

Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association (STFNA)
General Meeting
October 29, 2008

1. Introductions

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

Approximately 74 people were in attendance.

2. City Council District 10 Summary

City Council member and STFNA Board Member Nancy Pyle summarized activities for Council District 10 including:

- Boulder Ridge Golf Course proposal for outdoor event tent—There are noise concerns for both District 2 and 10 residents. There is also an issue with lack of compliance with terms approved for the present golf course. Nancy will be issuing a joint letter with the Director of Planning & Code Enforcement to oppose the proposal. She will also send a personal letter from District 10.
- Lake Almaden—improvements to this park include a trail, playground, outdoor theatre, covered patio and water jet spray area. Input at the meeting included a request for more shaded areas.
- Athletic field restoration—the successful renovation of an athletic field in the Almaden area in conjunction with San Jose Unified High School District is being used as a model for plans to renovate another field in a joint project with the East Side Union High School District.
- Whole Foods –this project is on schedule and the store is expected to open in July 2009.
- Economic Development—there are efforts to attract retail business in the area in order to increase revenue from sale tax.
- Crime is low in District 10 but there are always efforts to reduce the crime rate.
- Staffing changes—Lee Wilcox, the District 10 Chief of Staff, has been promoted to a position of Downtown Coordinator in the City Manager’s office. The new District 10 Chief of Staff is Kathy Sutherland.

3. Announcements

Matt Freeman thanked all members who helped deliver the STFNA newsletters this month. He also recognized these members for their special efforts:

- Wanda Bryan—delivery of newsletters to about 400 homes
- Mikayla Pratt—preparing and sending welcome letters to new area residents
- Jeffrey and Erin Benford—realtors who provide us with a list of new area residents
- Kathy Sutherland—liaison for City Council District 10
- Andres Quintero—liaison for City Council District 2

4. Police Update

Police officers Gene Phillips and G. Bowen provided a police update and responded to questions. Both of these officers are Southern Division Lieutenants and work on the Swing Shift.

A number of local crimes have been solved with the capture of a hot prowler burglar (who entered homes at night with residents inside), one member of a loose association of robbers based in East Palo Alto, two 16 year old carjackers, and a commercial burglar. Phillips noted that when the economy is down, crime increases.

The police provided these tips:

- Community members can assist by using calls to 911 to report any suspicious activity including any possible drug activity. Provide as much information as possible (description of person and activities, license plate #, direction of travel, etc.) 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 obtain updates on local crimes see the police website at www.sjpd.org and click on Our Neighborhood.
- Neighborhood watch programs are available to be set up for areas where residents request them.

STFNA webmaster Danielle Spreier will add a link on the STFNA website to the police website.

5. Candidate Forum

Candidates for local offices were provided up to 3 minutes each to provide information about themselves. The attending candidates who participated were:

City Council District 2

- Ash Kalra

Open Space Authority

- Alex Kennett
- Shanna Boigon

Board Member, East Side Union High School District

- Tim Tom
- Eddie Garcia
- Patricia Martinez-Roach

6. Event Tent at Boulder Ridge

John Hesler provided additional information on the application from Boulder Ridge Golf Course to have outdoor events including live amplified music in a tent. STFNA has combined with other local neighborhood groups (Graystone of Almaden, Almaden Hills Estates Homeowners Association and Almaden Valley Community Association) to register significant concerns. There are concerns about noise and enforcement of any terms if this project were to be approved. We have already had an impact because the

Planning Commission did not take any action at the first meeting on the project but instead requested further study.

We are waiting for the applicant to follow-up on their promise to meet with us. The Planning Commission has an agenda item on this project's status at the November 6 meeting. The meeting is at 1:30 pm at 70 West Hedding Street, Board of Supervisor's Chambers, East Wing.

7. Open Space Authority Update

Alex Kennett reviewed current activities regarding open space. The Open Space Authority (OSA) has had preservation of the Santa Teresa Foothills as one of its top priorities. The OSA Board is reviewing the overall Santa Teresa foothills and has entered into negotiations regarding potential purchase of a 27 acre parcel. Future acquisition and planning related to the foothills will involve the City of San Jose, County of Santa Clara, Santa Clara Valley Water District and the County Parks Department as well as public input.

From its inception the OSA was funded with a District 1 assessment of \$12/year on each residence. A taxpayer's group lawsuit delayed use of these funds for about 6 years. When the legal case was won by the OSA, they were able to use the funds for purchase of about 14,000 acres of open space.

A second assessment (called District 2) has been collecting an additional \$20/year per parcel. About \$57M has been collected. However, a taxpayer's group challenge has resulted in a long legal battle and an eventual decision by the California Supreme Court that the assessment was not legal. The lower court is now determining what will happen to the money that has been already collected.

Alternate funding sources are being identified by the OSA.

8. 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 ~\$6300. 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 there are outstanding bills for the Fall newsletter copy expenses and for participation in the Sound Study related to the Boulder Ridge proposal. In the future, periodic expenses could include \$2000 for newsletter mailings and \$500 for printing of the newsletter. The funds received for the future scholarship program are not yet reflected in the financial report.

9. BEST Showcase and Scholarship

Dave Smith summarized the plans for Beautify Everything Santa Teresa (BEST). In the 2007, 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 was a fundraiser and showcase of homes with special features (such as backyards, ponds, etc). Approximately \$1300 was raised in addition to some pledges. Several items were donated (gift certificates for garden supplies and pool supplies). These were auctioned during the meeting with the amounts collected to be added to the scholarship fund.

In the last General Association Meeting in May 2008, two motions regarding the scholarship were adopted by a vote of the majority of those in attendance. These indicated that the membership of the Association supports the idea of establishing a scholarship and that a scholarship committee should be formed for the purpose of defining the scholarship program (eligibility, selection criteria, funding sources, etc.). The committee were instructed to bring their recommendations to the Fall 2008 general meeting for discussion and approval by the membership.

Since the scholarship committee has not yet completed the above work, a motion was made and approved, to postpone any decisions about the scholarship until the guidelines are established for selection and fundraising.

Several people commented that general STFNA operating funds collected from dues and donations should not be used for the scholarship fund. Instead there should be separate fund raising activities for the scholarship fund.

Additional volunteers are sought for the scholarship committee.

10. 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
- Eleanor Bossa
- Christine Kukielka
- John Cunningham

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.

11. District 2 Summary

San Jose City Council member and STFNA Board member Forrest Williams provided a summary of information on activities in District 2. Topics included:

- A new library has opened at Branham Lane and Monterey Highway.
- The Santa Teresa Library is under construction.
- The new Police substation will be based in our area and will provide additional community support since it will be closer to us than the present station.
- A new community center at Edenvale is under construction.
- The Albertson Parkway Trail under the power lines has been improved and is now open.
- The District office is working on getting an assessment on opening the Coyote Alamosa Canal trail from Snell to Cahalan.
- The project to build a Lowes in the area is proceeding.

- The Hitachi site on Cottle Road is being developed and will include commercial and residential uses including some recreational areas. The park and trail are now under construction.
- Solar energy companies are being brought into Edenvale District Commercial Park.
- Several additional housing areas are under construction at Basking Ridge, across from the Hayes Mansion and in Palmia.

Submitted by Lynne Paulson, Recording Secretary
Approved at 11/20/08 Board meeting