

**SAMARKAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD AND ASSOCIATION MEETING
August 17, 2006, 5:30 p.m.
Location: Mountain Room, Samarkand Retirement Community**

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME:** Meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:** Peter Basch, Wayne Beckman, Anna DeVore, Joyce Duncan Falk, Judy Freeman, Darwin Holter, Terry Johnson, Jack Meyer, Jim Smith, and Charlie Stapleton (Absent: Fred Marsic).

Anna Devore moved to add the question of incorporation onto the agenda, Item 6D, and no more than \$350 dollars. Approved without objection.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approved as submitted without objection.
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jim Smith reported a balance of \$1217.43, as of 8/17. The major expense in this period was \$81.24 for the newsletter.
5. **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

A. COMMITTEE, LIAISON AND PROJECT REVIEW:

Peter Basch has created a dynamic list that identifies responsibilities for committee work. The following changes were noted:

Changes:

Allied Neighborhoods: Charlie Stapleton is no longer on Allied. We will verify that Joe Guzzardi is still willing to serve.

SB Police: No change

Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance: John DeVore will take Charlie's spot.

Oak Park Traffic Planning: This is now a defunct group. Anna will inquire if Eric Alen wants to continue. It will be renamed Traffic Planning, but it will continue as an independent group to pursue traffic issues relevant to our neighborhood.

Earl Warren Showgrounds: Judy Freeman will continue. She noted that the meetings for EW are at the same time as our meetings.

SNA By-laws: No change. Peter suggested that we look at simplifying and updating the by-laws.

Member Database: No change.

Communications: Emails, announcements, postcards for renewal, etc. Joyce suggested we combine Communications, Member DB, Directory, and Newsletter. This was discussed, but no change was made.

Volunteer Coordinator: Darwin volunteered to take Peter's place, and John will continue as well.

Newsletter: No change.

Member Directory: Wayne Beckman volunteered to take the Member Directory for Peter.

Zoning: Joyce, Judy and John Calder will continue.

Web Administrator: Peter Basch

Neighborhood Watch: Anna will continue to take calls. Peter would like crime reporting to intersect with this in some reporting method.

Samarkand Beautiful: At Peter's request, Jim shared how a similar organization gave neighborhood awards for improvements to homes. No one volunteered to head this committee, but the board discussed the possibility of doing this a couple times a year.

B. ALLIED NEIGHBORHOOD: Anna reported:

The major issues around town are Upper East: What to do with St Francis? The residents are concerned about the demolition (vs. recycling) of the building. We may be asked to support the neighbors in this area

The other issue is Hidden Valley development. They are concerned about dense housing on the school property and also Hillside house changes. They are very concerned about Las Positas and La Cumbre traffic. The retirement facilities there have difficulty at times in getting to Cottage. They don't want to see an overload in traffic and congestion.

As for the NPO, they decided to write regulations and guidelines in the FAR (Floor to lot Area Ratio). There are a lot of unanswered questions on the details of this, for example, with issues of privacy.

Allied also discussed what their mission should be: Dealing with a general plan update, or dealing with the smaller issues (such as Upper State St. and Northside issues) that arise in the meantime. It was affirmed that both were important.

Another issue centered on the Century 21 remodel (across from the San Roque post office). The owner has an encroaching building that they were allowed to keep. The second story was designated as apartments, but now they want to sell them as condos. Jim Kahan filed an appeal on this.

Anna noted that affordable housing really means more apartments, not condos.

C. NEWSLETTER:

Newsletter is ready to deliver. Darwin noted that we had a lot of volunteers and he was very appreciative.

D. ZONING:

SNA did report the abandoned truck. The deadline for removal is tomorrow. If it has flat tires and no current tags, then it might be subject for removal. The owner has cleaned it up (taken the trash out of the back).

At Cuesta and Santa Anita there were some sidewalk blockage issues. Peter noted that we sent a friendly letter to the property owner about the problem.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. El Mercado Del Norte Report: Darwin Holter

When we met with Fiesta representatives a couple of months ago, we asked that the carnival be moved and voiced our concerns: generators, noise, safety, etc. In April, the representatives indicated that they needed the carnival to have the Mercado.

Darwin noted that some of the vendors were not non-profit, and the carnival had some of its own food vendors. This seems to be a contradiction to what we were told about the nature of the vendors and the non-profit fund raising.

Darwin noted that the generators were quieter, but the generators were still close to the residents adjacent to the park.

Sound: The sound stage was baffled and aimed more at the intersection of State and Las Positas. Our decibel readings, provided by Darwin: 75-95 db, within Darwin's house 77db windows open 67db windows closed. Repetitive music from the rides was also better controlled.

Safety: Darwin shared detailed observations of safety issues over the Mercado layout.

Lights: Improved from last year.

Darwin hopes that we can find a way to get the Carnival moved. He will be working on a communication that will come back to the board for approval. This was discussed, as well as the issue of for-profit vendors having booths in the Mercado.

It was agreed to contact the Fiesta representatives first, with a sense of immediacy.

B. Member List Procedures

A procedure for communication to SNA list members was shared with the Board. Anna wondered if it should be an opt-in issue. It was decided to include an opt out on the first incident. We did not think that this would be used. A motion to accept this as an organization policy/procedure was passed unanimously. (M/S/C Wayne Beckman/Jack Meyer)

C. Newsletter Name Contest

John DeVore won the contest with the newsletter name: SNApshot.

D. Incorporation:

The main advantage of incorporation is to shield board members from individual liability.

Legal Zoom, a legal documentation service, offers a standard non-profit packages for \$344, done within about 30 days. An additional \$500 would be required to allow members to deduct their membership fee. This seems unreasonable for our purposes.

Anna moved that the board direct Peter and an associate to incorporate and spend up to 450 dollars (M/S/C DeVore/Stapleton/Unanimous)

7. **NEW BUSINESS:** None.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Our next meeting Sept. 21, with the possibility of moving it a week earlier if we can get the showgrounds people to attend to discuss noise issues.. (Sept 14?) The Mountain Room will be available.

9. **COMMUNICATION**

Confirmation of meetings:

- i. September meeting: Thursday, September 21, 5:30 pm (Tentative.)
- ii. Guest/location: TBA

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** 6:58