

1Allied Neighborhoods Association

Tuesday, February 21, 2006
American Red Cross, 2707 State Street

Minutes

Meeting called to order 7:08 pm.

Attendees: Gil Barry (Braemar), Heather Bryden (Upper East), Dianne Channing (Riviera), Paul Hernadi (Hitchcock Ranch), Jim Kahan (Grove Lane), Steve Keller (Eucalyptus Hill), Cheri Rae McKinney (Bungalow Haven), Joe Rution (Bungalow Haven), Michael Self (Santa Barbarans for Safer Streets), Charlie Stapleton (Samarkand)

Approval of Minutes: Paul Hernadi requested minor changes, for greater accuracy, to the minutes of January 24, 2006, sharing credit for writing the State Street Lofts appeal with Jim Kahan. Approved as corrected with no objection

Treasurer's Report: Checking account balance as of January 24, 2006, \$1,432, due to fees for transcription, cash received. Private individuals have offered donations to offset Outer State appeal expenses. Thanks were given to individuals and organizations that donated money in support of the appeal of the Lofts project. The Treasurer's Report accepted without objection.

President's Report: Discussion of State Street Lofts Appeal, hearing on Feb. 28 at 6 pm. E-mails encouraged. DVDs and transcripts of Planning Commission hearing are available, featuring many negative comments about project that were expressed by commissioners. This is the project to take a stand on.

Paul Hernadi Report on Lofts: Allied joined on appeal with Land Use Committee of Citizens Planning, League of Women Voters; an oral statement by Gary Earle. Very good turnout would impress the Council: simply standup, even if only for 1 or 2 minutes and give individual perspective. This is only one of 4 projects within 2 city blocks; Planning Division has ruled that it is exempt from CEQA review.

Dianne Channing comments: Franceschi House, the neighbors were shut out of the process; this appeal has a structure to it with the traffic, parking, lack of comprehensive planning. It's horrendous. Different organizations presented different problems with project.

General discussion about Lofts: E-mails were sent to Supervisor candidates Joe Guzzardi, Dan Secord, Das Williams and Janet Wolf making request that they oppose the Lofts project at the about December 8, 2005 Planning Commission hearing. All four were present at the December 8, 2005 hearing, but only Janet, Das and Joe gave opposition statements. Jim said at the first candidate's debate in Goleta, Secord expressed his support projects that had mixed use, more density and affordable housing and were

located on traffic corridors which described the Lofts project.

General: What is motivating planners? Community Development Department lives on fees, according to Tony Romasanta.

Michael Self: If traffic is significantly slowed, they will seek alternatives, according to Dru Van Hengel. This densification, models of Siena, Italy, San Francisco all to generate fees.

Jim Kahan: Transportation planners have created dangerous situations with traffic obstacles/hazards which are called calming devices.

Charlie Stapleton: came here from East San Gabriel Valley, taught planning at Cal Poly Pomona; said he has been reading more and more about lack of planning in Santa Barbara; tourists flock here for the bars, restaurants, my frustration is why? What is it about the climate here that precludes planning? Observation: this is the way the government in Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara likes it that way.

Discussion of NPO by Dianne Channing: It's been going on for 2 years, first a 4-month, then a 6-month layoff; the worthless workshops were a waste of time. 27 public meetings, a March 4 meeting at City Hall at 1:30, public hearing of draft. She expressed concern that Bettie Weiss doesn't want to do a second draft NPO revision, contrary to the previous understanding. Meeting with Staff next week, needs support.

Gil Barry, said he saw a Channel 18 presentation that made it seem like the NPO is already finished.

Motion to Support Channing: A motion was made for Allied to support Dianne and her efforts and write a letter about the process. Gil Barry was designated as the lead for Allied. Passed with no opposition.

Dianne Channing: need to address "as built" issue with no penalty for it. Landscape architects are required to sign off on projects, but architects are not. As chair of the committee, cannot make a motion, requested that Gil address first and second draft issue at meeting on the 28th.

Discussion of Traffic Obstructions by Michael Self: Santa Barbarans for Safer Streets press conference in the St. Francis Neighborhood; the City has received 1000 negative calls, 300 names on a petition about the roundabouts and other traffic calming devices placed there. The Oak Park plan was voted down 2-1. TCC meeting at 6:00 pm. Thursday, February 23.

Action on By-laws: By laws amended to create office of 2nd Vice President, adopted with no opposition. Annual dues increased to \$50 for memberships

Election of officers: Current officers volunteered to continue serving in their present capacities and Gil Barry offered to serve as Second Vice President. No other volunteers

have come forward. Current officers (Jim Kahan, Joe Guzzardi and Paul Hernadi) were reelected (Cheri Rae McKinney was elected as Secretary at the January meeting). Gil Barry was elected as Second Vice President.

Discussion of "Friends of Allied" membership tabled due to objections and concern about affect on the credibility of the organization raised by Joe Rution .

General Discussion of Neighborhood Issues:

Braemar: Mark Lee's Veronica Springs project, the Board supports good projects, thinks Mark Lee is a gentleman, and appreciates his promise of no traffic on Alan Road. Council hearing scheduled for March 8. Gil Barry, on behalf of the Braemar Association, made request for Allied support. Members had previously expressed concern about removal of slope and issues related to the required annexation for this project. However, concern was expressed that an even bigger project may come along. It was decided that the Board did not have enough time to evaluate request and the request was referred to the Executive Committee.

Eucalyptus Hill: Discussion of Montecito Country Club expansion with new homes and underground parking

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m. Next meeting March 21.

Respectfully submitted by Cheri Rae McKinney