

**SAMARKAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD AND ASSOCIATION MEETING
February 21, 2008, 5:30 p.m.
Location: Chapel Room, Samarkand Retirement Community**

MINUTES

Guests: None

1. **CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME:** Meeting called to order at 5:36 p.m.
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.) It was noted that we do not have a quorum, and therefore cannot conduct official business. Reports would be accepted.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES*:** Postponed.
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jim Smith presented the current balance for the association. There is a balance of \$955.82.
5. **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**
 - A. **ZONING:** No report.
 - B. **ALLIED NEIGHBORHOODS:** John reported that there are a lot of things happening but not in our particular neighborhood. John shared about a Bermant project involving Hillside House (in the Las Positas Vallue and near Hidden Valley). It appears that Hillside House is looking at re-developing their facilities, but this would include selling some of their property. The concern about the proposal is that the proposed building would be three stories high. It would create a dense pocket of dwellings in that area, incompatible with the surrounding neighborhood. Allied is sending a letter to the Architectural Board of Review (ABR). ABR is concerned only with the aesthetics of buildings. Other types of concerns include increasing traffic in the Las Positas valley with effects on intersections, such as Las Positas and Modoc, which is already at level D (near failing), as well as increasing difficulty in evacuating the area in the event of emergency (such as during the Painted Cave Fire).

The General Plan Update continues to be a source of frustration. The Planning Commission is trying to figure out how to “jumpstart” the process. The speculation is that the Planning Commission is interested in “Smart Growth,” with the goal of reducing urban sprawl while focussing traffic upon “traffic corridors.” Allied is trying to figure out how to respond, which is difficult because the City process is so ill-defined.

John referred to a 1974 planning document, “Santa Barbara: How Many People Should There Be?” that he had shared with the Board via email and which is available through Allied’s web site at sb-allied.org. Allied is trying to decide how to use this previous report to advantage. The document identifies issues in growth.

Another project is being considered at the foot of Highway 154, where the Hope Ranch Motel is located. The County considers development in this area to be a potential source of income, and seems favorable to large development. Gil Barry, an Allied member and architect, double checked the plans for this development and discovered that the planned development exceeds the designated height limit.

Another large project is planned on Coast Village Road, one that would impact traffic and views, on the scale of the Montecito Inn. At the request of neighbors who are starting to organize, Allied will be responding to this development plan.

The tall buildings initiative that was shared by Bill Mahan last month is still progressing. It is being met with some resistance already. Bill Mahan has changed one part of the wording to remedy some unexpected issues with the previous wording. The ballot initiative steps are complicated and require attention. Charlie Stapleton noted that it will be interesting to see what the Planning Commission does with project proposals while this initiative is developing.

John discussed the Radio Square project. It currently is a strip mall on the corner of De La Vina and Carrillo. There are currently plans for a four-story development there. At the last ABR meeting, the architect for the project came in with revised plans for a smaller project that would fit within limits imposed by Bill Mahan's initiative (even Gil Barry liked the redesign). John feels that it may be a sign that developers are understanding the resistance to over-sized developments.

John shared about "Form-based Planning." In this case, one must build to certain criteria. This kind of planning is much more restrictive. It is on its way to being adopted in Isla Vista. Charlie responded that without a General Plan, specific plans (such as in Form-based Planning) are difficult to conceive. Wayne suggested that specific limits on population could be used as a yardstick for planning.

Discussion continued on the relationship between mass transit and population density. Ironically, a level of density is required to make a transit network viable.

- C. **TRAFFIC COMMITTEE:** Wayne reported that Michel Self has provided some information about the De La Vina intersection. The biggest negative to the proposed intersection revision, in his view, is the loss of some parking in the area. Wayne will draft a letter to express our concern over this issue.
- 6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
 - A. **BOARD POSITION:** The opening is still available.
 - B. **NEWSLETTER:** See planning under New Business.
 - 7. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **SPRING ACTIVITIES/PLANNING:** John shared a timeline of upcoming events, according to our By-Laws. Elections and balloting are coming up. Five members are up for re-election. The newsletter could be delivered at the same time as the ballots. John suggested some topics for the newsletter. The charts from these issues: Elections, By-Laws, and newsletter, are on the following page.
 - 8. **OTHER BUSINESS:** We discussed our next meeting and possible guests. Possibly we could invite someone from City Zoning. Jim Kahan is aware of many zoning issues that could be addressed.
 - 9. **COMMUNICATION**
 - A. Confirmation of meetings:
 - i. Next meeting: March 20, 2008
 - ii. Guest/location: Chapel Room
 - 10. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:35.

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

<http://samarkandneighborhoodassociation.org>

PowerPoint Slides:

When	What	Bylaws	Who	Done
March	Appoint election committee: Call for nominations, check willingness, request statements	V.1		
May 15	Ballots and statements delivered to members	V.4		
May	Annual meeting	III.5		
June	Ballots counted			
June	Election of officers	V.1		
July	Membership dues	V.4		
?	Newsletter			
?	Member Directory			

Current Officers

Elected in 2006

Wayne Beckman
 Joyce Falk
 Darwin Holter
 Fred Marsic
 Jack Meyer

Elected in 2007

(Peter Basch, resigned)
 John DeVore
 Kelly Griffin
 Terry Johnson
 Jim Smith
 Ruth Young

Officers To Be Elected in 2008

5 officers (2 years)
 1 officer (remaining term)
 Recommend top 5 vote-getters get 2-year term
 And 6th vote-getter fill out 1-year term

Pieces for The SNApshot

Book Review: Better, Not Bigger (done)
 Article: Call for Nominations (modify previous)
 Article: Traffic and Transportation (Mary Lindenstein)
 Article(s): From Jack Meyer's minutes (?)
 Article: Update on Tall Buildings Initiative (?)
 Other(s): ?