

**SAMARKAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD AND ASSOCIATION MEETING
November 15, 2007, 5:30 p.m.
Location: Chapel Room, Samarkand Retirement Community**

Minutes

Guests: Steve Sister and Browning Allen, Santa Barbara Transportation Department

1. **CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME:** Meeting called to order at 5:38.
2. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:** Peter Basch, Wayne Beckman, John DeVore, *Joyce Duncan Falk*, Kelly Griffin, Darwin Holter, Terry Johnson, *Fred Marsic*, Jack Meyer, Jim Smith, and Ruth Young. (Italicized: Absent)
3. **TRAFFIC AND PARKING:** Browning reported that transportation is part of Public Works at the City. They deal with concerns and complaints by the community related to traffic and development. Browning opened the discussion to questions.

Stanley chicanes: Browning reported that they were put in in the early '90's and they did have an effect upon traffic. John Devore asked about new speed calming devices such as "speed tables" on the hilly part of Stanley Dr. Browning said that it was something that could be investigated.

In response to a question about Serena, Browning reported that transportation will not do anything that would result in the "shift" of a problem to a different street. The discussion turned to resident parking permits for areas such as Samarkand and Serena.

Employee parking: Browning addressed issues with the surgical center and Trader Joe's. Both enterprises are supposed to have employees park on site. They have been reminded about this recently. A permitting process in this area would require supermajority of neighbor support.

Kelly Griffin related problems in the Trader Joe's area, noting that at times the motel at the end of the block serves large vehicles such as busses and construction vehicles used by patrons who stay there. Browning made notes about this, but emphasized the need for broad support for changes such as permitted parking.

Stanley traffic: Mary Lindenstein, resident on Stanley, noted that there was a recent accident on the street where a drunk driver hit a palm tree. She also noted that the school busses use the street, and the bus company has not been very cooperative. Browning asked about the last time they used the street, noting that he had talked to the Santa Barbara Transportation operations manager recently, and said the drivers had been instructed to avoid the neighborhood. Browning said that if the time of day and bus number were reported to Browning, he could inform the manager and possibly get some results.

Mary inquired about making the area a "no commercial" zone. Browning said that it could be done, but then it becomes an enforcement issue. Peter suggested that dealing directly with Santa Barbara Transportation might be more effective.

Trader Joe's: Kelly asked about the trucks at TJ's operating out of agreed upon hours. Browning referred Kelly to Danny Kato, senior planner at zoning.

Peter asked about a particular chicane close to the corner of Stanley and Las Positas that poses a hazard to cars turning right off of Las Positas, and Browning indicated that they would look at the collision history of the spot.

De La Vina/Chapala: Jack inquired about the change from two lanes to one on Chapala, noting that he thought it was an improvement. Browning said that Chapala was changed

in response to neighbor input, but De La Vina did not have the same neighbor interest. Browning noted that there has been no reduction of service on Chapala.

De La Vina/State: Browning noted that the free right turn above Trader Joe's will be turned into a more traditional right turn. The 85th percentile speed at De La Vina at Samarkand drive is 38 mph, 8 miles per hour above the speed limit on De La Vina. The schedule is for construction to start by summer of 2008. The tree in the intersection will be transplanted.

Cottage Hospital: Jack asked about updates. Browning said that Rob Dayton has in his workplan to use the money (\$200,000) from Cottage for a feasibility study for a different freeway exit configuration in the area to alleviate the elimination of two-way traffic on Calle Real. Other improvements have been continuing. Bulbouts will be included on corners in the area. Most of the improvements will be made after the construction has been completed in order to preclude damage to the improvements by the construction traffic.

In response to a question about the reason for curb extensions, Browning noted that it is a safety issue; it reduces the crossing distance.

MTD: The group discussed the bus routes. Clean diesel is used, along with 22 ft. busses. Also, busses are operated by the MTD, not the City.

It was noted that bus drivers don't like traffic circles. Browning suggested that the circle being constructed at Olive and Sola will be an example of a finished (permanent) circle, and it might be interesting to look at.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes approved by affirmation.
5. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jim Smith reported a balance of \$1056.82 with an expenditure for street signs for the SNA meeting, and modest income from new member dues.
6. **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**
 - A. **ZONING:** Joyce was absent. No report.
 - B. **ALLIED NEIGHBORHOODS:** John noted that Bill Mahan has offered to come and talk to us about the initiative of his group to limit building heights in commercial districts in January. John also noted that the Citizens Planning Association is monitoring development activity in the community, and that Allied Neighborhoods Association has just been put on an email list to receive periodic notices from them. Furthermore, we might want to have our zoning committee and other interested members be put on an email list to receive this information also.

Allied has taken a stance in supporting the use of a 100-year flood standard in all City approved projects. This will not only result in safer construction practices, but also result in lower insurance costs for residents in flood-prone areas.

Allied has also recently taken a stance along with the League of Women Voters and Citizens Planning Association in opposing the adoption of certain changes to the City's zoning regulations. Although described as minor and "clean up", certain of the changes would have had undesirable consequences. Furthermore, the associations cited above also noted that such changes ought reasonably to be made in connection with the General Plan Update currently under way.
7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
 - A. **CANDIDATES FORUM REVIEW (10/4):** Peter noted that the candidates forum was a big success, with a full room. Our costs were about \$65 dollars and

hours of volunteer time. Promotion activity was excellent. All documents will be archived for the next time.

B. NEWSLETTER: We are four months behind on a newsletter. We need more contributions. We are soliciting articles. Anna suggested that even if it is not sent out in a regular manner, it should remain an option to be published when the material warrants. Peter preferred that we think about a quarterly issuance of the newsletter.

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

9. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Time for board discussion of topics not on the formal agenda

10. **COMMUNICATION**

A. Confirmation of meetings:

i. December meeting: Moved to December 13, 2007 (the second Thursday)

ii. Guest/location: Chapel Room

11. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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

<http://samarkandneighborhoodassociation.org>