

**SAMARKAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD AND ASSOCIATION MEETING
March 16, 2006, 5:30 p.m.
Location: Mountain Room, Samarkand Retirement Community**

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME:** Meeting called to order at 5:31 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:** Peter Basch, Wayne Beckman, John Calder, Anna DeVore, Joyce Duncan Falk, Terry Johnson, Jack Meyer, Dave and Gwen Morse, and Charlie Stapleton (Absent: Judy Freeman, Jim Smith).
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Minutes were approved as submitted (M/S/C Charlie Stapleton/Terry Johnson).
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** No Treasurer's report, but Anna reported that we have twelve new members, all from the neighborhood.
5. **GUESTS:** Five members from the Old Fiesta Days Committee were in attendance: Susan Jang-Bardick (City Parks Dept.), Anthony Borgatello and Greg Hogan (Old Fiesta Days Committee), and Kathy Mckee (VP of external operations for Old Spanish Days). Members of the attending audience shared current issues with the Mercado Del Norte, held at MacKenzie Park during Old Spanish Days. The complaints centered upon the changing nature of the celebration, based upon an increased commercialization of the event, and the resulting impact to the neighborhood. The representatives listened to complaints and offered to return next month to respond to the issues. A summary narrative of the conversation is attached to the minutes.
6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Committee Updates
 - a. **ZONING COMMITTEE:** No new activity in zoning. Wayne inquired about the original complaint that had been put aside because of the question of liability. Peter suggested that it would be appropriate to pursue the complaint with the complainant's name held in confidentiality.
 - b. **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:** We were advised to go ahead with Neighborhood Watch by our beat coordinator. Since this is a volunteer outreach, we are looking for members to take the lead on this. We will have an article in the newsletter describing the process and looking for "block captains."
 - c. **NEWSLETTER PROGRESS:** John recapped the newsletter target: April 1, four pages, 100 bucks. He believes that we have sufficient material for the first run. Distribution has not been figured out completely, but Peter and John are confident that this will work out.
 - d. **WEB SITE FEATURES:** Jack shared about possible uses of the Web site such as recommendations for local services that could be posted to the site from neighbors. He emphasized that it should be positive. Jack wondered about moving the site to a hosted facility so that we could easily be found with a search. Gwen noted that it was not overly expensive to do so. Peter restated a need for materials to put on the Web site. Pictures and positives would be good. The discussion turned to a possible neighborhood "get-together."
7. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **SIDEWALK ISSUES:** Member John DeVore introduced the issue concerning obstructions (plants) that impede movement on sidewalks. Options were discussed, including informal newsletter articles, referrals to the City, or cautionary letters from the SNA. Discussion recommended that the Zoning Committee handle this with letters to property owners that identify the problem and suggest remediation to the homeowner.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Time for board discussion of topics not on the formal agenda
- a. **DRAFT NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION ORGANIZATION DOCUMENT**(Anna/Joe Guzzardi): Joe G. reported that the issue stemmed from “How big a house on a lot?” Using a 6000 sq ft. lot basis, 2200 sq. ft. is emerging as the appropriate size. There are two camps: proportional homes camp and owner’s rights. The meeting is Friday, 1:30, March 17, 2006. After the group is done, the Draft NPO Recommendation will go through the advisory committees, and finally to City Council. At the end, it will either become a guideline, or an ordinance. The existing guides allow for growth up to the limits of the setback. The draft is specific to single family dwellings. Secondary dwellings are a different approval process.
 - b. **ELECTIONS**(Anna DeVore): Anna noted that is almost time to call for nominations for next year term. Anna prepared a timeline proposal for the election, but was concerned about the realtime implementation of service of the boardmembers. Since we were not fully organized until September, members were not serving a full term. Peter felt that the year should be from the first active meeting rather than the established July 1 date.. After a straw vote, it was decided to stick the the July timeline. Members serving the one year initial term are John Calder, Jack Meyer, Wayne Beckman, Joyce Falk, and Gwen and David Morse.
 - c. **MISSION STATEMENT**(Anna DeVore): Anna has a draft mission statement available. We will discuss it at the next meeting.

9. **COMMUNICATION**

- a. Confirmation of meetings:
 - i. March meeting: Thursday, April 20, 5:30 pm
 - ii. Guest/location: Return of representatives from Old Fiesta Days

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Summary Narrative:-

Joe C. lives above park. The carnival, a professional outfit, has increased the scale of the Del Norte venue, and it has been disconcerting to neighbors. Mr. C. explained the situation and concerns and the history of his communications to the Committee. Historically, the MacKenzie Park affair has been a family area, and now the alcohol sales have moved from downtown into a neighborhood. Mr. C would like neighborhood representation on the committee (two members). He cites safety issues with the current situation.

Mr. L. also lives on Samarkand, and although he is used to the noise, his complaints are similar. Mr. G. related that the "Lion King" was going 16 hours a day, and machinery noise and people noise were quite disturbing. He felt that the Parks/Rec was unresponsive to his complaints. He is concerned about damage to the little league field. He felt parking is an issue in the neighborhood as well. Mr. L's main focus was upon the noise.

Darwin H. lives next to Mr. L. He related how the noise has increased year after year. The music is too loud, and the lights illuminate his house. A generator placed below his house was noisy and polluting throughout the carnival. Parking was difficult.

Mr. C noted that there was general agreement among the complainants that they liked how it used to be. The current commercial aspect has brought noise and neighborhood disruption.

Anthony Borgatello shared that the carnival is an important part of the whole venue. He affirmed that the Fiesta organizers and City do listen, as evidenced by their appearance here today. The carnival does offer a lot of cultural events directly related to the events historical roots. Anthony takes the issue seriously; they are aware that it has gotten very much bigger. Their intent is to be responsive. They would like to go back to the drawing board and come up with some ideas to ameliorate the situation.

Anthony affirmed that Old Spanish Days has a contract with the carnival operator, but with the ability to make adjustments. He also affirmed that the operator is the "best" around. With respect to the location, it works for non-profits as a fund raiser.

Peter Basch agreed that by his observations the operator appeared to be very professional and efficient, but the overcrowding and discomfort of the event could lead to lowering attendance and the funds raised by the non-profits. Peter also shared how his communications to the Old Spanish Days were not returned. (Peter presented the guests with copies of his 9-16-05 letter). Peter suggested that the event violates the California Environmental Quality Act.

Susan explained that the City grants permits for the events. They have been pleased that the carnival operator is top-notch. The alcohol is regulated. The Parks and Rec. director signs off on the event. City Council does not make the decision on this.

Mr. Hogan affirmed that the carnival was moved to Mackenzie to increase profit. Kathy McKee said that more research was needed to identify options, and the group would like to return next month to report and continue the conversation.

Joe Guzzardi. asked about hours of operation: 10 am to 11 pm. City requires music to stop at 10 pm during midweek. Susan noted that the noise ordinance enforces a 10 pm limit. Joe questioned whether the operation of the carnival adhered to the City noise ordinance. Joe suggested that the placement of the stage affects the sound intrusion, and it has been better since the stage position was changed a few years ago.

Anthony B. restated that without the carnival, they couldn't cover the expense of the Mercado. He will report the financials at the next meeting.

It was agreed that response from the Old Fiesta Days committee was important and appropriate.