

SAN TOMAS WEST

Neighborhood Association



Our Neighborhood - Our Voice - Our Future

STWNA General Meeting Minutes 9/17/08

Community Sign-in:

Sign in sheets were located at the entrance.

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 6:30. President, Heather Sutton introduced board members Lisa Riggs, Jeannie Grigsby and Cindy Cooper. Members introduced themselves.

Guest Speakers:

Charlie Adams, Campbell PD Gave statistics for last 2 months – 512 calls for service, 8 Person crimes, 4 domestic violence, 1 bank robbery, 3 no report, 51 property crimes, 36 reportable, 18 shoplifters. Despite numbers, activity is down.

Jim McBrayer, San Jose PD

Residents asked officer about gunshots? Or fireworks? Heard last Saturday morning and previously. He did not know of anything that happened. Flyer was distributed advertising website www.zaio.com and photographer taking pictures of area homes. To remove your home from the database, click “public interest”, then “remove my property”. Question is this legal? As long as the photos are taken from public street, it is.

Greg Finch – Campbell Measure O

City of Campbell is trying to raise funds to ease budget deficit and retain/protect city services and programs. Proposing a ¼ cent sales tax. This would be the city’s first revenue measure since 1969. 400 residents were polled with a majority in favor of the increase, to protect city services. Out of the current 8.25% sales tax the City of Campbell receives only 1cent. City has cut \$4 million and used reserve funds to make up deficit. State has been taking \$1.3 million per year. Majority of city’s revenue comes from sales tax and parcel tax. If residents are interested in supporting Measure O, they can sign up to get a yard sign and receive more information by email.

Dawn Right- San Jose Measures J & K

Campaign Manager for measures J & K presented the ballot measures. Said that the city of San Jose wants to reduce taxes and create steady streams of revenue. City has projected a \$46 million deficit.

Measure J – Current 911 fee of \$1.75 would be changed to a tax of \$1.57. Tier 2 reductions list, if revenue is not found: discretionary \$ for non-profits, homework centers, street lighting reduced, traffic enforcement unit eliminated/reassigned. **Measure K – Utility Tax** – reduce 5% tax to 4.5%. Some communication technologies are/aren’t paying utility tax. Will probably affect more business users.

Approval of Agenda:

It was moved and approved to drop the “home occupations” item from the agenda under New Business.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from July meeting were approved with clarification to membership numbers.

Board Reports:

Heather Sutton, President

D1 Leadership: determining groups charge, sharing best practices – lawn sign program first implemented in STWNA – is now wide spread. Councilmember Constant’s plan to address blight includes a wide spread “clean up day”, San Tomas Expressway and Lawrence Expressway – town hall style meeting including the

Supervisors office will be scheduled. D1 held its caucus for Neighborhoods Commission – three commissioners and two alternates were selected. Looking forward to UNSCC (United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County) conference and NDC (Neighborhood Development Center) trainings.

Lisa Riggs, 1st Vice President

Block captains will have a meeting before the next general meeting. One block captain dropped out since she is moving, but Patty Childress agreed to take over the street. STWNA continues to have all streets represented by a block captain.

Jeannie Grigsby, 2nd Vice President

Reminder that we want to have a sign on every street. Community members were asked to check the map..

Cindy Cooper, Treasurer

Reports are posted for review. To date income is \$8369.61 and expenses are \$7732.05

Changes for July & August were \$15 in income and \$280 newsletter expense and \$200 insurance expense. We also received \$1900 from Cycle 22 CAP Grant.

Kim Lafond, Secretary

Not present due to a work conflict. Kim will provide a membership update at the next meeting.

Elaine Osborne, Director of Events

Not present due to a conflict – report read by Heather Sutton Upcoming events are Sharing, Caring & Giving (Dec), E-Waste (Jan), Block Party (May 30-NEED VOLUNTEERS), Info Night - Going Green and Gang Awareness are all events being worked on.

Ann Herosy, Director of Safety

Not present due to deployment to Texas hurricane recovery efforts. Ann will provide a Neighborhood Watch and City of Campbell Leadership update at the next meeting.

Committee Reports: Business Partners – Ongoing work to identify and set up.

Unfinished Business:

- o District 1 Neighborhood Commission – Update – Caucus took place, was a success – and thank you to STWNA member, Alan Depew for serving as the STWNA delegate at the caucus.
- o Beautification: still seeking volunteers and considering viability of projects.
- o STWNA 2008 Goals & Priorities, Strategic Plan Update – still under development, community feedback encouraged, and will be presented at our Annual Meeting in January.

New Business:

Senator Simitian's "There Oughta be a law" – Mike Noyes - Mike explained his suggestion for a law and shared 2 handouts to members. His suggestion and submission for the contest is to revise the state penal code to allow "submission of digital photographic evidence to authorized authorities as sufficient for charging a misdemeanor or infraction." Mike is seeking the STWNA's endorsement of his idea/submission. The general membership asked to have time to thoroughly read and understand the handouts and discuss at the next meeting in November.

Open Discussion & Future Agenda Items:

Code Enforcement – questions for upcoming speaker? What is considered blight? Problem at corner of Cloverdale & Hamilton – parked cars block visibility. Water-wise landscaping due to current drought.

Community Announcements:

- o Westgate church is having a beautification event 11/22. Looking for more contacts to get involved.
- o America Red Cross needs blood donations due to recent emergencies in Texas and LA - go to: www.beadonor.com
- o Mary Anne Groen from Councilmember Pete Constant's office shared that they will be cataloging and removing illegal signs from our area. She encouraged members to not support businesses that do this – and shared that they will be fined. If code enforcement does not respond to resident's complaints, please call Pete Constant's office to follow up. 408-535-4901. Festival in the Park Saturday, September 20, 1-5pm at Hathaway Park.
- o Many incidents of vandalism on Stockbridge: Attempted break-in, unlocked cars burglarized, used motor oil poured on cars. Possible gang problem? Neighborhood watch?
- o Reminder: Next STWNA Meeting: November 12, 2008

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM