3 concrete cans, which are badly deteriorated, with 3 decorative cans
  - a) Karen: can we reuse the cans that would be replaced?  
Cory: one may be unusable.
  - b) Anthony: concrete cans are emptied by City, decorative cans are emptied by MAD contractor.  
Beryl: do we have to empty decorative cans that have replaced concrete cans?  
Cory: we can ask the City to continue to empty the new cans, but they might not.
  - c) Rob: what is the City's responsibility for damaged cans?  
Anthony: we can ask them to replace but there hasn't been money in Environmental Services for any in the last few years.
  - d) Rob: is not against the idea of nicer cans when we need to replace them, but is concerned that the MAD is taking on more of the City's responsibilities (as in the case of palm tree trimming).
  - e) Kitty: we had agreed to complete Main Street's "line" of decorative trash cans.
  - f) Anthony: "enhanced services" include new cans, decorative cans, and service to those cans.
  - g) Mike: they have made requests for replacement by the city, but it has been "no go". They might be able to move usable concrete cans to new locations.
  - h) Karen: what are the comparative costs?  
Cory: \$600 for concrete, \$800 for ornamental, \$300 installation. The concrete ones work but look bad and the ornamental ones are graffiti-resistant.
  - i) Rob: is the footprint the same? Cory: yes, they use the same base.
  - j) Beth moved that we NOT replace the cans. No second.
  - k) Kevin moved that we replace the cans. Ginny seconded. Passed 5-3-1 [Beth, Lucky, Rob against; Beryl abstained]
- 2) add a decorative garbage can in front of stores on south side of University Ave west of Alabama Street
  - a) Rob: the business owners there were very cooperative regarding the surprise median construction.
  - b) Kevin: there is only a bus-stop can there now.
  - c) Cory: they might have to pour a pad for it.
  - d) Rob moved that we provide a new can. Beth seconded. Passed 9-0-0.
- 3) move the can in front of Home Mercantile, where there is a pedestrian barrier.
  - a) Rob & Lucky: we decided on locations and now we're being asked to move them because someone else put in the bike rack in an awkward place. Is it our responsibility to move it?
  - b) Kevin: is that how we want to view this?
  - c) Cory: it is more work to move the bike rack.
  - d) Rob: similar situation at bulb-out nearby. Kevin: but there is no utility box there and it is a bulb-out which is wider.
  - e) Karen: what is the cost to move it? Cory: about \$50.
  - f) Karon moved that we move the can at a not-to-exceed cost of \$50. Kevin seconded. Passed 9-0-0.

## 7. Slate for April Officers Election:

Chair- Rob Steppke, Vice-Chair- Lucky Morrison, Secretary- Beth Swersie--- confirmed.

## 8. Report on Operational and Maintenance Issues

Staff reported on operational and maintenance issues. Copies of the Staff Report for March were distributed earlier by email and are attached to these minutes. In addition to the information on that report, there were the following discussions:

- Beryl noted that the light is out on the "A" on the Boulevard sign. Mike says that the contractor wants to arrange traffic control.
- Rob noted that the trash can in front of Colimas is always overflowing with restaurant trash, as are the ones at nearby bus stops. Cory will talk to restaurant owner. Anthony says we might be able to install one of the old cans there.
- Ginny asked about progress on the Switzer Canyon Bridge Enhancement. Grant is no longer in Burlingame. Cory says that the process is slow. He will report next month.
- Mike will report each month on what tasks have been completed.

## **9. Tree trimming- response from Street Division MAD request**

- Cory: no response from Streets re letter.
- Anthony: contract will be docketed soon. he will look at backup material to see if our additional locations have been included. If not, then CM Gloria can ask that they include trees from our Sector D (which is the area we will be trimming next).

## **10. CiclosDias Presentation**

- Ed Clancy, Program Manager/Bicycle Initiatives/Transportation Engineering Operations Division presented plans for the "CicloSDias" (Bicycle Day), August 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The City has partnered with several non-profits.
- See <http://www.ciclosdias.com/> for details.
- Several streets will be closed. 20,000 participants are expected, to walk, bike, jog, shop.
- Residents will be notified several times. There will be designated parking areas for residents, and "safe-passage" to their vehicles. Busses will be re-routed.
- There will be trash and recycle boxes. No flyers on trees or poles. City will clean up afterward.

## **11. New business for future agendas**

- nothing noted.

## **12. Adjournment at 7:29 pm.**

**\*\*\*\* Next meeting: April 8, 2013.\*\*\*\***

**MAD letter to City Staff & Streets Division**

Cory Peterson  
District Manager

Mr. Peterson, at the February meeting of the North Park Maintenance Assessment District it was unanimously decided to ask you to contact Streets Division on our behalf for the expressed purpose of assisting in the matter of tree trimming. You attended the meeting along with Anthony Bernal of Council President Todd Gloria's office. During our discussion it was determined that the current tree trimming effort by the city, Queen Palms, would stop at the southern boundary of North Park. It was further understood that additional funds were available for continued trimming. The matter of our electronic inventory was brought up. It is my understanding that the detailed inventory included address location of our Queen Palms would greatly aid Streets Division in their determining the correct tree location. North Park is the only Maintenance District in San Diego to have invested in this type of detailed inventory. It was the desire of the Committee that you contact the appropriate people in Streets Division and request they continue trimming further north into North Park proper to the maximum allowable by funding.

Should you have any questions concerning this request, please contact me at my email address.

Thank You,  
Lucky Morrison  
NP MAD Chair



# North Park Main Street

A Service of the North Park Organization of Businesses, Inc.

3076 University Avenue

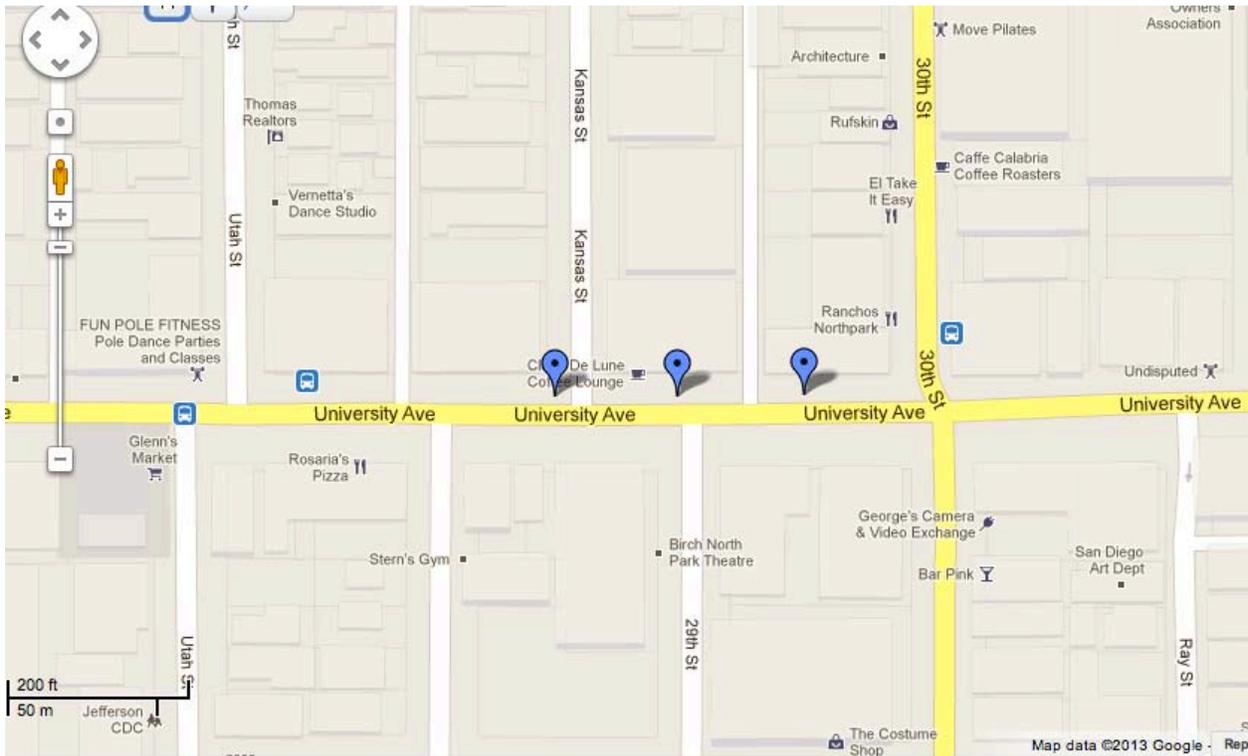
San Diego, CA 92104

Phone: (619) 294-2501 Fax: (619) 294-2502

npbid@northparkmainstreet.com www.northparkmainstreet.com

North Park Main Street requests the following actions by the MAD,

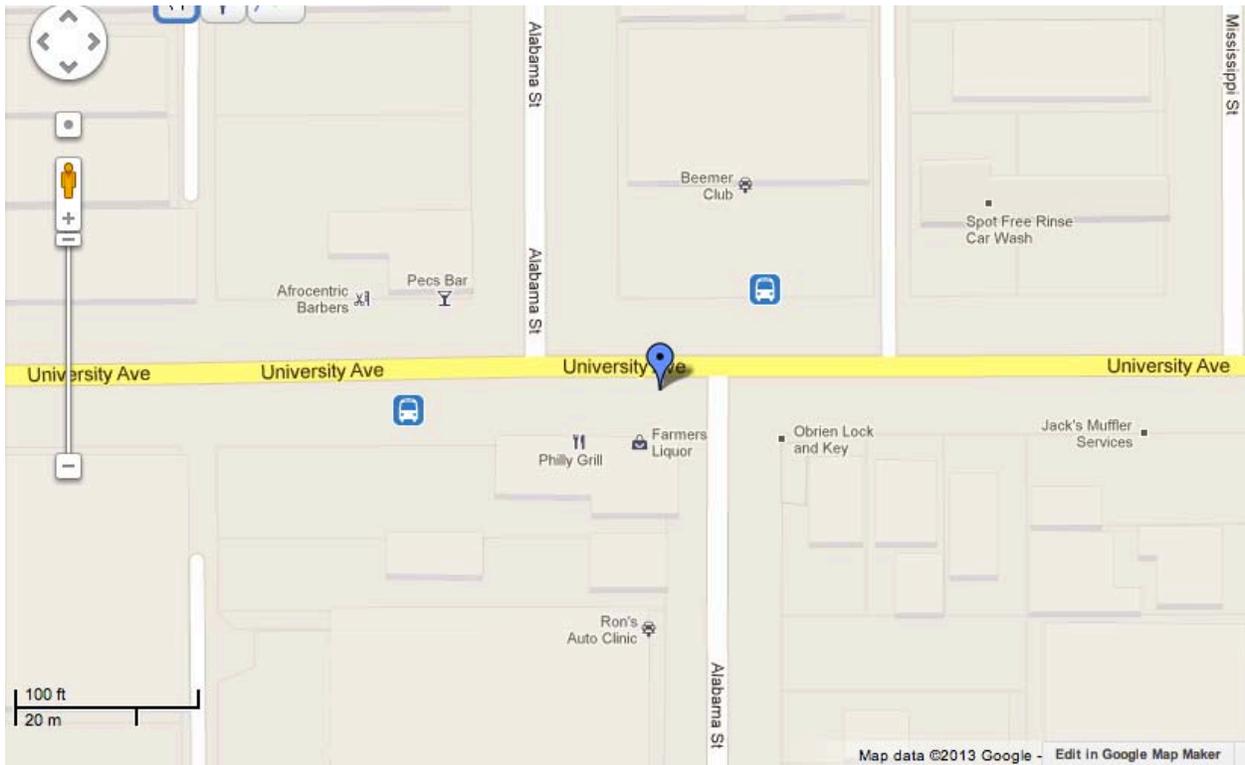
## Garbage Can Replacement



North Park Main Street requests that the North Park Maintenance Assessment district supports the replacement of 3 concrete garbage cans, which are badly deteriorated, with 3 decorative cans. The locations of these 3 cans are:

1. University Ave and 30<sup>th</sup> Street (in front of the Beauty Supply Store)
2. University Ave and the alley West of 30<sup>th</sup> Street (in front of Off the Record)
3. University and Kansas Street (in front of North Park Rug and Carpet)

## Garbage Can Request



North Park Main Street requests that the North Park Maintenance Assessment district supports the request of the owners of Farmers Market Liquor Store, the Philly Grill, and El Sol Restaurant, to add a decorative garbage can in front of their stores. The desired location for this new garbage can is on University Ave and Alabama Street.



Walking west on University, a virtual barrier exists with the locations of the electrical box, tree, trash can, and bicycle racks



Pedestrians encounter awkward traffic patterns walking east on University Avenue



Moving the trash can in alignment with the east/west axis of the tree would open the pedestrian flow of the sidewalk without blocking access to the ATM or retail. A closer proximity might even decrease trash from the ATM.



**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
NORTH PARK MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT  
MARCH 2013 STAFF REPORT**

---

**Trees:**

- Removals: None
- Trimming: Rhus lancea pruned on Granada St.
- Consistently spraying weeds around all tree wells.
- Vandalism: None

**North Park Main Street (University Ave, North Park Way, and 30<sup>th</sup> St):**

- 3 Bradford Pears located at 2859 University, 2884 University Ave. (both have metal grates) corner of North Park Way & 30<sup>th</sup> St. were planted.
- Proposal to add 3/4" crushed desert gold rock in all N.P. tree grates to cut down on litter and to have a clean look.
- Graffiti removal, cleaning, etc. continues as normal.
- Natures Elements called to repair tiles on the red sidewalk and the bus stop seating area.
- Delineators replaced by the Street Division on University Ave. and Ray St.
- Broken trash cans removed on University Ave. next to Albertsons

**El Cajon Boulevard:**

- Medians – Proposal to repair irrigation on El Cajon Blvd. for future plantings.
- Graffiti removal, cleaning, etc. continues as normal.

**North Park Gateway/Boundary Street and Ann Mudge Project:**

- Graffiti removal, cleaning, etc. continues as normal.
- Illegal dump removed on Boundary St. north of El Cajon Blvd.

**University Avenue Improvements (no change from last month):**

- MAD staff was invited to a meeting on January 8, 2013, between Engineering and Capital Projects Department, North Park Main Street, the North Park Community Planning Committee, and Council District 3 to discuss the construction of new medians along University Ave at Alabama St.

- At the meeting, MAD staff acknowledged that the current Assessment Engineer’s Report only provides for maintenance of “streetscape improvements along University Ave,” but there is no provision for the North Park MAD to maintain landscaped medians along University Ave in its current form. Members of the community at the meeting (both Main Street and the planning committee) indicated their desire for a planted, landscape median along University Ave.
- MAD staff believes that adding a landscape median along University Ave into the North Park MAD’s scope of maintenance services is not possible because the original map of the MAD in Exhibit A of the Assessment Engineer’s Report shows the location of the landscaped medians on El Cajon Blvd but does not reference any such improvement on University Ave. Further, the landscaped medians along El Cajon Blvd are distinctly referenced in the “Project Description” section of the Report, while proposed University Ave medians are not similarly referenced. Finally, the last two failed reballot efforts (2006 and 2011) proposed incorporation of landscaped medians along University Ave as a maintenance item within the scope, and property owners rejected both those efforts.
- MAD staff discussed the University Ave median with Skip Shank, the engineer who wrote the 1999 Assessment Engineer’s Report. Mr. Shank advised MAD staff that hardscape medians (decorative with no landscaping) could fit into the definition of “streetscape” and are comparable to work the North Park MAD already provides along that section of University Ave (cleaning, sweeping, and litter removal along both sides of the street). Therefore, the North Park MAD is able to maintain hardscape medians without landscaping.
- The group agreed at the meeting that the project should install a hardscape median with decorative pavers on top. This will enable the median to be easily demolished at some point in the future should the North Park MAD be rebalotted and authorized to maintain a landscaped median along University Ave. The planning committee will work on design (color, shape, etc.) of the pavers.
- ***MAD staff asks the MAD advisory committee to advise staff on whether the North Park MAD should assume maintenance of the hardscape median with decorative pavers once the project is completed.*** It may also be worthwhile to discuss what role the North Park MAD will take with the University Avenue Mobility Project (UAMP), which is currently going through the environmental process. The UAMP is proposed to install other streetscape improvements further east along University Ave.

**Capital Projects (no change from last month):**

- **North Park Street Lighting (Final Phase)** – Fernando Lasaga, project manager from Engineering and Capital Projects provided MAD staff with a project update on December 20, 2012. The project installed new streetlights, energized a previously installed streetlight, and installed conduit and pullbox for a future streetlight installation. The project also trenched for two other streetlight locations but stopped due to unforeseen field conditions (rocky soil/concrete street and trolley tracks/utilities).

The following street light locations have been installed with standard concrete poles and fixtures:

1. Grim Ave south of North Park Way 360' east side
2. 30th St south of Quince St 130' west side
3. Hamilton St north of University Ave 210' east side
4. Ohio St south of Meade Ave 315' east side
5. El Cajon Blvd east of Oregon St 160' south side (contractor trenched and installed a pullbox to power a future location for a double acorn)
6. 30<sup>th</sup> St north of Redwood St 145' west side
7. Kansas St south of Meade Ave 112' east side (contractor trenched and installed a pullbox next to an existing streetlight that was not previously powered)

Mr. Lasaga advised that there are two other streetlight locations that Engineering staff had designed but remain incomplete: (8) Haller St south of Maple St and (9) Juniper St east of 30<sup>th</sup> St. Both encountered difficulties during construction, and given the limited budget, Mr. Lasaga is determining if there's any way either location can be constructed with whatever remaining funds are in the project budget. Specifically, an alternative power source location for the proposed Juniper Street streetlight location may be available.

The project funds will be exhausted when retention and final payments are made to the contractor and the resident engineer processes project close-out.

- **Switzer Canyon/30<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Enhancement** – This project is with Engineering and Capital Projects for preliminary design and still lacks for sufficient funding.
- **Red Sidewalk Replacement on University Avenue** – Nothing new to report at this time.

### CicloSDias

This event is planned on August 18, 2013, and will result in certain streets opened to pedestrians and bicyclists while closed to cars. In North Park, impacted streets include 30<sup>th</sup> Street from Juniper Street to North Park Way; North Park Way from 30<sup>th</sup> Street to Ray Street; Ray Street from North Park Way to Landis Street; and Landis Street from Ray Street east to City Heights. The official webpage (<http://ciclosdias.com/>) contains a brief overview of the event: "CicloSDias San Diego welcomes everyone to walk, ride, stroll, and enjoy. Come experience this free open street event where there will be activities along the route, shops and restaurants open for business and neighbors and friends from all over coming together to make our streets come alive. CicloSDias is modeled after the very successful Ciclovías events that started in Bogotá, Colombia over thirty years ago as a response to the congestion and pollution of city streets. Now they happen throughout Latin America, the United States and NOW San Diego!"

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Rasmusson  
Grounds Maintenance Manager  
(619) 685-1352  
[mrasmusson@san Diego.gov](mailto:mrasmusson@san Diego.gov)

Cory Peterson  
District Manager  
(619) 685-1356  
[petersonr@san Diego.gov](mailto:petersonr@san Diego.gov)