ALLIED
Neighborhoods Association

BOARD OF OFFICERS

Mary Turley
President

Jean Holmes
Vice President

Judy Orias
Treasurer

Chris Barros
Secretary

John DeVore
Webmaster

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

Bungalow Haven Neighborhood Association

Citizens for Livable Neighborhoods

Citizens Planning Association

Flamingo Neighborhood Association

Grove Lane Area Neighborhood Association

Hidden Valley Residents Association

La Mesa Neighborhood Association

Mesa Protection Alliance

Oak Park Neighborhood Association

Samarkand Neighborhood Association

Veronica Springs Neighborhood Association

West Beach Neighborhood Association

June 13, 2020

James Hamilton, Community Development Business Manager

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

Thank you for your responsive reply and the offer to reach back to you. Thank you, too, for acknowledging the amount of effort Allied Neighborhoods put into our letter.

Our communications to the advisory boards and to the Council are always the result of striving for consensus among differing neighborhood representatives. Volunteer work is often very time-consuming. We, as, no doubt, others, take participation seriously. We all value transparency and we believe staff shares that also.

It was discouraging, indeed, that our letter was not a factor in the PC deliberations. We appreciate your prompt implementation of the use of the "delivery receipt" tracking option in Outlook to help with this process.

Santa Barbara has been known to be more than just open to public participation, but encouraging of it, with so many advisory boards and commissions. To promote that, we have two suggestions. As important, as it is, for the public to research and write letters on important city issues that affect all of us, it is just as important that it be known people care enough to participate.

- Each advisory board staff should advise the Chair of letters received; those names should be announced during each item, after staff presentation at Planning Commission, for example. That way, if a letter has not been received, someone from the organization can call in on public comment and read the letter. Once we get back to in-person, then often someone from the organization is there and can read what was sent.

- There needs to be a written policy that applies to <u>all</u> the advisory boards listing letters received. Some advisory boards already announce that letters have been received, senders specified. Others do not.

- All the letters on an item should also be available on the relevant City website pages. As it is now, they effectively disappear.

From this unfortunate delivery accident, we now have an opportunity to make some small but important changes to increase public participation in public matters. These changes will be reassuring to the public that they are heard and, knowing that, it may encourage positive participation.

Thank you and respectfully,

Allied Neighborhoods Association

cc: Renee Brooke
George Buell
Paul Casey
Ariel Calonne