

**SAMARKAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD AND ASSOCIATION MEETING
December 13, 2007, 5:30 p.m.
Location: Chapel Room, Samarkand Retirement Community**

Minutes

Guests: Frank Hotchkiss, recent candidate for Santa Barbara City Council

1. **CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME:** Meeting called to order at 5:35

2. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:** Wayne Beckman, John DeVore, *Joyce Duncan Falk*, *Kelly Griffin*, Darwin Holter, *Terry Johnson*, Fred Marsic, Jack Meyer, Jim Smith, and *Ruth Young*. (Italicized names are absent.)

3. **PRESENTATION BY FRANK HOTCHKISS CONCERNING THE INTERSECTION AT DE LA VINA AND STATE:** This is a busy intersection, with 35,000 cars that flow through there. Mr. Hotchkiss heard that they were going to put a stop at De La Vina and State. He went to ATE (Associated Traffic Engineers) to inquire about the proposed change. The ATE engineers asked how long the right hand turn lane should be. They suggested that it should be at least 200 ft. long when there is a traffic light. The plan, however, is for a lane that is only 145 ft. long. Mr. Hotchkiss (a realtor familiar with neighborhoods) suggested that the increased congestion at this intersection would encourage people to avoid the stop by cutting through the Samarkand neighborhood.

Mr. Hotchkiss feels that this should be a concern for our organization. There would also be similar situation with traffic redirected through the San Roque neighborhood. Other concerns for this project include the necessity of relocating a vault that is under the island at that intersection, and the cost of the entire project. However, it was noted that the current design poses a danger for bicyclists because they have to cross the right turn lane to continue on State St.

The Public Works Department will be conducting a meeting about the De La Vina and State St. Reconfiguration project on Wednesday, December 19, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Mackenzie Park Adult Building at McKenzie Park.

Mr. Hotchkiss also brought up an issue about the proposed changes to De La Guerra Plaza. The Planning Commission Meeting on this issue was postponed until January 24. He encouraged concerned members to attend.

The Board discussed the information presented.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES*:** Approved by affirmation.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jim Smith reported no change to our funds since our last meeting.

6. **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**
 - A. **ZONING:** No report.
 - B. **ALLIED NEIGHBORHOODS:** No report (the meeting is next week)

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **ALLIED DUES:** Wayne moved that we send a \$50 dollar check to Allied for

membership dues for 2008. (M/S/C Beckman/Holter)

- B. BOARD VACANCY:** John noted that Peter has resigned as President. The bylaws provide for the board to appoint a replacement to fill the position until the next regularly scheduled election in May. Consequently, the need is for a candidate to fill the position until then (a few months).
 - C. ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT:** As Vice President, John assumed responsibility for conducting this meeting. The Board moved and voted unanimously to elect John DeVore President. Wayne Beckman was elected Vice-President (M/S/C DeVore/Meyer).
 - D. APPRECIATION OF SERVICE:** Wayne moved that we recognize the service of Peter Basch with a letter. The Board and members present applauded Peter's service. (M/S/C Beckman/DeVore)
 - E. STATE/DE LA VINA PROJECT:** This was detailed in the presentation by Frank Hotchkiss.
9. **OTHER BUSINESS:** John DeVore gave an overview of the upcoming presentation by Bill Mahan. The issue is limits to building heights in City development projects. In the last few years there has been a massive increase in the number of projects in the works for buildings taller than 45 ft. Save El Pueblo Viejo (Old Town), a group organized to preserve the historic and aesthetic character of our city by limiting the heights of commercial buildings, has already given a presentation before City Council. Since the Council rejected their request to limit building heights in the El Pueblo Viejo district, the group is sponsoring a petition to place a charter amendment on the ballot next fall to limit the heights of commercial buildings. Bill Mahan will speak at our meeting in January.

10. COMMUNICATION

A. Confirmation of meetings:

- i. January meeting: January 17, 2008.
- ii. Guest Bill Mahan, former member of the Planning Commission/location: Samarkand Chapel Room

11. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:15.

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

<http://samarkandneighborhoodassociation.org>