

ALLIED NEIGHBORHOODS ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
December 8, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-President McCammon called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm

The following members of representative organizations were present: Gil Barry, Catherine McCammon, Roseanne Boardman, John Devore, Joan Livingston, Paul Hernadi, and Jean Holmes. The following guests attended: Carolyn and Tony Vassallo (Brinkerhoff Ave.), Sally Sphar (El Celito [Riviera] and CPA), Michael Self (SB Safe Streets), Terry Johnson (Samarkand), Larry Bickford (Grove Lane), and David Pritchett (City Transportation Committee).

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION made and seconded to approve minutes of November 10, 2008; PASSED.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Hernadi's reported a balance as of December 8, 2008 of \$1507.69, with outstanding obligations of \$480.00, leaving a total of \$1027.69. He announced that 2009 annual dues of \$50.00 per member association were now due and payable, with one member association, the Upper East Side, paid up.

CHAIR COMMENTS

Ms. McCammon announced that there would be a special City Council meeting starting at 9:30 AM on Thursday, December 11, to go over Plan Santa Barbara. As this is possibly the last chance to address major issues before the Plan goes to EIR, members were encouraged to attend and comment.

An invitation was presented to participate with the Community Environmental Council and other community groups in forums or to find a common ground on the General Plan Update. No Board members were able to represent Allied at these meetings.

Also an invitation to participate in the "SUN" group to examine the sustainability of long-range UCSB plans was presented. The Board decided that, while of interest, this was outside the "scope of Allied's collective opinion."

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

Ms. Self discussed SB Safe Streets' concern over traffic circles and bulbouts, stating they created safety and drainage problems without providing the traffic calming. Her organization is looking for support in opposing City plans to create more of these, and Ms. Self will provide studies to Allied to support her group's positions.

Mr. Hernadi reported for Hitchcock Ranch that the Sandman Inn issue has been returned to the EIR process as of January and that the Whole Foods Market project has been greatly simplified, eliminating rooftop parking and condominiums and making use of existing buildings at the location, thereby eliminating some major objections.

Ms. Livingston reported that the Upper East Side had held their annual meeting with an encouragingly large attendance. She has replaced Lisa Burns as the Upper East Side representative to Allied.

Mr. Devore from Samarkand discussed the meeting held November 18 to address traffic and access to Cottage Hospital. Several options and their advantages and disadvantages were discussed, but no conclusions reached. There will be another public meeting in December or January to continue working on this issue.

Mr. Barry reported that Braemar's recent meeting discussed Elings Park's and Hillside House's respective plans for development. Hillside House is halfway through developing their EIR and plans 125 units, which will be a mixture of patient facilities, staff residences and rental condominiums, on 6 acres, resulting in an extremely high density.

Ms. Sphar reported that the Tea Fire stopped just short of her El Celito neighborhood and that the aftermath of the fire has resulted in a marked increase in heavy truck traffic on Highway 192, a concern, but one that they were not sure could be altered.

Ms. Boardman stated that Bel Air Knolls is examining undergrounding of electricity, but the subject is highly contentious. She had gone to a City information meeting for all neighborhoods, largely attended by people opposed to undergrounding. A major complaint was that people not wanting undergrounding would be forced into it by their neighbors. Ms Livingston asked about the undergrounding fund paid into by people on their water bills. Ms. Boardman said that while everyone paid into that fund, it was used only to pay for undergrounding in commercial areas, such as State Street, Milpas, and Cliff Drive. She noted that this benefited private property owners, but only commercial landlords, as opposed to homeowners, who received no benefits, and that for the cost of undergrounding a homeowner could put in a good solar electric system.

OLD BUSINESS

Participation in CEC's forums on the General Plan

This was covered in "Chair Comments" earlier in the meeting.

Plan Santa Barbara

Mr. Devore presented a blank for a tri-fold to be distributed informing neighborhoods about the issues of concern with the General Plan revisions that would impact them. These included decreasing restrictions on secondary dwellings and the impacts of excessively high densities.

MOTION made, seconded and PASSED that members send options and ideas for this tri-fold to Mr. Devore, that the Executive Committee review these suggestions, and that a draft tri-fold from that review be sent to the Board for finalization.

The Board discussed the timing and targeting of recipients and expressed concerns about whether to mail, e-mail, or deliver the tri-fold, and if any or all of these methods would provide a large enough or targeted coverage. It was posited that an ad or op eds might be a better approach than a tri-fold.

MOTION made, seconded and passed that the Executive Committee decide how best to inform residents of the General Plan update concerns and how best to time that method.

The Board reviewed three draft tri-folds to be presented by Allied to City Council on Thursday, December 11, at the special City Council meeting on the General Plan update. Members made choices of wording and presentation among the three tri-folds. Any additional changes will need to be provided to Mr. Devore by evening, 12/09/08.

“Enclave” Project

MOTION made, seconded and PASSED that the Executive Committee should be empowered to review the status of and changes to this project.

El Encanto Project

This has been returned to the EIR process for revisions.

Veronica Meadows Project

This was covered near the end of the meeting by Mr. Pritchett.

NEW BUSINESS

Invitation to Participate in “SUN”

This was covered in “Chair Comments,” earlier.

Nomination of Allied Officers for 2009

Mr. Barry, Ms. McCammon, and Mr. DeVore agreed to be proposed for the two vice-president positions. Mr. Hernadi agreed to continue in his position as treasurer. Inquiries were proposed to be made for others’ willingness to serve as secretary and president, to be completed by next meeting.

Mission and Las Positas Traffic Problems

Mr. Pritchett from the City Traffic Committee reported on Mission, Las Positas, and other traffic concerns. He discussed some of the issues related to access to Cottage

Hospital that were raised by Mr. Devore in the neighborhood roundtable and informed Allied that the next meeting on this issue will be at 6 pm on February 24 at Cottage Hospital, Burtness Auditorium. More concrete engineering proposals will be presented then. He also brought up proposed ideas for a bridge overpass at Las Positas over Modoc, the proposed bridge for the Las Positas Meadows project, and the proposals for the intersection of De la Vina and State Streets. He stated that there would be a Traffic Committee meeting at 6 pm on December 11 to discuss the State and De la Vina issues.

On another note, Mr. Pritchett noted that the “alternate buildings height initiative” proposal intended by City Council as a ballot measure will be discussed on Tuesday December 16 at noon at the City Council Ordinance Committee. He stated that right now the details of that proposal were “wide open” and nothing had been set.

ADJOURNMENT at 10:00 P.M.

Submitted by Rosanne Boardman, Acting Secretary