

ALLIED NEIGHBORHOODS ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
March 16, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

President Orias called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

The following members of representative organizations were present: Mr. Hernadi, Mr. DeVore, Ms. McCammon, Mr. Barry, Ms. Orias, Ms. Holmes; Ms. Livingston, Frank Randall; also attending were: Diane Channing, Michael Self, David Pritchett, and Santos Escobar and Nancy Rapp of the city of Santa Barbara

QUORUM DETERMINATION

The president declared a quorum, exceeding 50%, was present.

IMPACTS OF THE POTENTIAL BUDGET SHORTFALL ON NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

Nancy Rapp, Director of Parks and Recreation, described the scope of the facilities and programs for which her department is responsible. Funds come mostly from the General Fund. So far, cuts have been made in services and the capital program, but not the staff – 100 fulltime employees and 300-400 hourly employees. Deferred maintenance is a big problem.

Ms Rapp anticipates next year will bring a further reduction in funds amounting to about 8% of the department's budget. There is no money for parks in the current stimulus package but maybe there will be in the next one. One mitigation for the shortfall might be public/private partnerships.

Neighborhood organizations can help by 1) taking on some of the maintenance of parks and 2) speaking in support at governmental meetings. Ms. Rapp recommends the Parks and Recreation presentation that will be heard by the city council on Wednesday, April 22.

COTTAGE HOSPITAL AND TRAFFIC IMPACTS AT 101 INTERSECTIONS

David Pritchett, chair of the city's Transportation and Circulation Committee, described options presented at a joint meeting of his committee and the Planning Commission. There was a general consensus that two-way traffic should be restored on Calle Real and the present northbound off-ramp to Las Positas should be replaced with a "hook" off-ramp opposite the fairgrounds. But there are potential problems with this. Also, Pritchett wonders whether surface street improvements might alleviate much of the congestion in the area. The traffic model used by the consultant is important for Plan Santa Barbara. Mr. DeVore expressed concerns about the model.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of February 16, 2009

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Hernadi reported \$1,667.89 in unrestricted assets and \$5000 in restricted assets (NDL grant). Representatives of organizations which have not paid 2009 dues lost their vote on March 1.

CHAIR COMMENTS

Ms. Orias distributed copies of Allied statements on the Inclusionary Housing ordinance and the draft negative impact study of Valle Verde expansion. (Previously distributed by e-mail were two statements on the supplemental charter amendment and the Arlington mixed use project.) All statements were approved by the executive committee.

Ms. Orias has thanked the Neighborhood Defense League for the grant for educational activities in connection with the general plan update.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

Ms. McCammon reported that the Mesa organization is concerned about the removal of trees for the Lighthouse project. Also there is an issue with portables at the Washington School. They have been moved very close to adjacent houses in violation of the zoning ordinance. **Motion** made, seconded and passed that Allied should support the organization's request to the school district to remedy the problem.

All organizations were asked to endorse the Save El Pueblo Viejo heights initiative, not just rely on Allied's endorsement.

Mr. Hernadi (Hitchcock ranch) reported that the latest version of the Sandman project still has problems such as too much density, too little open space and no playground in spite of the three bedroom units.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion made, seconded and passed that the webmaster be added to the list of officers in the by-laws.

Speakers to be invited to future meetings were discussed. Steve Cushman and Russell Ruiz were suggested.

Ms. Orias repeated her request that two representatives from each member organization attend the Allied meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made, seconded and passed to send a gift basket to Joe Rution who contributed so much to Allied. Ms Orias volunteered to be responsible for this.

Frank Randall, president of the Eucalyptus Hill Improvement Association, described the main mission of that organization to be emergency preparedness.

Mr. DeVore distributed a trifold from last fall as a "starter" for the Plan Santa Barbara mailer and invited members to contact him with ideas.

Mr. Hernadi notified that he will want Allied to comment on the Sandman proposal; it may be necessary to approve by executive committee.

Mr. Barry requested board members attend the March 19 meeting of the Planning Commission for the Inclusionary Housing amendment discussion and the March 24 City Council meeting for the discussion of an alternative building heights proposal.

ADJOURNMENT -- 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Holmes, Secretary.