

## **STWNA General Meeting**

5/9/2012

President's Intro to open meeting

### Pete Constant

Pete discussed the current budget session.

On May 17, there is a District 1 Budget Meeting at Mitty High School at 6:30pm

The Mayor, City Mgr, Dept Heads will all be attending.

San Jose has had 11 years of budget deficits. There have been ½ billion dollar cuts in services over the last decade.

Mayor Reed has instilled lots of change. The fiscal reform and pension reforms are paying off for the city: San Jose will have a less than 1% surplus this year.

San Jose is expecting a \$22M deficit for the next fiscal year.

The city will "sock away" money this year to take care of next year's deficit because there are no more easy cuts.

The good news is that it looks like it will improve after next year.

Pension Reform will pass on June 5 and we will see major improvements due to this.

Mayor Reed and Pete Constant's terms of 8-years will be over.

But they have put in a place a leaner, more efficient city going forward.

The #1 mission is to provide services to residents.

Library Update:

Calabazas has been closed, but with a new paint, will re-open soon.

The Community Center Library will re-open first and then the Bascom Library.

In total, 4 Libraries were closed; they will re-open in the order they were built.

Q: Will the better economic environment help in filling retail space?

A: This is the 1<sup>st</sup> month of job growth. Winchester Rd still presents as the biggest problem in filling retail space. They are in the process of building a master plan with the neighbors and retailers. The property owners want more development. Campbell and San Jose have been working together on a plan that replaces all lights with programmable LED white lights. The goal is to replace every light in SJ with LED lights and that would save millions of dollars.

Q: Will they re-open the Libraries for more days?

A: Not yet. Calabazas, Bascom, and West Valley will have opposite days that they are open.

Q: Will they merge the county and city library system?

A: Pete would like to merge the systems, but not all of his colleagues agree. They also would like to merge to a county fire system where the closest fire station is the one that responds.

Q: Do the Campbell and SJ police work together?

A: The closest one will respond to an accident, for example, but when the correct city arrives, then the other one will leave. 9 of 20 times the responsible agency will take the report in this situation.

Q: Are there plans to restore senior activities?

A: Pete does not know as they started the budget discussion today. SJ is funding as many meals as before. The city is still committed to this but he does know if there is enough money.

Q: What are the shoes hanging from the power lines?

A: Kids being kids. This is not gang related anymore. Call PG&E or the cable company to come remove the shoes.

Q: Can you explain the pension reform?

A: Employee pensions are the main budget issue. \$73M was spent per year, 10-years ago. This year, \$245M was spent with fewer employees. Vote Yes on Measure B on June 5 to support pension reform.

The changes to the new system will be simple. Employees will be paid 60% of their final salary each year for the rest of their life. The retired employees will keep what they have earned and accrued. If they want to stay in the bracket, they will have to pay more to stay in that program. If not, they can have a lower accrual rate and pay less. You can go the city website and read for yourself. Pete and the Mayor support pension reform.

Parks:

There are not a lot of parks in west SJ and most of the parks in D1 are deficient in their amenities. Calabazas, Starbird and John Muir are the main parks. On 5/22 the Council will discuss a project to improve these parks. The project includes: turf fields, LED lights, more trees, more parking and better sports fields. Mitty has signed a joint use agreement with SJ for a 20-year contract to upgrade the park on the corner of Moorpark, by Queen of Apostles.

#### Captain Charlie Adams – Campbell PD

From January to now:

There has been a reduction in property crimes – this is unique to our area.

There were 2 residential burglaries, 2 auto burglaries and this is very impressive to have such low numbers. A neighbor on Monica called in 2 guys who went in the their neighbors backyard and the Police caught them opening a window.

Please call if you see any suspicious behavior. That includes, people knocking on doors, looking in cards, opening door handles, etc.

The police arrested an intoxicated 55-year old pouring beer into a soda can.

At Latimer an officer spoke to 3 guys and possibly prevented a crime.

Drugs: There was 1 report on W Campbell Ave that was a juvenile family disturbance.

There was an arson attempt at 1200 Campbell Ave and the person is in custody. This was a long-going dispute with his girlfriend.

On March 10, the Round Table was robbed. They are still looking for the suspects, but are getting closer.

There were 27 suspicious person calls; 0 were arrested.

Traffic: 47 stops, 37 citations

There have been complaints of the traffic situation at Safeway.

There was a major accident at Hamilton and Marathon. It was alcohol related. Capt Adams thinks the stoplights make traffic much safer and there are less speed issues.

Campbell PD is looking to hire 3 officers in the next 8-10 months. They are currently doing background checks.

2 officers were hired earlier in the year. 1 was a replacement and 1 is in anticipation of retirement.

There are 41 officers on the books and 39 working.

The budget cycle is beginning.

Campbell income is up mostly due to Safeway and the gas station. No layoffs or hiring freezes are planned and they will fill the vacancies.

Q: Can you tell us more about the fire on Hamilton Ave?

A: It was an accidental fire on Hamilton. 4 families were displaced. Ann Herosy's group responded and helped the families. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2-alarm fire that day.

#### Jackie Wyckoff – President's Report

The PowerPoint did not work so Jackie improvised.

Jackie had 2 important things to discuss:

1. We will now be taking credit/debit cards to pay dues.
2. We got the Campbell CAP Grant. It was less than \$500. And our upcoming potential costs are:
  - \$900 for Dumpster Day
  - \$1500 for the Block Party
  - \$ For Caring and Sharing Event

STWNA will be offering a bonus to members if they have paid their dues and they bring in a member. Members will get a raffle ticket for a fabulous prize (a 2-night stay at a casino). For each member you bring, you will get 2 tickets. If we don't get friends and neighbors to join, we will not have STWNA.

#### Daniel Martinez III – Keynote Speaker

Rebuilding Together

Volunteer & Community Outreach Coordinator

Daniel has been a CA resident since January and is originally from North Carolina.

He is an AmeriCorps member, which is part of the Peace Corp in the US.

80,000 serve for 1 year. They earn a paid government stipend but they would earn more money working for McDonalds.

He works at a non-profit on Monterey Rd. It was 1<sup>st</sup> called Christmas in April.

They serve fixed-income seniors with free house repairs.

They have done 1000 projects in 2-years.

The program is called Safer At Home and it includes some of the following safety repairs: Grab bars in bathrooms, ½ steps – making 4 steps into 8, ramps or electric lifts, shower seats and heads, and raised toilet seats.

This is an ongoing program that qualifying seniors can apply for.

The Rebuilding Program happens twice a year.

This is an extreme home makeover. They have built 32 houses with 800 volunteers. The main goals in rebuilding are safety, paint, roof, fencing and landscaping.

Rebuilding Together is funded by the city.

After July 1, with the new budget, they are not sure how funded they will be. Sears, Lowes and some tech companies are also sponsors.

Daniel warned never to install suction cup grab bars. Carpets are also a hazard to walkers or canes. Linoleum floors are best.

How to apply: Call Rebuilding Together and they will send an application. You are required to own your home and you must meet the income guidelines of fixed income of \$59K/year or \$63K for 2.

There is no contract. You do not sign over your mortgage. You don't owe anything.

If qualified, the house will be assessed and a wish list of all the fixes will be made. In 2-4 weeks, a tech will come to your home to do the upgrades.

This is completely free.

Q: How do you get volunteers?

A: 95% of the work force are volunteers. You can volunteer online at [www.rtsb.org](http://www.rtsb.org). Every Thursday they do a home project. The last Saturday of October will be the next Rebuilding Day.

They also do a Green Repair program when they go into the homes, which have equaled and average savings of \$108.

Q: What will you do when your year is over?

A: My Mom wants me to move home to North Carolina. I may apply for an extension in Santa Cruz or open a program like this back home.

Q: Whom does this program serve?

A: Santa Clara County from Sunnyvale to Gilroy. There have been 10,000 projects done and this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest program in the US. Most applications come from word of mouth.

STWNA Meeting is called to order at 7:30pm.

Cathi reported that we have 14 paid members attending the meeting.

Jackie said we will have no approval of the January meeting minutes because it was an Annual Meeting the minutes will be approved at the next Annual Meeting.

Jackie Wyckoff was introduced as President. (Applause, Applause!)

Chuck's job was transferred to Colorado so Romy and Ingrid have stepped up as Co-Vice Presidents.

Lisa Riggs is the Secretary.

Cathi Hall is our Treasurer.

#### Romy's Report:

The next River Clean Up is on May 19 from 9-12. We will be cleaning up San Tomas Aquino Creek from Campbell Ave to Hamilton Ave. MMS Students will be participating. We will meet at the corner of Hamilton and San Tomas Expy at 9. Please wear sensible shoes!

#### Cathi's Report:

Cathi has Block Party Volunteer sign-up sheets.

The Block Party is scheduled on June 16 from 1-5pm on Kendra Way. We have a permit and are now in the planning stages. We may have to scale down due to financial constraints. STWNA will provide hamburgers and hotdogs. We invite neighbors to bring side dishes. We do not have confirmed attendees yet, but we are looking into it. If anyone is willing to help, please see Romy.

#### Treasurer Report:

We have \$1141.52 in our bank account today. Our insurance renewal will cost \$200. The newsletter bill is \$350 and special event insurance is \$100.

We are working on getting Paypal going so neighbors can pay online.

Please pass out the yellow brochures to neighbors and friends and they can mail in membership to the new PO box.

#### Business Partners Program:

We will be asking local business to donate. We were able to get water from Fresh & Easy and they will continue their involvement. If you see the Manager, Ken, please thank him.

The Starbucks at Kirkland is interested in this program and donating too.

Perks of being a Business Partner will include: being a newsletter sponsor, advertising on our website and sponsor a meeting with food.

STWNA has lots of volunteer opportunities: the Business Partner Program, the Block Party, River Clean up, and Caring & Sharing. We may also do a Dumpster Day but we are not sure due to the cost.

#### Old Business

Skip asked about Restaurant Nights.

We need a chairman and hope to start them again soon; ideally once a month.

Debbie asked about our non-profit status?

Jackie answered that CA lost our application and check last year. We have reapplied and it is a 3-4 month wait. Jackie sent the updated application 3-weeks ago.

At the end the year, members will receive a letter for tax write-offs for their donations.

#### Community Announcements

Boogie on the Bayou is May 19 in Campbell

Santa Clara Valley Water District will be having a study session on illegal encampments in waterway son May 16

Romy has so kindly offered that if anyone ever needs a ride to a meeting, with 24-hours notice, he will come pick you up. He also will take you shopping.

Erin: CBAC

Payne is scheduled for a remodel this summer and the campus will be closed. They will paint, do out door upgrades, adding tile, and classroom improvements.

Skip announced that Shir Hadesch will have a meeting about the senior funding program on 5/14 at 6:30 pm.

Kris asked for an update on the Riverside Project. We do not have an update and hope that when the dry-cleaning clean up is complete, the project will progress.

Future Agenda Items:

We would like to see the San Jose Police attend.

Jackie answered that we got a call at 5:55 this evening that they could not attend. They promised to attend the next meeting.

It was asked if STWNA could write a letter to the Safeway Manager requesting a traffic attendant at all times at the gas station. It was also suggested to make clearer signs.

Lisa reminded the group to use Scrip to help support Payne.

There was a complaint that STWNA is ignoring the apartment population. Jackie answered that we need more volunteers and when asked for volunteers, none offered.

It was suggested that STWNA advertise more in the Campbell Patch newsletter.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:03pm