

SAN TOMAS WEST

Neighborhood Association

STWNA Meeting
Minutes
~
5/14/08



Community Sign In: Sign in sheets were located at the entrance. Attending members in good standing were provided a voting card.

Proceedings: Meeting called to order at 6:30PM by Heather Sutton. Board Member introductions: Heather Sutton, Lisa Riggs, Jeannie Grigsby, Elaine Osborne, Ann Herosy and Kim Lafond. Cindy Cooper was unable to attend. Community members introduced themselves.

Guest Speakers:

Two of the invited guest speakers were unable to attend due to last minute schedule conflicts.

San Jose Police officer Jim McBrayer :

Officer McBrayer discussed options that neighbors have regarding any suspicious sightings. He advised us to call if we see anything that makes us feel uncomfortable or suspicious.

One member mentioned that his neighbor made and distributed a flyer warning of gang activity near Kendra Ave and Mona Ave. The same member advised that keeping your car's keys at your bedside can dissuade would be thieves because pressing the panic button will set off the car alarm.

Officer McBrayer then opened the discussion for questions and answers:

Q -One member asked how the budget cuts were affecting the police department.

A -Ofcr. Mc Brayer answered that there is no real effect because there are ongoing contract negotiations and overtime is helping to bring the force up to minimum staffing levels.

Q- A member asked if it is illegal for people to go through recycling bins?

A-If the items are in a bin owned by a recycling company, it is stealing, we are advised to call the police if we see people doing this.

Q- What sort of activity have the police been responding to in the last month?

A - Nothing unusual, they are basically making their presence known at the local parks. Now that the weather has improved, people are staying outside later and the potential for inappropriate activities is increased.

Campbell representative Al Bito

Al Bito brought an update on the Phoenix Ave/Hamilton Ave signalization project:

- The project is in the design stage and is expected to be completed in the spring of 2009. One member asked why it is taking so long if kids' safety is in question and it was explained the it takes time for design approval, getting bids, planning..
- Project has a budget of \$360K - 90% from the state government, 10% from local government.
- Features of the signal will include left turn lane recessions on Hamilton Ave. Left turn signal, delays for crosswalk signal to allow for cars trying to make the light on the opposite street as well as a crosswalk countdown timer.

A member then asked Al whose responsibility it is to clean up the off ramp onto Hamilton Ave. from HWY 17 because there is a large amount of garbage there and it's the first thing people see when they take the exit. Al will provide the number for Caltrans, who is responsible for the highway and exit clean-up.

Approval of the Agenda - Heather requested the discussion of priorities be moved to the end of the agenda - the agenda was approved as amended.

Approval of the Minutes - The 3-12-08 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Board Reports:

Heather Sutton - President

Heather attended the D1 Leadership meeting and informed us that she learned what the group is going to do on a bimonthly basis - this will consist of training, policy definition, and outreach activities. The commission would like to see every neighborhood in D1 represented.

Upcoming meeting on 5/28 will cover the Mayor's Gang task force and will be held at the Harker School at 3800 Blackford Ave.

- Heather also covered some of what Mrs. Cisler was going to discuss which included the traffic behavior at the school: She is very active in monitoring and alerting parents about rules via articles and information in the newsletters sent home with the students.
- SJPd has painted the driveway at Payne to try and cut down on illegal parking/drop-offs.
- One member mentioned that jay-walking has increased and she is very concerned that a student may be hurt

Lisa Riggs - First Vice-President

Lisa congratulated outstanding volunteers Rodger and Terese Ryan., who were unable to attend the last meeting. They are faithfully in attendance at each meeting, staffing the sign-in table. A BIG thank you to Roger and Terese for all their help!

- We are at 100% distribution of news letters, block captains are doing a great job and she thanked everyone.
- Lisa asked for volunteers to lead a Beautification subcommittee. There are opportunities for events and we'd love someone to take the leadership to organize and report back to the board.

Jeannie Grigsby - Second Vice-president

Jeannie informed the group that we've been able to get our lawn signs and if anyone is interested in posting a sign at their home, they should contact her. Several members got signs at the Safety Event and mentioned the response to the signs has been positive. (Although, some have been asked if the events/meetings were at the members' homes, or if the homes were for sale)

Cindy Cooper - Treasurer

Cindy was unable to attend. Heather reported that the financials were posted on the walls of the room for anyone to review

- Heather also gave an overview of how we spent the CAP grant money.
- We still have emergency kits leftover from the Safety Event and they are available at cost which is \$18.00 each.
- We will have more detailed information at the next meeting

Kim Lafond - Secretary

Membership update - Due to transition and some computer problems, exact membership numbers are not available at this time, but we have approximately 1/2 dozen new members since the last meeting. Exact numbers will be provided at the next general meeting.

Elaine Osborne - Director of Events

- Elaine announced that there will be a Community Block Party on 7/19 and solicited for members to help form a planning committee.
- Elaine will continue to keep the group informed of upcoming events and details.

Ann Herosy - Director of Safety

- Ann gave a recap of the Safety Event on 3/19. The American Red Cross gave a discussion on Emergency Preparedness; Joe Grasso gave his presentation: Don't Bully My Kid; Stanford Blood Mobile collected 16 pints of blood; San Jose Prepared gave a presentation on the CERT program.
- Ann is also on the City of Campbell's task force and gave a report on the effect of city budget cuts, this includes street repairs, and light replacement.
- Ann was selling the emergency kits at the back of the room.

Committee Reports:

CBAC

Erin McLaughlin gave a report about the Charter school - for now the charter will remain at the Anderson school campus.

- She recapped the state budget cut impacts on schools
- She informed the group that there is info in the back of the room regarding whom to call to voice opinions
- On 6/11, EDS and Moreland Middle schools will host their graduation ceremonies
- 5/15 will be the last CBAC meeting of the year, if you have ideas for next year's agenda, please see Erin . The meetings will start again in September.
- She was asked if Payne School's campus will be open during the summer; the playground/field will be open, but no after dark activities, no soccer games as construction will be taking place.

Business Partners

- Heather is looking for volunteers to speak to local businesses to seek ad placement in the newsletter

Unfinished Business:

Cap Application -

We just closed cycle 21, and the cycle 22 application was submitted on time, we requested approx \$14K. More detailed information will be presented at the next meeting by the treasurer, Cindy Cooper

Riverside Clean up - This Saturday 9AM to Noon we will meet at Virginia Ave and Campbell Ave. All supplies will be provided; there was a sign up sheet at the back of the room.

Graffiti Action Opportunity - No update was available on this subject. Let Heather know if you see an area of concern regarding graffiti.

District 1 Neighborhood Commission - This is formed by election, 3 members per district, let Heather know if you are interested in attending the meeting on 6/14 10AM to Noon to vote by caucus on delegates. Alan Depute volunteered to serve as the STWNA delegate if his schedule will permit.

Beautification Grant - Elaine informed us that the grant comes from *Our City Forest* - more details will be provided at the next meeting.

STWNA 2008 Goals and Priorities-

- The 2 items getting the most requests for return were 'Dumpster Days' and the new item "Going Green training"
- The top 5 Priorities remain the same
- We need to define a strategic plan - Defining short and long term goals - Heather solicited for volunteers to help to develop this plan

Upcoming Events - will be determined based on priorities

*The 2008 goals were approved by the group

New Business ~ Open Discussion & Community Announcements:

-Payne School will host a recycling event on 5/31

-Prospect High School Flea Market is coming up this Saturday

-A member asked for an update on the development at Hamilton and Darryl - currently, the project is in the planning and approval phase and there is no update available.

- A member brought up the fact that a house very near his had been torn down and construction on an Assisted Living Center had begun before he or his neighbors knew what was happening. He voiced concern that a commercial business was going up in his neighborhood and discussed the impact that would have on traffic, the volume of cars for persons visiting residents, etc. He informed the group that when he contacted the city, he was informed that the builders paid for the permits, went through the proper channels, etc, and he has no voice in the matter. This member asked us to file a complaint with the city, and also to ask the people running the ALC to give a presentation at our next general meeting - Heather will ask for a representative to attend.

Per Heather, San Jose representatives and other appropriate representatives will be in attendance at the next meeting to provide information about the development.

Location of the next meeting is still TBD, please watch the STWNA website for details.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm