

San Tomas West Neighborhood Association

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Meeting was held at the West San Jose Community Center since the Payne School MU was unavailable.

Welcome & Introductions:

Co-Presidents Peter Rushbrook and Warren Campbell welcomed everyone. Peter asked members to take a moment and say hello to someone new to them.

Guest Speakers:

Campbell PD did not attend.

San Jose PD: Officer Drake gave an update on crime statistics since our last meeting. Not bad although there is an increase in thefts from vehicles and thefts of vehicles. PD is using "bait cars" to catch car thieves. He reminded us not to leave any items of value visible in cars. Also keep in mind that thefts and home burglaries usually increase during the summer. 2 weeks ago they received a call that there were kids playing on the roof of Payne School. *****

Many incidents of illegal fireworks before and after July 4th.

Resident asked about stealing of recycleables. "Is it really illegal"? Yes.

Residents asked about the PD helicopters - noticed they were out quite a bit. One incident mentioned was on Eden & Loma Verde. Suspect ran and hid in apartment complex. Helicopter was used to assist in search. He was found and arrested.

Officer Drake thanked the membership for their support of the SJPD.

Sean O'Brien – Orchard Supply Hardware

Degree in Horticulture from Cal Poly. He works part-time at OSH nursery, T, TH, Fri, Sat (5pm to closing) Shared brochure from the California Native Plant Society. Some native plants are hard to get. A "native" can survive on the yearly rainfall without additional watering. A "drought tolerant" plant uses less water, after it's established. Drip irrigation is best watering type. The intent is to water slowly and deeply, less frequently but longer time. "Top dressing" such as bark, mulch, gorilla hair, reduces water use by 72%. Keeps water from evaporating as quickly. When planting you should "double dig" the hole, add planter mix or compost, break root pattern of the pot so new roots will grow. First watering is most important. Sean showed samples of drip irrigation: tubing and emitters, basic setups. Discussed tree pruning, especially fruit trees. Discussed organic vs. chemical fertilizers, mulching, lawn fertilizing. Sean gave advice to several members for specific problems.

Approval of the agenda: need to add "Going Green"

Approval of May 13th Meeting minutes

Board Reports:

Warren Campbell & Peter Rushbrook, Co-Presidents

Warren has been working on CAP rant and tax problem with Therese.

Lisa Riggs, First VP

Sorry if anyone did not receive their newsletter. Many block captains have been on vacation. Does anyone want to be a backup? Advertising space is available in the newsletter. Business card size is only \$30.

Diana Wickman, Second VP

Next restaurant night is Wed. July 15th at Checkers Pizza. Bring the flyer, all day they will give 10% of sales to STWNA.

Treasurer, Therese Ryan was not present due to family emergency. Financial report was posted in back of room for review.

Jeannie Grigsby, Secretary
108 member families, 4 new members joined tonight

Elaine Osborne, Dir. Of Events
Block Party was attended by approx. 200. Thanks to Rosenthal Construction for providing trash removal and to Oakmont Grocery for produce donation.
Dumpster day will be October 17th. Free to members, fee will be charged to non-members. If residents want to join that day for 2010, they can dump for free.

Ann Herosy, Dir. Of Safety was not present due to a vacation.

Outstanding volunteer award was given to Joyce Slaughterbeck.

Committee Reports:

CBAC – Erin McLaughlin was not available for report.
Beautification – Maria Franco –River cleanup was successful. 12 volunteers gathered 150+ pounds of trash and recycleables.

Unfinished Business

Board vacancy & 2010 Board openings
Warren reminded residents that the Dir of Safety position is currently available.
Several Board positions coming up for election

New Business:

Question – What to do about foreclosures with high weeds, blight, etc? Call code enforcement, remind that it is a fire hazard.
Assessment Refund info was sent to residents. More info online. Concerning Open Space District.
Reminder that Heather Sutton and Warren Campbell represent our neighborhood at the District 1 Leadership Group. Be sure to bring concerns to them to relay to group.
August 4th is National Night Out
Sept 19 is National Coastal Cleanup

Next Meeting will be September - date to be determined – depending on school opening dates and room availability. Check website and/or newsletter for location.