

San Tomas West Neighborhood Association
General Meeting
May 13, 2009

Welcome & Introductions

Police Dept Representatives

San Jose – Captain JR Gamez, Western Division Commander

Captain Gamez gave contact info and discussed how to report ongoing problems with traffic. Proposed budget cuts could greatly affect staffing. Also there have been many officers retiring resulting in lower staffing. For example, our district should have 8 officers on the 3pm to 1am shift. There are currently 5. He explained the “RATF” stolen vehicle task force that is made up of officers from several area agencies. Graffiti has generally gotten worse, but our area is still not as bad as others. Residents should call in as soon as they see any graffiti.

Campbell – Captain Adams - Budget cuts may impact staffing, and they are freezing positions. Since our last meeting, March 11, there were 74 traffic stops; many were only given warnings. There were 14 vehicle accidents, 7 reports taken, and no injuries. Question – Do they ticket pedestrians that cross in mid block? Yes, 5 person stops. New light at Hamilton & Phoenix should be operating soon. It cannot be synced up to signal at San Tomas Expressway. They are 2 different systems. There were 2 crimes against persons, 30 disturbance calls (2 reports), some bar fights. Jewelry robbery at Joe Escobar on Hamilton. 18 property crimes, 10 reports – theft from vehicles, vandalism, graffiti. Graffiti reports – officer will photograph and put into database to match up with known cases. Riverside Plaza – they are checking for trash, graffiti, homeless. Code enforcement for Campbell is not on-line yet. Residents still need to call or write/mail.

Invited Guest Speaker - Emy Mendoza, San Jose Zero Waste Program

Emy explained some of the issues involved with the use of plastic and paper grocery bags. Plastic bags and bottles end up in creeks, bays and the ocean. San Jose Mayor’s “Green Vision” of environmental services. How to reduce “single use” bags. Paper bags – 14 million trees used to create. Plastic – equivalent to 12 million barrels of oil. Bags are not really free – they cost in litter related expenses. Neighborhoods with a lot of litter are less likely to attract development. San Jose has creeks that are “trash impaired”. Problems with recycling – plastic bags clog up the Mechanical Recycling Facility. Recycling commodities are down in value – no market. Paper bags are not better – require trees, creates pollution, uses energy to recycle. Some cities are considering charging a fee for the bags. In Ireland that has resulted in a 90% reduction in single-use bags. San Francisco banned plastic bags in 2007. Santa Clara County recommendation – ban plastic, charge fee on paper (25 cents) – implement by Earth day 2010. Some exemptions for users of WIC, food stamps, Salvation Army, Goodwill. Question - San Jose City council can implement without a vote. State is also considering proposals. Interested residents should attend the San Jose City Council meeting on June 2, 2009. A spirited discussion followed the presentation.

Board Reports:

Warren Campbell & Peter Rushbrook, Co-Presidents – Warren was not present due to illness. Next meeting’s speaker will be Sean O’Brian from Orchard Supply. He will discuss drought resistant plants, California native plants and alternatives to minimize watering.

Lisa Riggs, 1st VP – There is a Block Captain opening on Klamath Drive

Diana Wickman, 2nd VP – Next restaurant night will be in July. We are trying to stay with restaurants in our boundaries. Considering one of the pizza restaurants. Residents should check the next newsletter for more info.

Therese Ryan, Treasurer – CAP Grant for this year is \$1938

Jeannie Grigsby, Secretary – Current 2009 membership – 102 families

Elaine Osborne, Director of Events – Thank You to Payne Home & School Club for sharing the E-waste event with us. It was very successful for both groups, bringing in \$400+ for each organization. Block Party coming up May 30th. Everyone should sign in at the information booth. The attendance numbers will be used to plan future block party budgets.

Ann Herosy, Director of Safety - Nobody has stepped forward to volunteer for the Safety Director position.

Committee Reports

CBAC – Erin McLaughlin – Moreland School District thanks the community for passing the Measure A Parcel Tax providing funding to support district programs. Moreland Community garden has 1 open plot. It is only available to district residents. District would like residents to keep an eye out for any vandalism at schools during the summer. Enrollment is up for the 3rd year. Schools that are full run more efficiently.

Beautification – Maria Franco – The tree planting project has been postponed. Funding was frozen for the non-profit agency handling it.

Creek cleanup – Saturday, 5/16. Meet at 9am at Campbell Ave & Virginia.

Unfinished Business

Board Vacancy & 2010 board openings
As noted the Safety Director position is available

New Business

Open discussion & Future agenda items
Peter Rushbrook shared information about the former House of Orient building. The new owner is planning either a Greek or Russian restaurant.

Next STWNA General meeting July 8, 2009

