

DRAFT
Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association (STFNA)
General Meeting
May 27, 2008

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 third Thursday of the month at the Southside Community Center and any interested neighborhood member is invited to attend.

Approximately 68 people were in attendance.

2. City Council Candidate Introductions

City Council candidates were provided up to 3 minutes each to provide information about themselves. The attending candidates who participated were:

District 10

- Nancy Pyle

District 2

- Ash Kalra
- Ram Singh
- Nicholas Rice-Sanchez
- Bui Thang
- Ted Scarlett

3. Police Update

Police officers Gene Phillips, Southern Division Lieutenant, and Ronnie Lopez, District Supervisor in our area, provided a police update. San Jose is a safe city compared to others of its size.

Officers do have a contract agreement that allows for seniority based requests for rotation every 6 months. However, the department uses technology to capture information to ease with any transition of personnel.

The police provided these tips:

- Community members can assist by using calls to 911 to report any suspicious activity including any graffiti. Provide as much information as possible and stay on the line with the dispatcher if requested to do so.
- For cell phone calls in the San Jose area, call 408 277 8911 for emergencies so you are routed directly to the San Jose Police Department rather than a more distant call center.
- To report graffiti, call 277-4044.

- To obtain updates on local crimes see the police website at www.crimereports.com. Regional information can be searched by address and zip code.

The new Police substation located not far from Southside Community Center is being built and is scheduled to open in Oct. 2009. It will be fully staffed including investigators. It will be more efficient for support for our neighborhood, since the current station is further away in Downtown San Jose.

There is a current shortage of officers so the Community Policing Center at Oakridge is not always staffed at the posted hours.

4. Update on Open Space

John Hesler summarized current activities regarding open space. STFNA has preservation of the foothills as one of its top priorities. Progress has been made with support from the Open Space Authority (OSA). The OSA Board has voted to look at the Santa Teresa foothills and has entered into negotiations regarding to potential purchase of a 27 acre parcel.

Last year John assisted with STFNA review of the proposed development of an 8 acre parcel on Miracle Mt. Drive. STFNA was able to influence the decision on the location of the approved home and a trail easement at the top was obtained as well as a conservation easement outside the building area. This project has not proceeded at this time but the approval remains on file.

John also mentioned an application from Boulder Ridge Golf Course to have outdoor events including live amplified music. STFNA has combined with other local neighborhood groups to register significant concerns. The proposal is currently on hold.

5. Financial Report

STFNA Board Member and Treasurer Rick Mandel summarized the status of STFNA funds since the last General Meeting including that the funds balance is \$5,895. He and Matt Freeman noted that some of these funds are earmarked for the grant for park strip improvements along Curie Drive (~\$1200) and that periodic expenses could include \$2000 for newsletter mailings and \$500 for printing of the newsletter.

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.

6. Scholarship Discussion

Matt Freeman introduced the topic of potential STFNA involvement in a scholarship program. Dave Smith has proposed this idea as an activity related to the ongoing BEST program. He proposed a scholarship for a local graduating high school student to be provided in 2009. Selection criteria have not been determined but could include financial need, community service, winning essay contest, etc. Matt explained that Dave has secured a number of sponsors for a scholarship and he has offered to donate some money himself. Matt noted that Dave has also approached the Association's Board of Directors to request that we designate monies from our general fund toward the scholarship. Matt indicated that the Board of Directors wanted to solicit input from the

membership for several reasons: 1) The Association has limited funds and the funding of a scholarship could potentially leave the Association with insufficient monies for ongoing expenses such as the newsletter; and 2) using money for a scholarship is something we have never done before as an Association and as a Board we didn't feel comfortable using money for a new purpose without a buy-in from the membership.

Matt opened the issue for discussion. Several people expressed support for a scholarship but expressed concerns about the lack of details. Another member stated that the scholarship idea is fine but the Association's ongoing expenses should have first priority.

Two motions regarding the scholarship were adopted by a vote of the majority of those in attendance.

1. The membership of the Association supports the idea of establishing a scholarship.
2. A scholarship committee should be formed for the purpose of defining the scholarship program (eligibility, selection criteria, funding sources, etc.). The committee will bring their recommendations to the Fall 2008 general meeting for discussion and approval by the membership.

An attendee from Scholarship America indicated interest in being involved.

7. BEST Showcase

Dave Smith 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. This year on Saturday June 21, the project will be a fundraiser and showcase of homes with special features (such as backyards, kitchens etc). Further details will be available on the STFNA website at www.stfna.org. Dave is still looking for volunteers to provide a showcase. Dave and meeting attendees suggested additional items include solar energy displays, a car converted to running on natural gas, and contractors showcasing their remodeling or green construction.

Tickets will be sold at the corner of Snell Ave. and Colleen Drive on the morning of the event.

Individuals with garage sales that day can donate \$10 to STFNA and receive free advertising on the communications on the BEST event.

8. Neighborhoods Commission

Lynne Paulson noted the article in the STFNA newsletter on formation of a San Jose Neighborhoods Commission. It is an opportunity for neighborhoods to have more input in City decisions. District 2 and District 10 caucuses to select commissioners for nomination to the City Council are scheduled. Each neighborhood group will have one vote. The public can attend the meetings and participate in the process.

9. 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:

- Several pedestrian bridges are being funded –one at Almaden Expressway and one at Guadalupe River Trail.
- Improvements are being made to Almaden Lake Park
- A partnership between the school district and the city has enabled preparation of a new sports field at Leland High School.
- An initiative has been developed to reduce sales tax leakage. Community members are urged to keep most of their purchases within the City of San Jose.

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

10. 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 new Police substation represents a cooperative effort between Districts 2 and 10 for funding.
- The City budget issues are being reviewed to resolve the deficit. Public Safety and Security are a #1 priority.
- There is already an over-crossing at Bailey Ave. for the Coyote Alamos Canal Trail to connect to the Coyote Creek Trail. The next activity has been proposed for funding is to perform an evaluation of what would be required to open the trail at the area of most activity (between Snell Ave. and Cahalan.).
- The Albertson Parkway Trail under the power lines has been funded for improvements.
- The project to build a Lowes in the area is proceeding after an agreement on the historic building was reached with the Preservation Council.
- The Hitachi site on Cottle Road is being developed and will include commercial and residential uses including some recreational areas. There is an effort to accelerate the schedule for the public park.
- The Calero School site that was for sale will be purchased by the East Side Union High School District.
- The new Edenvale library has opened at Branham Lane and Monterey Highway and it has the second highest library usage in the City.
- The Santa Teresa Library is being constructed and will open in late 2009 or early 2010...
- Additional construction projects include 2 pedestrian over-crossings over the train tracks and a community center at Davis Intermediate School.
- Litter issues are being addressed by a County wide Litter Task Force. This will include many identified City locations including the end of Snell Ave.

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

11. Other comments

A question was raised on a community dumpster day. These are periodically scheduled by the City but it could also be planned by STFNA if we obtain a CAP grant to fund this event.

Submitted by Lynne Paulson, Recording Secretary