

1Allied Neighborhoods Association

Tuesday, January 24, 2006
American Red Cross
2707 State St. (east of Alamar)

Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 7: 04 pm
2. Adjustments to Agenda
ACTION: none
3. Attendees: Gil Barry (Braemar), John Brookes (Hidden Valley), Gary Earle (Citizens for Sensible Planning), Bridgette Forssell (Riviera Association), Sylvia Glass (Grove Lane), Joe Guzzardi (Samarkand), Paul Hernadi (Hitchcock Ranch), Jim Kahan (Grove Lane), Steve Keller (Eucalyptus Hill), Joan Livingston (Westside Study Group), Cheri Rae McKinney (Bungalow Haven), Charlie Stapleton (Samarkand), Roberta Weisglass (Coalition for Sensible Planning), Scott Wenz (Cars Are Basic), Das Williams (Santa Barbara), Tom Williams (La Mesa Improvement Association)
4. Introduction of attendees and neighborhood representatives
ACTION: Allied Attendees – January 24, 2006
5. Introduction of Cheri Rae McKinney and approval and election of her to act as secretary
ACTION: no objections, unanimously approved
6. Minutes
 - A. Approval of Minutes: August 24 & October 27, 2005
 - B. ACTION AND REPORT:
 - 1) The appeal to City Council of the Planning Commission's approval of State Street Lofts was jointly filed by Allied, Citizens Planning Association, League of Women Voters, and Coalition for Sensible Planning. Other groups and individuals (GLANA, Samarkand, etc) are also joining the effort. The appeal notice (by Paul Hernadi and Jim Kahan) and its more technical Supplement (by Jim Kahan) are available on Allied's website.
 - 2) minutes for the past two years are also posted
 - 3) No objections, unanimously approved
7. Treasurer's Report - Paul Hernadi
 - A. Report on current state of Allied's Finances: currently there is a balance of \$1432 in the account, which does not include any checks that may be coming in to cover the appeal. Allied paid \$300 for convenience.
ACTION: report accepted
8. President's Report and Questions
 - A. Future meetings- Notice: Meetings have been scheduled for the 3rd Tuesday of January 24, 2006 minutes21 (approved February 21, 2006)

the month to accommodate winter holidays, and in the evenings to accommodate workers. In the event of a conflict with a City Council meeting, Allied will make accommodations.

February 21

March 21

April 18

May 16

June 20

ACTION: scheduling accepted with no comment

C. Appeal - State Street Lofts; a copy of the appeal was e-mailed to each City Council Member

D. Dues increase-general discussion of increase in yearly dues from \$25 to \$100; Executive Committee recommended \$50. Discussion tabled for the time being.

E. Annual Report -2006

REPORT: -- in the past year, the visibility of neighborhoods has increased as an issue; more organizations that have been formed and have joined Allied; traffic has been more closely monitored and people are working together more

--continued need for newspaper coverage of neighborhood issues, and need

for letters to the editor to be sent.

9. Recent Developments - Projects

A. Las Positas Valley

REPORT: Special guest Councilmember Das Williams noted that the City Staff has scheduled a special day-long Council meeting to hear the details of the Mark Lee project for 24 units in Veronica Meadows. Meeting is scheduled for March 8 from 9-4.

B. Upper East (Lisa Burns unable to be present)

REPORT: Jim Kahan attended recent meeting; the group is reorganizing and is currently concerned about the future of St. Anthony's (Jim is this right?) and the "traffic calming"

C. Upper State

1. State Street Lofts (appeal hearing at City Council on February 28 @ 6:00 p.m.)

REPORT:e-mail sent to low-income housing advocates encouraging them to testify at appeal.

--concern expressed for current residents of Plaza Inn who are disabled and don't drive. Where will they go if this project is approved?

--no plan for Outer State; Planning Commissioner Bendy White has called it a blank canvas on State Street, and suggested the need for a specific plan before there is haphazard development.

--discussion of incremental planning being all about permits, not good planning

--questions raised about the General Plan compliance of this project, and concern about ignoring the rules that are already in

place

--discussion of the need for a plan for Outer State and for the city to adhere to CEQA's provision for cumulative impacts
--discussion of need for a precise document, a community plan and a general plan to analyze the whole problem of Upper State and come up with both solutions and a plan.
--Das suggested the developer will anticipate cumulative impacts and put big \$\$\$ on the table. He also asked, "How does community benefit from kicking 17 people out of housing? It's a hypocritical project."

2. Other projects - Sandman site (a three story hotel and 73 condominiums), Circuit City/Whole Foods/Citibank, plus additional retail and 12 residential condominiums, 15 So. Hope (condominiums, commercial), Lutheran Church (senior housing), La Sumida (mixed use) and the La Cumbre Urban Village.

REPORT: comparison to Peet's and Trader Joe's problems with inadequate parking and bad circulation, noise generated from trucks; On July 14, Whole Foods Market representatives stated that they were opposed to housing on the site because of noise and other problems from trucks making deliveries.

10. Recent Developments - Other

A. General Plan Update & Outreach Committee (Guzzardi)

REPORT: Discussion of massive outreach to get beyond "the usual suspects" to help facilitate discussions; consultants are doing interviews of key individuals is working on

B. NPO/Single Family Design Guidelines Update Steering Committee (Joe Guzzardi)

REPORT: on hiatus right now staff is working on the NPO will run it by APR and Planning Commission on March 10; on Saturday, March 4, at City Council Chambers, from 1 to 4 a discussion of FAR

11. Election for Supervisor for Second District - discussion of Allied's position and process if it decides to make an endorsement or take other action.

ACTION: A discussion of whether or not there should be an endorsement: In the past, all candidates have been invited, but never endorsed.

Joan Livingston (Westside), "I think no endorsements is important."

Das Williams, "I think endorsements are important for greater accountability of candidates."

Gil (Braemar), "We are experiencing dramatic changes to neighborhood densification; now is the time to protect neighborhoods, and we should endorse candidates who would protect them."

Brigette (Riviera), "I have a problem with endorsements we have many members and we cannot speak for them unless we ask them."

Sylvia (Grove Lane), "Candidates should get their endorsements themselves from the organizations and associations."

Joe (Samarkand), This is an umbrella organization and it is inappropriate to endorse candidates.”

ACTION: The suggestion was made that Allied could schedule a candidates forum; members were urged to check the League of Women Voters’ website, smartvoter.org-lwv

12. Amend By-laws [8:20]

ACTION: Dues were raised to \$50 per year, all officers are willing to serve another year; an election will be held next month for new officers and a 2nd vice-president. Note: Westside has a problem with the annual fee.

13. General Discussion - Issues of concern raised by neighborhoods included traffic, break-in, fire preparedness,

14. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheri Rae McKinney