

DRAFT
Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association (STFNA)
General Meeting
October 25, 2007

1. Introductions

STFNA President Matt Freeman welcomed attendees to the neighborhood meeting. He introduced current STFNA Board members in attendance.

Matt also stated that STFNA Board meetings are held generally on the second Thursday of the month at the Southside Community Center and any interested neighborhood member is invited to attend.

2. Financial Report

STFNA Board Member and Treasurer Rick Mandel summarized the status of STFNA funds since the last General Meeting including that the starting balance was \$5,133 and ending balance was \$5,045. An amount of \$1,095 in donations had been received during the time period since May.

Matt Freeman thanked the volunteers who helped distribute the STFNA newsletter by taking it door to door in the neighborhoods. This helped save the mailing costs which can be expensive. He noted that there are approximately 400 households that are members of our Association and most of these are also on our email distribution list.

3. District 10 Summary

San Jose City Council member and STFNA Board member Nancy Pyle provided a summary of District 10 items. This City Council district includes the Santa Teresa foothills area between Blossom Ave and Almaden Lake. The updates included:

- Improvements are being made to Almaden Lake Park including a children's play area, a bocce ball court, trail connections and a soil erosion project.
- An engineering study is being conducted related to the proposed Coyote Alamos Canal trail.
- Monthly meetings are being held to obtain comments on a study and plan related to local sports fields.
- A forum related to safer Teen driving was held.
- The recent San Jose City Forum on Economic Development included discussion on a decrease in potential tax revenue due to retail sales leakage to other cities. Nancy's office conducted a resident survey to obtain information on what types of retail stores would encourage locals to increase their shopping in San Jose. It is also important that the city retain some land zoned industrial so that new businesses can move here and bring more jobs to San Jose.
- PG&E is conducting major upgrades to the area power lines resulting in use of people, equipment and helicopters in the area of the Santa Teresa Hills. This work is expected to be completed no later than December.

For further details see the District 10 web page at www.sanjoseca.gov/district10/

4. District 2 Summary

San Jose City Council member and STFNA Board member Forrest Williams provided a summary of information on activities in District 10. This district includes the area along the Santa Teresa Foothills south and east of Blossom Ave. Topics included:

- The City economic forum included discussion on the economic issues facing San Jose. Partly due to increased e-commerce, San Jose must compete globally. We have less manufacturing in the area but we must conserve industrial land.
- The new fire station opens November 16 with a community celebration. The fire station is located adjacent to the Southside Community Center.
- A new police station will be opening on Cottle Road.
- A new library is opening at Branham Lane and Monterey Highway.
- The Santa Teresa Library is closed for 2 years while a new library is being constructed.
- The Hitachi site on Cottle Road is being developed and will include commercial and residential uses including some recreational areas.
- A renovated Dog Park was opened at George Page Park.
- Activities are taking place related to Traffic Calming
- There is an effort to determine how to make Downtown San Jose more inviting to city wide residents
- The project for an engineering study related to the Coyote Alamitos Canal trail also includes review of easements that would be required to allow public access. It was noted that there are residents eager to have the trail opened and there are also some adjustments to be considered to respond to concerns of other residents.

For further details see District 2 web page at www.sanjoseca.gov/district2/

5. Police Update

Captain Dave Cavallaro provided a police update. San Jose is a safe city compared to others of its size. Our Santa Teresa area has low crime rates. Progress has been made to address some crime increases this year including capture of some serial burglars. In response to some neighborhood concerns on recent burglaries, Captain Cavallaro recommended some actions including:

- Neighborhood watch program including call the police if you see a stranger in the area and are uncertain if there is an issue.
- Use an alarm system if it is affordable.
- Don't leave valuables in your car.
- Check the police website for crime reports in your area for the past 30 days. This can be viewed from a link at the Police website www.sjpd.org You can enter your address to find the reports on crimes that occurred nearby. You can request to receive crime alerts via email.

The department is waiting for increased funding to add additional officers to the force.

Residents with issues can contact Captain Cavallaro at
Phone 277-5530 or Email david.cavallaro@sanjoseca.gov

6. Santa Teresa Park & Friends of Santa Teresa Park Activities

Mike Boulland, President of Friends of Santa Teresa Park (FOSTP) and local volunteer and author of several local history books, discussed the need for additional support for input into a new general plan for Santa Teresa Park. Santa Teresa Park is a local treasure that is under utilized with many historical areas not well known or not accessible to the public. The Santa Teresa area is the focal point of many important events in California history. These need to receive elevated attention so that residents and visitors can experience the history and so that Santa Teresa Park can be a destination point.

In addition, the hills are a natural wildlife sanctuary and animal crossing path from the Santa Cruz Mountains to the Mt. Hamilton Range. This aspect of the park should be preserved and improved with the necessary bridges and/or under crossings.

FOSTP meets at 7pm on the first Wednesday evening of every month at the upper clubhouse at Santa Teresa Golf Course. All are invited to attend and contribute to developing recommendations for improvements to the park. For further information see website www.stpfriends.org

7. Election of Board Members

Election of Board Members was held with the following results.

- Matt Freeman
- John Hesler
- Lynne Paulson
- Rick Mandel
- Forrest Williams
- Nancy Pyle
- Dave Smith
- Ash Kalra
- Bill Erickson

An opening on the Board still exists. Interested residents can attend monthly Board meetings to find out more about opportunities for volunteering.

The Board will elect officers for the upcoming year.

8. Update on Open Space

John Hesler summarized current activities regarding open space. He has provided STFNA representation with the Open Space Authority to determine if they can purchase the parcel on the hillside that is next to the newly approved single family home project at the end of Miracle Mountain Drive. The parcel is ~ 28 acres and has two owners. So far one owner is willing to sell but the second owner has not yet responded.

John also mentioned an application for a house on the top of the hill. As with most of the homes on the ridgeline, they are accessed from the Almaden side of the hills, in this case from Graystone Lane. This parcel already has zoning approval but John was able to work with the applicant to provide some recommendations to minimize the visual impact. The home will be minimally intrusive as it will be a single story home of ~5000 sq ft. that will contour into the hillside, and no trees will need to be removed.

8. BEST Plans

In the absence of Board Member Dave Smith, Matt Freeman summarized the plans for Beautify Everything Santa Teresa (BEST). In the past year, Dave led a successful effort to identify residents with homes that had beautified the area through their efforts of remodeling, landscaping, etc. In the next year, the project will be a showcase of homes with special features (such as backyards, kitchens etc.) in an effort to raise funds for college scholarships. Further details will be available on the STNFA website at www.stfna.org

9. Green Challenge Event

STFNA Board member Ash Kalra provided an update on an upcoming Green Challenge Event. Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs will be distributed in the neighborhood to encourage reduction in energy usage. There is an opportunity to volunteer to help with this activity on Saturday October 17 at the Southside Community Center. A flyer was provided. For further information see www.greenchallenge0709.org/projects_fall07.html#1

Submitted by Lynne Paulson, Recording Secretary