

**SAMARKAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD AND ASSOCIATION MEETING
April 19, 2007, 5:30 p.m.
Location: Mountain Room, Samarkand Retirement Community**

MINUTES

Guest Speaker: Gracie Huerta, SBFD Public Education Coordinator: The presentation by the SBFD was delayed by an emergency fire call.

1. **CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME:** Meeting called to order at 5:35 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, Fred Marsic, Jim Smith, and Charlie Stapleton. (Absent: None.)
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes passed. (M/S/C Judy Freeman/Darwin Holter)
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jim reported a balance of \$1347.27.
5. **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**
 - A. **ZONING:** There are no new official referrals, but at the corner of Vernon and Stanley it has been reported that someone is dumping trash in the area.
 - B. **ALLIED NEIGHBORHOODS:** Anna reported that Allied has been working on passing new by-laws. Bill Mahan is working on an amendment to the City Charter to limit the height of buildings in the Pueblo Viejo area to 40 feet. Right now the height limit is 60 feet. Over the years, very few of the buildings were two story buildings. Mr. Mahan realized that there are many new buildings that will be going in over the next few years that will be over two to four stories. (The original idea of the 40 foot limit was to control density and development in the downtown core, Pueblo Viejo. Residential neighborhoods already have a lower height limit.)

The importance of this is to control reasonable density and the character of development in Santa Barbara neighborhoods.
6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
 - A. **El Mercado Del Norte Issues:** Darwin Holter shared the issues related to the carnival that has been added to the El Mercado. The rides, noise, and repetitive music are oppressive to neighborhoods. Last year some things were "toned down," but there are still issues. Darwin suggests that the carnival should be moved back near City College where it used to be.

A member noted that the plan to eliminate the generator would not be implemented.

Peter shared that representatives from Old Spanish Days requested to attend a meeting this year, and would be arriving a bit later in the meeting. Anna shared information from last year: the carnival is supposed to offset fees for the non-profit vendors, however there is no evidence that a fee increase would be an undue burden for the vendors. A fee increase might eliminate the need for such a larger, noisy carnival. Indeed, as it is, some of the vendors appear to be restaurants, not individual non-profit groups.

Anthony Borgatello and Ricardo Castellanos (new Marketplace Chair) arrived to speak to the group: Anthoony has been on the board of directors for the last 8 years, and he was the Chair of Marketplaces last year. There were five

issues that they attempted to address. Last year they attempted to ameliorate generators, parking, and other issues. They put a backdrop on the stage to control noise, and they took decibal readings (which turned out to be below City requirements). They relocated the generator near the hillside to ease its impact. They worked with MTD and La Cumbre Plaza to shuttle people in and reduce traffic. The carnival worked cooperatively to make it a better experience. Mr. Borgatello reiterated that they are working voluntarily to the benefit of the community and they want to be responsive.

Ricardo Castellanos is the Director of Marketplaces. It is his duty to continue to work on the issues. He has met with the carnival directors. They are negotiating with two smaller carnival operator that will be more geared to younger children. This is not the same carnival operator as last year. The operators plan to put the movement rides away from the residences and the walk-through rides near the hillside. They are taking time to plan a layout for the carnival that is thoughtful.

There is an issue with electricity. Ricardo has been working to bring power into the park. At this time, they will try to bring the power in from the parking lot side, permanent power that would eliminate the generator and cabling that has been a problem in the past. Unfortunately it may not get done before this year's Fiesta.

Ricardo has a goal for a smaller stage venue with a rotation away from the homes. He agrees that it there is no need for a "Woodstock" in McKenzie Park.

Members inquired about the non-profits, and Anthony explained the process for identifying vendors that are non-profits. Anthony acknowledged that there were some non-competing food offerings that came with the carnival; it is not a perfect process.

Peter Basch responded to the efforts of the Fiesta representatives. He wondered why it had increased in size and scope. Anthony responded about external items that have changed the requirements. Peter shared a video of the carnival to demonstrate the impact of the neighborhood. Anthony noted the issues demonstrated by the video, specifically that a generator had not been relocated away from the residential hill as previously stated.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS: (Due to the delay of the SBFD presentation, members were invited to share concerns)

A. A member who lives on Stanley, Arthea Hermann, spoke to the issue of sidewalk safety. She had taken a fall on a sidewalk area in need of repair. Mrs. Hermann reported on the difficulty of getting a response from the City on the issue. The contact for reporting issues is Mr. Rick Fulmer: 564-5394, email rfulmer@santabarbaraca.gov, regular mail 625 Laguna Street, Santa Barbara 93102, and members are encouraged to contact him.

Wayne Beckman, Board Member, shared how he initiated a repair of the sidewalk and the City required him to repair more of the sidewalk than he initially intended. He cautioned members on taking individual responsibility for public works problems.

B. Jerry Ward described a childcare that had started in the neighborhood.

C. Harold England (Samarkand resident), inquired about Oak Park being used to

mulch material. He found it disturbing and did not think it was appropriate.

- D. Open discussion: The group brainstormed topics that might bring out larger attendance for our meetings.
- E. A member shared about a home on Baldwin that has had an issue with mold that has interfered with a home remodel. The owner is concerned about the health issues and suspects possible City responsibility for moisture on that specific property. (Another member also shared that it is not the only property in the area that has had problems with mold.) Finally, the member shared that she would like to attend a meeting with a geologist who could describe the overall geologic concerns that may be related to our neighborhood.
- F. A member inquired about an upgrade to the De La Vina to Alamar area. It was pointed out that some improvements were in planning, resulting from the neighborhood study and charrette that occurred a couple of years ago.

9. COMMUNICATION

- A. Confirmation of meetings:
 - i. May meeting: TBA
 - ii. Guest/location: Mountain Room

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

<http://samarkandneighborhoodassociation.org>