



## General Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2010

The meeting of the SCNA was called to order at 7:04 pm at the Stevens Creek Business Park (SCBP) Conference Room by the Association President, Robert Benscoter.

### **Present:**

Robert Benscoter, Carole Camarlinghi, Jim Landowski, Lynn Crockett, Brett Somers (Golden Spoon Yogurt), Elizabeth Sanford (Pete Constant's office).

### **1. Welcome to New Attendees and Introductions**

### **2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

Robert motioned to defer the approval of the April Minutes until the next meeting since no one had read them.

### **3. Review Action Items From Last Meeting**

- No action items were identified from previous meeting.

**Action Item:** Robert Sandoval said he would look for the Albany sign, and remove it as well.

### **4. Treasurer Update**

We currently have about \$587 in funds.

### **5. Membership and Board Recruitment**

Annual membership dues are only \$20 per calendar year and include voting rights. We are looking for Block Captains to do distributions on own street, or building (in complexes). Likewise, we need a few more Board members, especially a secretary.

### **6. Updates – Email Collection**

At the last meeting, Robert said he has created a database of all NA addresses and planned to go door-to-door to introduce the SCNA and collect email addresses. He reported he was able to make a first pass through a few streets since the last meeting, and we now have about 280 emails in the database (about 10% of area). He will continue to do this as his time permits.

### **7. Announcements By Elizabeth Sanford, from Pete's Office**

- City Budget Calendar was passed out. There is a \$116 million deficit, and it must be balanced by law.

- The City is looking at massive cuts in services, inc. fewer library hours (to 3 days per week), fewer staff to assist residents, layoffs of City employees, inc. Police and fire personnel, closure of community centers, etc. Not at all what City wants to see
- Pete has launched a new website, **www.SOSsj.com**, to get information and lobby not just council members, but also the leaders of the city worker's unions, and other officials. The Mayor has asked for a 10% pay/benefit reduction for all city employees. This would stem about half of the deficit total and reduce cuts to services. and the 11 unions, thus far have not been willing to accept it. (Pete and his staff has already taken the reduction voluntarily).
- The other council members keep reporting "Only 1 or 2 residents have complained about this" But the reality is that many more than that do care, and that is why they are encouraging residents to login to the website and contact the council members and other city leaders.
- The big meeting is June 14 (the last chance for public to weigh in), and then a budget must be passed on June 22, so it's a very short time window to be heard. So please login send letters, forward it to all your friends. It's very important for the public to go to this meeting. The unions have strong presence at meetings, but few residents show, which gives the impression that no one really cares. We need to show up and have our voices heard.
- A discussion ensued about how this will directly affect our neighborhood.
- Jim asked a question about how the June 8<sup>th</sup> election will affect this. ANSWER: They are separate cycles. If Mayor Reed is not reelected, the new mayor won't take office until January, so this council will still be enacting and working with his budget
- Elizabeth passed out Pete's hours through November.
- There was an issue with one of our apartment complexes complaining about solicitation and distribution of SCNA literature. (Brookdale). Elizabeth confirmed with the City Attorney that we are a nonprofit and are not subjected to the distribution laws, we are not soliciting and are not illegal. However, she recommends that we work with the managers to keep them informed. Robert explained that was one of the main reasons why he's doing the door-to-door to collect emails. We should not include info that can be seen as commercial.
- Elizabeth announced Pete's open office hours. (See our website for details)

## **8. Future SCNA Activities**

- Robert explained the history of the SCNA to the new attendees, and explained our first Event (the eWaste/Donation/Blood Drive event) last August. A discussion ensued about doing it as an annual event. Everyone concurred. We need more help to pull it off again this year. Jim suggested the same weekend in August as last year (August 21). It was the perfect weekend. The location may need to change as the Cadillac dealership may be under construction. A backup site would be Circuit City.
- Jim suggested an Ice Cream Social in front of one of our ice cream stores (perhaps Golden Spoon). Asked Brett about this option. He was sure the boss would not be open to freebie, but perhaps a discount, like \$1 per cup. Jim suggested we use some of our money to cover costs. Robert suggested we have a couple thousand dollars in the back before we talk about covering costs like this.

- Robert suggested participating in National Night Out on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, and explain what it was, possibly coordinating a social on NNO.

## **8. Upcoming Events**

- Jim mentioned an event in June or July at History Park next to Happy Hollow that the entire council attended last year that was great (an Opportunity Fair or Minority Fair) and wanted to go again but can't find anything about it. He wondered if Elizabeth knew about it. She did not.

## **9. Open Forum/New Business**

- There was a short discussion of the completed storm drain upgrade in the Loma Linda area of the neighborhood.
- Jim suggested that we need to have a Board meeting. Robert agreed, but we need a board first, (at least 4 according to the by-laws) in order to actually govern. Jim suggested it would be a brainstorming session. It was decided to have a meeting with the three existing members.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

**The next general will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 12th**, at the SCBP Conference Room, at 4320 Stevens Creek Blvd, Suite 280, (the large office building on the corner of Lopina Dr. and Albany, behind and across Lopina from Office Depot)

***PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY SO WE CAN BEGIN ON TIME.***

Minutes prepared by Robert Benscoter.

Thank you to Diane Warriner from the Stevens Creek Business Park (SCBP) for her generosity in allowing us to hold our meetings in their Conference Room.