

Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2001

Attachments: Agenda
Presentation on Adopt A Park
Financial Summary
Attendance sign up list

Agenda Items

1. Introduction and Welcome—John Hesler, President
John Hesler, Association President, introduced Association officers and Board Members. John also introduced Forrest Williams, City Council Representative and Dennis Kennedy, candidate for Santa Clara Valley Board of Supervisors.

2. Update on Association Goals and Programs—John Hesler
The Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association was formed to address community issues in the South San Jose area generally bounded by Santa Teresa Boulevard on the north, Cottle Road on the east, Winfield Boulevard on the west, and the Santa Teresa Foothills on the south. Initial priorities include:
 - Preservation of the Santa Teresa Foothills
 - Creation of a public trail along the Coyote-Alamitos Canal between Santa Teresa County Park and Lake Almaden Park
 - Public Education and Awareness
 - Safe Neighborhoods
 - Hillside Development Enforcement

Association accomplishments have included progress related to studies of the trail (as summarized in next item) and adoption of two parks through the Adopt-A-Park program. In addition, the Association web site (www.santateresafoothills.org) has been modified to be easier to use. Coordination with the City of San Jose, Open Space Authority and Santa Clara Valley Water District, has been good.

Due to Association actions and activities being led by volunteers, it has been difficult to accomplish all we would like to and more volunteers are needed.

Improvements planned include:

- More frequent general Association meetings with notices posted on the web site
- Additional Board Member meetings on a regular schedule (last Wed. evening of the month) with information posted on the web site. We are confirming availability of the South Side Community Center (at Poughkeepsie & Cottle) for these meetings.
- Improved coordination with the County. We have so far not gotten enough involvement from the County Board of Supervisors including our representative, Don Gage.

3. Status on Planning Study for Coyote-Alamitos Trail-- John Hesler
The city of San Jose has put the Coyote Alamitos trail on the General Plan as a part of the “blueprint” of future plans for the city.
The Governor’s office has granted the city of San Jose \$400K for an initial study of the trail. The city is preparing to sign a contract with a consultant to begin feasibility studies. The process includes public meetings, and review by the City Planning Commission and City Council.

Several Association Board members met with the Open Space Authority (OSA) to discuss making the Santa Teresa hills a priority for open space acquisition. Additional meetings with the OSA are needed. There are several additional sources of potential funding including:

- Cisco has agreed to acquire 330 acres of open space in conjunction with the campus they will create in Coyote Valley.
- Valley Transit Authority will acquire 333 acres of open space.
- Both of the above agencies need to acquire land that will protect the habitat of the Checkerspot Butterfly. Since the Santa Teresa hills are habitat for this threatened species, acquisition of land in the Santa Teresa hills could fulfill the requirement for both of these agencies.
- Funds could be leveraged through other agencies such as the Packard Foundation, Peninsula Open Space Trust, etc.

All the hills are part of the designated greenbelt and there are land use regulations for the hills, they don’t currently prevent all potential development.

Several questions were raised about the maintenance and rules that would be involved if the hills were purchased by the OSA. Alex Kennett, OSA Director for District 1 addressed these concerns. District 1 covers the area from Snell and Santa Teresa all the way to San Benito Co. (District 5 covers the north including the north section of the hills). Alex believes in getting on the land and using it, but it must be patrolled. The OSA prefers to partner with other agencies such as the Parks Dept. for patrols or maintenance.

4. Adopt-A-Park Program—Lynne Paulson, Board Member
The Association has adopted Century Oaks Park and Foothill Park through the City of San Jose’s Adopt-A-Park program. Volunteers protect and enhance our open space by maintaining and improving these areas. On Oct. 6 the Association held a special event to plant trees and shrubs at the portion of Century Oaks Park near Colleen and Snell. Neighborhood volunteers worked with support from San Jose Parks Dept., Adopt-A-Park, Our City Forest, and Sal Vela Landscaping. Additional park cleanup and planting events will be planned for the future. Volunteers will be needed.
5. Presentation on Proposal to install lighting on Santa Teresa High School Football Field—Suzy Guajardo

Suzy Guarjardo and other neighborhood and high school representatives spoke about a proposal to install lighting on Santa Teresa High School Football Field. This would allow the school to increase attendance & revenue for games, promote school spirit and enhance community activities. The cost will be ~\$175K and installation is targeted to be completed by July 2002. Funding will be raised through Santa Teresa High School alumni, booster club, business sponsors, city of San Jose, grants, etc. Oakgrove High School has successfully completed a similar field illumination project. Since students can choose which high school they want to attend, this project could also attract additional students.

6. Neighborhood Update—Forrest Williams, City Council Representative
Forrest noted that there has been an economic downturn since Sept. 11 that has affected the City of San Jose. An example is that Airport capacity is at only 65% of normal. The main impact of this economic downturn will be felt in next year's budget for the July 2002-June 2003 fiscal year.

Some items currently being addressed by the City include: security issues, resurfacing of streets, road safety, traffic calming program, beautification of median on Santa Teresa Blvd., airport expansion and improvements, BART funding, and Cisco zoning approval process.

The oversight committee is working on the specifications and monitoring requirements related to the new Power Plant in Coyote Valley. The CEC overrode San Jose's decision to disapprove this Calpine power plant but the City of Morgan Hill, Great Oaks Water Co. and others have joined in a lawsuit against the approvals to change the zoning of the construction site from campus /commercial to heavy industrial.

7. Membership Update—John Klimaszewski, Membership Secretary
There are currently 162 members in the Association. In surveys, 125 members have indicated their interest in preservation of open space, 113 expressed support for the trail, 44 were interested in education issues, 82 supported safe neighborhoods issues, and 10 volunteer to help deliver the newsletter. Since the newsletter cost \$1162 to mail the first time in 2000, we have been trying to have volunteers hand deliver it to each house in the neighborhood.
8. Financial Summary—Cheryl Ogan, Treasurer
A summary of the financial status was reviewed. (see attached). The main expenses have been related to printing and mailing the newsletter. Income has been from membership fees as well as grants.
9. Elections of Board Members
The following Board Members were elected for 2002. (unfilled positions are also indicated below):
President: John Hesler
Vice-President Gary Ogan

Secretary	John Klimaszewski
Recording Secretary	Lynne Paulson
Treasurer	Marlene Wilde
Director-at-Large	Forrest Williams
Director-at-Large	Mike Bosworth
Director-at-Large	Larry Benson
Director-at-Large	nominee/volunteer needed

Other Items

Larry Benson reviewed some of his concerns regarding the trail including privacy and vandalism issues. He agreed to be Board member and work with the Association to resolve issues.