

**SAMARKAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD AND ASSOCIATION MEETING
May 21, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
Location: Mountain Room, Samarkand Retirement Community**

AGENDA

Guest: Mr. Owen Dell, local landscape architect.

1. **CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME** Meeting called to order at 6:10. There were 31 people in the audience, with 22 of those from outside the Samarkand Retirement Community.

2. **SPEAKER:** Mr. Owen Dell, “Transforming the Suburbs: The Neighborhood Foodshed Project”. Mr. Dell discussed the philosophy of sustainable gardening and then described how garden exchange programs got started in our area. He gave some examples, including the Mesa, which was one of the first, and San Roque, which is just getting started. He answered questions from the audience and spoke with those interested afterwards at the back of the room and sold copies of his books.



Owen Dell speaking at SNA meeting.

3. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:** Wayne Beckman, John DeVore, Joyce Duncan Falk, Terry Johnson, *Fred Marsic, Jack Meyer*, Jim Smith, and Ruth Young. (*Italicized Absent.*)
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES*** Minutes for the previous two meetings were distributed, but approval postponed until after the zoning issue had been discussed. However, because of the late hour at the end of the meeting, this topic was not taken up again in this meeting.
5. **TREASURER’S REPORT:** Jim projected a viewgraph with the current status.
6. **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

A. ZONING:

Joyce Duncan-Falk

- i. **525 Alegria** Ms. Julie Moore described the situation that has arisen 2 doors west of her. On May 2 of this year, Mr. Vadim Hsu, a local architect who had recently purchased the house at 525 Alegria, had a 440 square foot building constructed from metal shipping containers lifted by a crane over his detached garage and located in his back yard. Although Mr. Hsu told his immediate neighbors that the building was for a storage shed, he also told other onlookers, including one SNA board member, that he intended to use part of the building for his architectural office. Ms. Moore showed pictures of the building to the board and the audience. The board and the audience agreed with Ms. Moore and her neighbors on Alegria concerning the inappropriateness of this structure in a residential neighborhood. Ms. Moore also related details of the lack of responsibility of the city’s building department to this problem even



View of the new structure at 525 Alegria on 17 May from the back yard of the neighbor immediately to the east.

though Mr. Hsu did not have a building permit. Even after some neighbors as well as the SNA president had filed complaints, the city did not move to stop work until Ms. Moore contacted Mr. Estrella, head of the building department. Ms. Moore requested support from SNA in fighting this inappropriate structure. The concensus of the board was to support the neighbors in opposing this development. The SNA president agreed to write a letter to the Building Department opposing this development and to the Planning Commission requesting strengthening of zoning regulations to prevent such buildings in neighborhoods in the future. Because of the quick action required, the SNA president agreed to draft these letters in consultation with the board via email for transmittal to the city offices by Monday, May 25.

B. ALLIED NEIGHBORHOODS: John DeVore and Jim Smith (also on the City Water Commission) attended the Allied meeting this month. City Water Commissioner Russel Ruiz presented his concerns about the need for being conservative in estimating water supplies during drought times that will be used to support decisions regarding how much development can occur in Santa Barbara City. Ms. Moore and other of her neighbors described the situation with the unpermitted building under construction at 525 Alegria. Allied board members with expertise in these issues offered advice on how to deal with this situation.

C. TRAFFIC COMMITTEE:

Wayne Beckman

i. **Cottage Hospital Access** Nothing to report.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. 2009 Elections. Wayne Beckman agreed to count the ballots.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Guest speaker(s). A water conservation speaker was postponed. There was some

discussion of a candidates forum this fall.

B. SNA Directory (?) This was not discussed.

9. **OTHER BUSINESS:** No discussion

10. COMMUNICATION

A. Confirmation of meetings:

i. Next meetings: June 18, 2009, July 16, 2009

ii. Guest/location: Mountain Room

11. **ADJOURNMENT** Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

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

<http://samarkandneighborhoodassociation.org>