

**SAMARKAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD AND ASSOCIATION MEETING**

May 17, 2007, 5:30 p.m.

Location: Mountain Room, Samarkand Retirement Community

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME:** Meeting called to order at 5:26.
2. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:** Peter Basch, Anna DeVore, Joyce Duncan Falk, Judy Freeman, Darwin Holter, Jack Meyer, Fred Marsic, Jim Smith, and Charlie Stapleton. (Absent: Wayne Beckman, Terry Johnson.)
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES*** Approved with two minor changes (M/S/C Anna DeVore/Charlie Stapleton). Judy Freeman kindly appreciated the efforts of the secretary on the minutes.
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** There has been one new member, and expense for the signage for the last meeting. The current balance is \$1,315.44.
5. **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**
 - A. **ZONING:** Anna reported on a zoning issue that she had recently found out about. Last year John Calder (acting on behalf of the Association) and three or four other neighborhood residents complained to the city when the owner of 420 Stanley Drive demolished a small garden shed then poured a slab and erected the framing of new structure about 12 feet by 12 feet by 8 feet plus gable roof, within the setbacks of the property and drastically out of compliance with zoning rules for "garden sheds". He told our neighbor that he knew he could build what he wanted and the City would OK it after the fact. Following John's complaint, John was told that the City had sent an inspector and the property owner would have to remove the slab and move the structure out of the setbacks. Just recently the wife of the neighbor who built the nonconforming shed informed her next door neighbor (who also had complained last year) that, since her husband "knows someone at the City" he was just required to sign a paper and the building was allowed to be left within the setback and larger than permitted by the zoning rules.

The board discussed possible actions. Peter agreed that the issue should be pursued. Judy Freeman agreed to find out if the owner had received a variance for the structure. Judy will report back at the next meeting..
 - B. **ALLIED NEIGHBORHOODS:** John thanked the people who spoke at the NPO meeting: Peter, Jim, Joyce, and (another member?). A committee, Save El Pueblo Viejo, has been formed to support the 40 ft. restriction on building height. John indicated that Allied is concerned that developers, in conjunction with a City desire for more revenue, may pressure unwise decisions in planning and development.

Allied is primarily concerned with the General Plan Update. Information (provided by Santa Barbara City) about the update can be found on the City Web site. The City Council is in favor of "smart growth." This means allowing growth along traffic corridors.

Charlie shared his understanding of the process for updating the General Plan. He expressed his frustration with the process.

Peter shared his concern over a lack of accountability by City government for reasonable, fair development. The overall issue is whether the City is being overly responsive to special interests.

Plan Santa Barbara will be here at our next meeting, and we will try to encourage

participation for the meeting.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. **El Mercado Del Norte Issues:** Darwin reviewed the concerns that were presented at the last meeting about the carnival at El Mercado. In the discussion with the representatives from El Mercado, there were many inaccuracies: the placement of the generator, the absence of any invitation for our members to participate in their planning process, and others.

Discussion centered on the idea that the carnival is poorly located. The board informally agreed that the location was poor, and the non-profit status of the vendors was questionable. Peter will contact Das and represent the board.

(Das Williams was unable to join the discussion)

- B. **Board elections:** The request for nominations has gone out. June 4 is the deadline for receiving them back. Ballots will be delivered along with the next newsletter around June 11 through volunteer activity. Return receipt deadline for ballots will be June 29. July 19th the new board will establish new board officers. Darwin and Judy will serve as the election committee and count ballots. Jim Smith observed that he is already receiving phone calls asking whether he is willing to continue on the Board of Directors next year since the mid May Form "CALL FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS" states that the SNA member submitting the form "Please verify with the persons you nominate that they are willing to run for a board position."

Of the 6 Board members with expiring terms, Peter and Jim stated that they are willing to continue, Anna, Judy and Charlie declined. In the discussion that followed Anna recommend her husband John Devore and he verified that he was "willing to run for a board position."

- C. **2007 Member Directory, SnapShot:** Peter inquired about renewing the member directory. Joyce suggested that we wait until the fall, when membership renewal occurs. At that time, expired memberships will be removed from the directory. However, as a cost saving measure, currently inactive members will be removed from the list. Darwin suggested that we allow members to join for multiple-year periods. The group agreed this would be a very wise move.

Peter noted that we are having difficulty keeping up with the newsletter. He suggested that we reduce the number of issues to four times a year. It was agreed that this would be a positive change.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Plan Santa Barbara:** Peter spoke to the letter that was sent by Mayor Blum to residents during the Allied Neighborhoods report. Judy will look into getting the meeting noted in the Independent and other announcement venues. We look forward to their presence at our next meeting.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

- A. Peter shared an "inclusionary" housing document that was sent to SNA. We need to get more information on the issue.
- B. Judy expressed concern about traffic speed on Clinton Terrace. Anna noted that the speed limit is 35 mph because it was an old State highway at one point in history. Judy volunteered to explore this with the police department.

9. COMMUNICATION

- A. Confirmation of meetings:
- i. June meeting: June 21, 2007, 5:30 p.m.

ii. Guest/location: Plan Santa Barbara/Mountain Room

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

* **Minutes and other organization information may be found at:**

<http://samarkandneighborhoodassociation.org>