

SAMARKAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING

July 20, 2006, 5:30 p.m.

Mountain Room, Samarkand Retirement Community

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order President Anna DeVore.
2. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS: Peter Basch, Wayne Beckman, Anna DeVore, Joyce Duncan Falk, Judy Freeman, Darwin Holter, Terry Johnson, Jack Meyer (absent), Fred Marsic, Jim Smith, Charlie Stapleton
3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: President DeVore called for nominations for president. Peter Basch nominated himself; Jim Smith nominated Anna DeVore, who declined. Motion to elect Basch unanimously (Freeman/Holter) passed. For Vice President, Anna DeVore was nominated; motion to elect unanimously (Smith/Basch) passed. Jack Meyer had previously indicated that he would be willing to continue as secretary; he was nominated by Jim Smith; motion to elect (Falk/Holter) passed unanimously. Jim Smith was nominated for treasurer; motion to elect (Freeman/Falk) passed unanimously. The meeting was turned over to new president Basch.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Charlie Stapleton moved approval of the minutes, which were approved at the end of the meeting.
5. TREASURER'S REPORT: Jim Smith distributed a ledger of the bank account. He noted that the only expense this month was reimbursement to Peter Basch for the web site host server fees. With the deposit of \$340 in membership dues, the balance on July 7, 2006, was \$1,103.67. Seventeen more membership checks were handed to Jim just before the meeting, bringing the balance to \$1,233.67.
6. COMMITTEE UPDATES:
 - A. ALLIED NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION: Joe Guzzardi was asked to report on the Neighbor Preservation Organization Steering Committee meeting. The pending issue is McMansion phenomenon and complaints from residents, particularly on the mesa. The committee is supposed to update the ordinance. It goes to the City Council on August 8. The main issue is how big a house should be in relationship to the size of the lot (that is, the floor to area ratios [FARs]). The Allied Neighborhood Association's position is for a .38 ratio for a 6,000-foot lot, (for larger lots, the ratio drops) and that there be a regulation rather than guidelines in order to avoid ambiguity and to achieve consistency. Others, e.g., the Citywide Homeowners Association, prefer a .5 ratio.

During the discussion of whether SNA should take a stand on the NPO and FARs, Charlie Stapleton commented that we would hope that a General Plan would address this on a city-wide basis rather than having some arbitrary rule for all neighborhoods. He commented that different neighborhoods may have different characteristics and different needs and that having one set of rigorous rules applied to every kind of lot in every neighborhood is problematic.

The draft of the document is on the web under City of Santa Barbara, Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance. Peter Basch will email the exact URL. The Board will review it and decide whether SNA should support the NPO's position on FARs.

John DeVore distributed a pamphlet that outlines the arguments in favor of the ordinance, which are briefly: (1) Match lot and house size. An identical house on a larger lot is only slightly more expensive; the marginal cost of the land is relatively small. (2) Maintain affordability: Prevent gentrification and loss of middle-class housing (if prices reflect potential big-house "buildout," the middle class will be priced out). (3) Provide objective guidelines: Avoid inconsistency, ambiguity, and allowing mistakes to become norms for future compatibility determinations. (4) Provide flexibility for needs: Desirable communities preserve their attractiveness by respecting the scale of their traditional neighborhoods and avoid wasteful energy consumption (heating and cooling). [An additional reason was added in the revision of the pamphlet sent by email after the meeting: Provide neighborhood and community harmony.]

Wayne Beckman asked if email voting is permitted by SNA by-laws. Anna replied that it is but requires a majority of the entire Board. Further discussion and polling of the Board will be handled by email.

B. NEWSLETTER: The deadline for material for the next newsletter is July 31, and the plan is for it to be published in the first half of August. The newsletter this time will be labeled to include membership due dates and will be distributed to both old and current members. The newsletter name contest is in full swing; several submissions have been received. The committee (John Calder, Anna DeVore, Joyce Falk) will meet to choose the winner when John Calder returns.

ZONING COMMITTEE: Peter reported that SNA had filed an abandoned vehicle report with the city regarding the vehicle on Tallant Road. Jim Smith noted that the vehicle is still there but has been cleaned up.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. MAILING LIST POLICY: Peter proposed that we not share the SNA mailing list. He distributed a draft of Membership List Procedures (previously emailed to the Board). The matter was moved to the agenda for the next Board meeting.

B: NEWSLETTER NAME CONTEST: Reported on as part of the Newsletter Committee update.

8. NEW BUSINESS: None

9. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Judy Freeman asked how to get the city's attention to the excessive vegetation on Tallant Road that caused cars to swerve to avoid it. She noted that today it had been cut. Peter responded that we have a letter to send to residents who have vegetation obstructing the sidewalk. We are to let Peter know the address of the offending property and he will send the letter asking the residents to cut it back.

B. Judy reported that residents on Betty Drive have not had their street cleaned and they do want it swept. Peter said he would look into this.

C. Anna noted that we have 412 members but we still need some of them to renew.

D. Anna reported on the vandalism to Jack Meyer's vehicle. Jack's earlier email report was sent by email only to the Board members. He suggested that we have a device on our web site where people can report such activities.

E. Darwin Holter asked for volunteers to monitor El Mercado del Norte during Fiesta. Peter has line up a decibel meter and a videographer to record the crowded conditions. Volunteers should contact Peter.

10. COMMUNICATION: Jim Smith reported that on our next meeting date, August 17 at 5:30 p.m., the Samarkand meeting room will be available.

11. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. (?)