

## San Tomas West Neighborhood Association

General Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, March 11, 2009

### Welcome & Introductions:

Co-President Peter Rushbrook welcomed everyone and introduced the board members. He also asked those in attendance to introduce themselves to someone they have not met before, to encourage people to get to know their neighbors.

### Guest Speakers:

Mr. Glen Ishiwata, Superintendent of the Moreland School District explained the district's current budget situation and the need for a proposed parcel tax to offset budget cuts.

Due to both federal and state budget cuts the district will be facing a 13% reduction in revenue. Since the district's budget is 89% personnel, there is no way to avoid layoffs. Parts of the education budget are restricted in their use. This year the district will be allowed to move some of those restricted funds around to better serve their needs. The "economic stimulus" funds allocated to the district are required to be used in certain areas. Special Ed programs and Title 1 (low-achieving students) will receive most of it. Also there may be some funding for construction. Dana Taylor, Business Manager, explained the 2 years of proposed reductions they were required to plan for. Class size will be affected as follows"

Grades K-3	20 students
Grades 4 & 5	32 students
Grades 6-8	30-32 students

District enrollment has been increasing and has continued to rise all year, which is unusual. Some students may be coming from private schools due to financial concerns. Question was asked whether the district would be reopening a school. Superintendent said there would have to be several years in a row with increasing enrollment to warrant the costs involved. In the meantime it could be possible to have a magnet school at the Latimer school site.

The proposed parcel tax would be \$95 per parcel for 8 years. There are 12,022 parcels in the district. The proposal has an exemption for Senior citizens and Disabled residents that could be applied for. There would also be an oversight committee to keep track of how the funds are spent. Hopefully the parcel tax would give the district some financial stability in the current poor economic climate.

Erin McLaughlin of the district committee for the parcel tax is fundraising for vote related expenses. They need volunteers to staff a phone bank to help get out the vote. They are looking for endorsements from groups like ours in support of the parcel tax. Co-President Peter Rushbrook asked the membership for a show of hands on endorsing the parcel tax. The majority voted in favor of the endorsement.

### Police Department Representatives:

Campbell PD – Captain Adams gave statistics for the 2 months since our last meeting. There were 51 patrol checks, many of them graffiti or thefts. The majority occurred in the Riverside plaza area and around Petsmart. 41 disturbance calls resulting in 1 report. Many of those calls were on Superior Drive or The Greenery apartments. There were 5 stolen cars, 3 recoveries and 11 cases of vandalism. There were 9 auto burglaries, many at the parking lot of Gold's Gym. Captain Adams reminded everyone not to leave valuables in sight in the car. Traffic report includes 76 citations, 7 impounds, 5 collisions.

Question asked about recent disturbance on Dunster Ave. A male threatened 2 female neighbors with a gun. The neighborhood was locked down, including 15 buildings, from 11 PM to 7 am. Multiple police departments responded.

Question asked if there has been any problem activity at the former Mervyn's site. There has been some dumping, graffiti and homeless camping. The property will probably be vacant for quite a while.

Question if there have been any police department cutbacks due to budget? Hiring is frozen and they are down 11 positions, including DARE officer and Juvenile officer.

San Jose PD-Sergeant Drake gave the web address [www.SJPD.org](http://www.SJPD.org) to see crime reports listed by address. There was a burglary at Payne school. Several car break –ins, usually a “crime of opportunity”. There has been an increase in car thefts. Some older Hondas and Toyotas are easier to steal. Reminder that weekends are busy – may be a slower response on minor issues. Residents can call 911 for emergency or 277-8911 for SJ emergency or 277-8900 for non-emergency. Heather reminded all to check the STWNA “important #s” list.

District 1 report by Maryann \*\*\*\* from Pete Constant’s office.

The illegal sign removal event was a huge success with 80 volunteers removing 300+ illegal signs. . Reminder that STWNA signs need to be on resident’s property, not in the city-owned strip between the sidewalk and street.

Upcoming activities/events in District 1:

3/13 - Bellringer at Winchester Mystery House for Friday the 13th

3/14 – Police, Fire and Office of Emergency Services will attend leadership meeting.

3/25- Greek flag-raising at San Jose City Hall 4-6pm

4/17 – West Valley “Senior Walk” and prescription drop-off

4/25 Great American litter pickup at Starbird Teen Center 8:30 am – 1pm

Approval of agenda

Approval of January meeting minutes

Board Reports:

Warren Campbell & Peter Rushbrook, co-presidents

Riverside Plaza project was approved by the planning commission. Campbell city council will vote 3/23.

There will be a 30-day period for community input. After May 23 the project can start and will have 3 years to be completed.

Plastic bag referendum was passed to cities to decide. A speaker will come to a future STWNA meeting.

There are websites for both sides of the issue.

Warren attended “Neighbors in the Chambers” class with Safety Director Anne Herosy.

He spoke with a representative for the Mervyns site. They have hired security, the parking lot will be chained off, and garbage will be removed. Code enforcement is working on some issues. Hopefully will remain a retail site as it brings in \$2 million in tax revenue.

Lisa Riggs, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Volunteer recognition certificate and flowers presented to Heather Sutton.

Diana Wickman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Working on identifying possible business partners.

Restaurant night at Shine Yun made \$100 for STWNA

Neighborhood garage sale coming up on 4/25. Contact STWNA to have address added to map.

Therese Ryan, Treasurer

Profit/Loss report and Balance sheet posted for members.

\$1386 in membership paid so far for 2009.

CAP Grant application for cycle 23 completed and turned in.

Reminder that our new mailing address is P.O. Box 9203

Advertisers in our newsletter brought in \$540 that help pay for the printing of the newsletter.

Reminder to members to please patronize those businesses.

Jeannie Grigsby, Secretary

Membership for 2009 is at 89 families so far.

Several members gave extra donations beyond the \$15, which are greatly appreciated.

Elaine Osborne, Director of Events

Payne Home & School club invited STWNA to share their E-Waste event, Saturday 3/28 from 9am to 3pm  
Let STWNA board know if residents need help transporting items to the event.  
Looking for volunteers to help with Block Party 5/30. Sign up sheet at back table.

Ann Herosy, Dir. Of Safety

Residents should let Anne know if they want to set up a Neighborhood Watch on their street. Minimum of 10 houses to start.

Reminder that the Safety Director position is available.

Committee Reports

CBAC

Beautification – National River Clean up will be May 16<sup>th</sup> 9am-12pm

Business Partners

Neighborhood Watch – see above

Unfinished Business

E-Waste Event – see above

Board Vacancy – see above

Membership Drive – Please encourage neighbors to join so we can be self-sufficient.

Volunteer Opportunities

CAP Grant Application Status – see Treasurer report above

New Business

Review of 2009 Priorities Master Plan & Calendar

Restaurant Night – see above

Gang Awareness – Speaker Bernie Rosales 50 minute presentation. Reps from SJPD and Campbell PD to discuss local gang activity

Garage Sale Weekend - April 25/26

National River Clean Up Day – May 16

Block Party May 5/30

Open Discussion & Future agenda items – seismic retrofitting

Community Announcements – San Jose Council salary committee 3/18, 3/21

Census 4/6 – 6/19 please participate and answer accurately. Census workers will have ID and handheld machines.

Warren encouraged people to bring a neighbor to the next meeting and stop at the volunteer signup table.

Next Meeting May 13, 2009