

ALLIED NEIGHBORHOODS ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
November 12, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

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

The following Board members were present: John DeVore, Judy Orias, Roseanne Boardman, Paul Hernadi, Lisa Burns, Joe Rution, Catherine McCammon, Jean Holmes, and Gil Barry. Also attending was City Councilman-elect Dale Francisco & Sally Sphar

The President declared a quorum present, and welcomed our guest speaker, Mr. Mahan.

GUEST SPEAKER

Former Planning Commission Chairman Bill Mahan briefed the organization on the status of the proposed initiative to limit building heights (40 feet in El Pueblo Viejo, 45 feet elsewhere in the City) on the November 2008 ballot. He urged us to marshal our resources to back the measure, to urge our member organizations to do so, and to volunteer in the signature gathering effort. He offered to attend meetings of our member organizations to brief them on the proposal.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION to approve minutes of October 8th, with suggested corrections, made and seconded; **PASSED** unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Hernadi reported a treasury balance of \$1,137.90, and estimated outstanding obligations, for space rental, at \$120.00. He urged member organizations to make their annual dues payments (\$50) promptly at the beginning of 2008.

CHAIR COMMENTS

Ms. Orias reported on a number of items of interest including:

- A newspaper article listing a great number of major development proposals pending (distributed copied)
- An article in the Independent by her and Sheila Lodge summarizing the findings of both Allied's and CPAs community attitudes survey

- The ABR Findings proposal, that is going to the Council Ordinance Committee
- Suggested that Allied develop a position on measures the city might take relative to speeding.

NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES

Mr. Hernadi (Hitchcock) reported on a South Hope Avenue condo project that came before the ABR.

Ms. Burns (Upper East) reported that the Upper East Association is preparing to organize as a 501(c)(4) non-profit. She also urged that we request individual associations to prepare vision statements for the General Plan Update, to be submitted directly to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Barry (Braemar) reported on the Mark Lee Meadows project that was subject of a lawsuit that culminated in a recent ruling that City Council determinations as to feasibility of alternatives would be required.

He also noted that the Hillside House project goes before the ABR in January, and that its impact on Las Positas traffic should be analyzed.

Ms. Boardman (Bel Air Knolls) expressed concerns about expansion plans for activities at Eilings Park.

Mr. DeVore (Samarkand) addressed traffic concerns impacting that neighborhood.

Ms. McCammon (La Mesa) expressed concerns, shared by a number of members, about the apparent lack of progress on the General Plan update, as well as lack of information on the structure of the upcoming phases of the process, on the part of the city. She also raised the question of the plans on the part of the City for the approaching of the State's turnover of Cliff Drive.

Ms. Orias (Hidden Valley) expressed concerns about traffic impacts of numerous pending projects on neighborhood streets and intersections. Also mentioned possible developments relative to Earl Warren Showgrounds, and the approaching ramifications of the city's refusal to plan specifically for Las Positas Valley.

Mr. Francisco (Councilman-elect) noted that Santa Barbara Safe Streets had proposed the use of speeding cameras by the city. He also noted the city proposal to reconfigure the intersection of State and De La Vina and the implications of its having received "conceptual approval" by City Council; it appeared before the ABR and has been held over due to numerous concerns expressed by the public.

NEW BUSINESS

A letter to Dick Moss, wishing him success in his battle with cancer and expressing appreciation for his many significant contributions to Allied and its causes, was signed by all parties present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Officers nominations:** Since nominations by committee are not required under our by-laws, it was decided not to establish a committee, but to allow the nominations and elections to be made and held at our January meeting, as provided in the by-laws.

- **Tax-Exempt Status Application:** Mr. Rution noted that our application for Federal tax exemption as a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization had been approved. He noted that this exempted our organization's income (accruing from non-profit activities) from federal taxation, and entitled us to receive grants from organizations and sources that required their recipients to have such status, but that tax deductibility for donations would require either 501(c)(3) status, or affiliation of some type with an organization having such status.

- **General Plan Update:** Discussion centered on concerns about the city's progress with the General Plan update, and the obscure nature of the process since the completion of the first "phase".

Ms. Orias raised the possibility of a grant to pursue an expanded version of our community attitudes survey, possibly from Homeowners Defense Fund, and requested the item be placed on our December agenda. Mr. Rution was requested and authorized to write, on behalf of Allied, a letter to the City, urging the undertaking of such a survey as part of the staff's General Plan update process.

The Secretary was directed to invite the City Planning Director (or official holding that position on an interim basis) to an upcoming Allied meeting, to address this and other matters.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Policy on City "Conceptual Reviews"**

MOTION for Allied endorsement of the "Conceptual Review Policy Proposal", that had been adopted by Citizens Planning Association, requesting the City Council to adopt the policy with regard to "conceptual reviews" contained therein, made and seconded, and **PASSED**.

The text of the Policy Proposal will be posted to the Allied website, and forwarded to City Council.

- **Monitoring pending development projects:** Ms. McCammon addressed the concern about lack of an effective mechanism for monitoring upcoming development projects as they appear in the City process "pipeline", in view of the overwhelming number of them, and urged that we seek resources to avail us the

services of a staff person to undertake this duty. The Secretary was directed to obtain Homeowners Defense Fund grant application guidelines.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be called for the third Monday, as usual, on December 16th. The chair requested that notices for upcoming meetings contain an RSVP request, so she can estimate the number of copies of pertinent reports and documents to prepare.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:00 P.M.