

SAN TOMAS WEST

Neighborhood Association



STWNA Community Meeting Minutes -**DRAFT**

March 12, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

3750 Gleason Avenue – Payne Elementary Multi-Purpose Room

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 7:05 p.m. by Heather Sutton.

Board member introductions: Heather Sutton, Lisa Riggs, Cindy Cooper, Ann Herosy, and Elaine Osborne. Board members Kim Lafond and Jeannie Grigsby were unable to attend. Community members introduced themselves.

Guest Speakers:

Pete Constant, San Jose Councilmember, D1 provided the following update:

City, State, and Nation are seeing an increase in gang violence, San Jose included – especially the west side of San Jose. San Jose has developed a new protocol on handling their response to violent crimes. Public meetings are conducted to inform community designed to give brief summary of what happened and what the city and other governmental entities are doing to solve and address violence issues. + Graffiti is also on the rise. City is very proactively addressing this issue. City assesses graffiti to determine if it is gang related and then removes graffiti as quickly as possible. + Pete Constant has established a District 1 leadership group. Councilmember Constant has a strong belief in organized neighborhoods – and this leadership group has representatives from each group who come together every other month to talk about what is going on in the city, share best practices, develop a mentoring relationship, and to be a conduit of information for neighborhoods and city council both ways. + San Jose has developed a Green Vision (brochures were provided). The plan has many lofty but achievable goals. This is a long range vision for the city. + San Jose budget: San Jose has been working for several years with a deficit. New Mayor and City Council are very dedicated to addressing the issue and are working to find ways to achieve a balanced budget and reduce the deficit while still addressing issues of deferred maintenance (roadways, curbs, gutters, storm drains, etc.) San Jose has new budget process which includes public outreach, surveys, etc. to determine a greater understanding of the community's priorities. + Important D1 Community Dates: March 17, 2008: Violence response meeting, April 1, 2008: Budget Meeting, April 4, 2008: West Valley Senior Walk at Westfield Valley Fair, April 12, 2008: Great American Clean up, June 14, 2008: Neighborhood Caucus. For more information on D1 and events you can visit: <http://www.sjdistrict1.com/>

Lieutenant Dale Morgan and Sergeant Drake, SJPD provided the following update: Activity in our area has been mostly burglaries, vehicle break ins and things of that nature. The Lieutenant shared that the community is their "eyes and ears" and continues to ask us to be sure to report things via 311 or 911 when appropriate. Resources sited were: www.sjpd.org , and www.crimereports.com , both of these sites is where community members can get current information about activity in our area. Police representatives encouraged the community to "harden the target" – keeping your windows and doors locked and by not placing valuable items visibly in your vehicles – attracting theft.

It was MOTIONED and APPROVED to accept the Agenda.

It was MOTIONED and APPROVED to accept the minutes of January 9, 2008 as written.

Board Reports:

Heather Sutton - President

Heather shared that she is in regular communication with the city of Campbell and is excited about the development of a possible new leadership group in Campbell. STWNA board members who are Campbell residents have been invited to participate, and will keep the community updated on the progress. + Board appointments, Elaine Osborne as the Director of Events and Ann Herosy, Director of Safety were formally announced. + D1 leadership update: last meetings included a review of the mayor's budget and organizational topics for the group. + City breakfast: San Jose's Green Vision was introduced. + STWNA board members have been and will continue to attend neighborhood organizational classes offered by the Neighborhood Development Center and will continue to keep community informed on what we learn.

Lisa Riggs – First Vice President

Lisa thanked all of the block captains for their continued support and for exceeding our hopes and expectations. + Lisa also announced that our volunteer recognition for this month is Therese and Rodger Ryan – Therese and Rodger were unable to attend the meeting so we will recognize them at our May meeting. + Lisa shared with the group that the STWNA has formed a great relationship with SFO Printing on Hamilton Avenue. SFO recently relocated to Hamilton Ave, and with the leadership of Lou and Pauline Berns, has created a great partnership with the STWNA. SFO will be providing the printing of the STWNA newsletter for a greatly reduced price – as an effort to partner with and support our community efforts.

Jeannie Grigsby – Second Vice President

Jeannie was unable to attend but provided her report to Heather. Heather shared that Jeannie has been working very hard to find a great price for the printing of the STWNA lawn signs. Heather shared a sample of the artwork for the signs and explained that we are ready to go to print. The signs will have a "rider" that explains why the sign has been put out – that will state either "Meeting this Wednesday," or "Event this Saturday". A portion of the expense will be covered by the City of San Jose CAP grant, the other portion by STWNA funds. The Community was asked to volunteer to take a lawn sign – and place them on their property one week prior to the event or meeting to help spread the word about the STWNA and to act as a reminder of upcoming STWNA activities to neighbors. A sign up sheet to have a lawn sign was passed around.

Cindy Cooper – Treasurer

Cindy presented the current STWNA financials.

It was MOTIONED and APPROVED to accept the treasures report.

Kim Lafond – Secretary

Kim was unable to attend. A special thanks to Pauline Berns for her continued efforts to support the success of the STWNA – and her work during this transition period. Heather shared the update on membership: This calendar year the STWNA has almost 120 members – 69 of whom are renewals from last year. At the end of 2007, the STWNA had 145 paid members.

Elaine Osborn – Director of Events

Elaine shared that we are in the process of planning our 2008 events. These events may include: Block Party, National Night Out, Dumpster Day, Garage Sale Day, E-Waste (possibly two separate events), Holiday Event, and Safety Event. Elaine shared that she will keep the membership updated as we begin the planning process – and encouraged our community to help out with these events. Currently, the STWNA Block party, pending funding, is tentatively scheduled for July 19, 2008. Details will be provided as plans unfold.

Ann Herosy – Director of Safety

Ann shared that our Safety event is coming – Saturday, March 29th and provided an overview of the event. (see flier) A continental breakfast will be offered, and seminars from the American Red Cross and Joe Grasso, retired SJPd on Don't Bully My kids will be offered. Additionally San Jose CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) will provide the last session – members who attend this session will receive a 3 day/ 1 person emergency kit. Ann showed a sample of the emergency kit and shared that it had important survival pieces inside. Cindy Cooper shared that the company that builds the emergency kits will also be on hand with other kits in a variety of sizes for sale. Lisa shared information about the blood mobile and strongly encouraged members to sign up to make a donation – that could save a life. Additionally, Lisa offered that if any community members were having difficulty signing up to make a donation, that they contact her directly via STWNA for assistance.

Chairperson's Report:

CBAC (Community Board Advisory Committee):

Erin was unable to attend but provided her report to Heather. Heather stated that Erin is doing a fantastic job representing the STWNA in this Moreland School District committee. District updates include: The charter school, the Moreland School Board has provided a preliminary offer of facilities to the Charter; a final offer must be made by April 1st – so it will be on the agenda for the trustees meeting on March 25th – interested community members are encouraged to attend. + Budget update: News from the state is not great on educational funding and district is looking at potential budget reductions for future years. This coming year, Moreland is anticipating to be fine but following years, if the economy stays on current track, may be difficult. + District provided CBAC an update on its Strategic Plan – specifically “closing the achievement gap.” District has implemented a plan to assess current practices and is developing a plan to address areas of improvement they find. If community members have any questions, or would like to share anything related to the school district for Erin's consideration at CBAC meetings, please contact Erin at erin.mclaughlin@hp.com

Business Partners Program:

Pauline Berns will be chairing this effort. STWNA is looking at what partnerships we might be able to create with local businesses. Community members were encouraged to contact

the STWNA if they would like to be a part of the development of the STWNA Business Partners Program.

Unfinished Business:

STWNA 2008 Goal and Priority Setting

Heather informed the members that the 2007 goals update was provided in a hand out and reviewed the 2008 proposal document. The 2008 proposal for community consideration includes the 2007 goals and priorities established by the community at that time with suggestions for additional opportunities the STWNA may consider moving forward. Members were encouraged to rank each activity within each goal indicating their highest to lowest priority. Goals themselves were also to be ranked. Heather requested that completed surveys be handed in at the end of the meeting.

*It was suggested that the survey be offered online – and Heather responded that she would post it shortly.

New Business:

CAP Application Cycle 22 – 2008/2009

The deadline for the next City of San Jose CAP grant is April 4, 2008.

It was MOTIONED and APPROVED to submit a CAP Grant Application.

Adopt a Creek

Heather shared that she has had meetings with neighboring neighborhood groups with regard to potential beautification opportunities. The STWNA submitted a request and the request was granted for the STWNA to participate in National River Clean Up Day. This day is a great opportunity to give back and is sponsored by the City of San Jose, Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation, and The Santa Clara Valley Water District. Volunteers will be supplied all necessary materials, i.e. water, gloves, garbage bags, sun block. **National River Clean Up Day is Saturday, May 17, 2008.** There will be a volunteer training on May 1st. The STWNA is scheduled to clean up the San Tomas Creekway between Payne Avenue and Campbell Avenue. Community members were encouraged to attend. Heather shared that she has received significant feedback about this area and is excited that this event could be the start of something fantastic in the STWNA.

Graffiti Action Opportunity

Heather shared that she met with the Blackford NAC leader, Ken Kelly, City of San Jose Representatives (anti graffiti program) and plans to meet again with this group including City of Campbell representatives to discuss increased graffiti in our area and possible pilot program and partnerships to proactively address this shared concern. STWNA members were asked to share “top 6 hot spots” for graffiti in the STWNA boundaries. Community members listed the following for Heather to take to her next meeting on this topic:

- San Tomas Aquino and Payne – Utility Box and sidewalk
- Hamilton Avenue – up and down the street – mailboxes, dumpsters, and utility boxes – specifically at the corner of Bismark
- Hamilton Avenue and San Tomas Expressway – Business Center between Expressway and Darryl Drive
- Campbell Avenue and San Tomas Aquino – Business Center
- Campbell Avenue – near San Tomas Expressway
- Hamilton Avenue and San Tomas Aquino – Business Center

Heather shared that she had another meeting scheduled with the group this Friday, will share our community's areas of concern and report proposed next steps back to the STWNA.

San Jose Neighborhoods Commission

Heather shared that in September of 2007, San Jose City Council approved the creation of a city wide Neighborhoods Commission. Heather shared that this was an exciting development for neighborhoods. The Commission is a two year pilot and is unique to other commissions in that Commissioners will be elected by neighborhood groups. Each of the ten districts in San Jose will elect three Commissioners and two alternates to serve. "The Neighborhoods Commission shall integrate the voice of neighborhoods into the City's decision-making processes; study issues, courses of action, policies, and programs that affect neighborhood quality of life; make recommendations to Council and Redevelopment Agency; and empower neighborhoods." Commissioners will be selected through a caucus process and must receive a majority vote to be elected through rounds of public balloting. City council will then seat the commissioners in the fall.

*San Jose, D1 residents who want to serve on this commission must meet the city requirements to serve on a board or commission and must submit their applications to **San Jose City Clerks office by 5pm, April 4, 2008**. Details for candidates can be found in the Neighborhoods Commission overview (web site listed below.)

Neighborhood Groups must register with the Neighborhood Development Center by April 4, 2008 to participate in this process. The STWNA has completed its registration. Additionally, neighborhood groups must designate one delegate and one alternate to attend the caucus and cast a ballot on behalf of the neighborhood group they are representing for the commissioners of interest. All D1 community members are welcome to attend the caucus. Heather asked that the STWNA members think about who might serve as the STWNA delegate and alternate delegate for discussion and appointment at our next STWNA meeting. She also encouraged San Jose residents who would like to learn more about serving on this commission to visit the City of San Jose Clerk's office website. Information about the Neighborhoods Commission can be found under "Board and Commissions."

D1's caucus will be held on June 14th at the Moreland West Community Center.

For more information including a detailed overview, FAQ, etc. on the Neighborhoods Commission, you can visit: www.sanjoseca.gov/Clerk/commissionboard/NC/NC.asp

Additionally, you can contact Heather Sutton, via STWNA email or phone with your questions.

Beautification Grant

Elaine Osborne shared that while attending one of the neighborhood organizational classes, she learned that there was an opportunity to submit a San Jose Beautification Grant Application. The Beautification Grant would supply the STWNA with things such as trees to plant to help beautify our neighborhood. Elaine shared that she completed and submitted the grant application and will report to our community as soon as she learns the results of our application. Community members, who are interested in the topic of beautification, were encouraged to get involved, via contacting the STWNA as this potential opportunity unfolds.

Open Discussion and Announcements:

Laura Jones, a Policy Aide from Supervisor, Ken Yeager's office shared that she was very impressed with the STWNA. She informed our community that the Supervisor's office oversees county issues and offered a newsletter, as well as San Jose and Campbell respectively – magnets with contact information for county related issues. She has been in contact with Heather, and they are working to have them come back as guest speakers at a future STWNA meeting.

Lisa expressed gratitude to Theresa and Hans Ellenson for their continued contributions to the STWNA via unsolicited baked goodies at each of the last several meetings.

Heather shared that Payne Elementary school is preparing for their annual "Walk-A-Thon" on April 27th and requested that any community members who would like to help support the school by making a contribution to the silent auction planned for that event. Members can send offers to the STWNA, and it will be forwarded to Pauline Berns – who is chairing the auction for the Payne School event.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 14th

***Note – NEW start time for meetings: 6:30 pm** to ensure sufficient time for guest speakers and STWNA business. The next meeting will have guest speakers from City of San Jose – Street Smarts program. This presentation is intended to provide driver, bicyclist, and pedestrian education. Also invited to this meeting is Matthew Jue, the City of Campbell traffic engineer who is heading the signalization project slated for the Hamilton Avenue and Phoenix Drive intersection to provide an update, and Nancy Cisler, Principal for Payne Elementary School to review student safety to and from school.

****Please note:** City of Campbell is working to schedule a public meeting on the signalization project sometime in April – the STWNA will send notification once confirmed.

Request was made for future guest speaker suggestions and items of interest from community, hearing none, the meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
Minutes submitted by Secretary, Kim Lafond with board assistance.