



WGNA Board Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2017

7:00-9:00PM

Willow Glen Library, Community Room

1157 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, CA 95125

Board Meeting: 7:00pm to 7:15 pm (re. official WGNA board affairs)

President: Richard Zappelli

Vice President: C Jeffrey Stanley

Secretary: Elizabeth Z Estensen

Treasurer: Matt Fricke

Board Members: Christine Baroldo, Kristen Brown, Harvey Darnell, Archie Moore, Ed Rast, Soren Rice

7:05 pm — Call meeting to order (Richard, President)

1. Introduction of the Officers, Board Members and visiting guests.

In attendance: Richard Zappelli, Kristen Brown, Soren Rice, Jeff Stanley, Ed Rast, Harvey Darnell.

2. (Action) Approve minutes.

Elizabeth not here, in traffic.

3. Treasurer's Report on financial status (Matt)

Matt was unable to attend, e-mailed report.

4. (Action) Discuss Bramhall Park & WGNA Committees

Richard – Willow Street park, community building has new roof, exterior repainted. Interior is next. Two people in the park department walked the park and made notes of all that needed to be fixed. Drought effected a lot of trees, many dead. Public safety needs to be addressed. Only 2 park rangers, trying to get city to bring back more. Rangers are part of police dept. but get paid ½ salary. With the city hoping to get community police in parks. Sign claims at sunset people are out of park. Police can ask guests close to sunset to honor that sign.

Tamien station urban village condo's and parking units.

Broke ground on Sunol and W. San Carlos....

Sobratto project

All these will add residence to WG but not impact traffic....

(Richard offered to write up a report on all this....forward this to him to add to it. A lot of numbers/places)

Intro Ed Rast:

WG had 300-400 members w/ a lot of active committees. Most stopped being active. What do you want your community to be? Without the neighborhood association committees you have other people making the decision for your community. We do not have active committees. Three or four people are doing all the work right now. We'd like to have more of the community join the committees.

Ed said he is active in his granddaughters PTA . Would like people coming in with a positive attitude to the committees not people coming in when they are angry.

Would like to know what this community is interested in, audience was silent.

*** * * * END OF BOARD AGENDA ITEMS * * * ***

Guest Presentation and Community Discussion

5 Community Discussion

Peter Allen (Public Information Officer) was invited to speak about SJUSD

Mr. Allen noted previously sent out sign up for committees, suggested something like it on line.

2nd district wide Town Hall Meeting February 13 6- 8 PM Gunderson HS Theater.

Open forum, let us know what you think. To reach Mr. Allen, prefers e-mail, PIO@sjusd.org.

Scarlet (?) was invited to talk about WGBA

Ladies Night out February 9 (gentlemen are welcome)

Safety on the Street – BA also involved with getting things safe in WG from Minnesota to Lester. Looking at getting a light at the Black Sheep, but there is a power issue to light up the avenue due to power only being available on one side of the street not both. We are also focusing on crosswalk safety. Brace and Meredith will be the first crosswalk art installation.

EdR noted that some of the cross walk lights are not working.

Scarlet said these are in process on getting fixed.

Echoed getting involved comments Ed had to the audience encouraging more to get involved.

Richard – Need to work together on Lincoln and Minnesota

Jim Carter – neighborhood commission. Just had a good meeting yesterday. Meet the 2nd Wednesday room 119 in City hall at 6 o'clock. We also have ad hoc committees, we have 6 formed by neighborhood associations. Working on homelessness and public safety. Working on 630 –planning notices, illegal fireworks. Big thing coming up is budget on January 28. Following that will be a district budget meeting. Then Mayor will do his budget analysis after the budget priority game sessions starting at our budget meeting January 28.

These meetings are on the city website, asked WGNA to link it from our site.

Audience question: “What are the budget games exactly?”

Large groups are divided into specific groups, assigned a “budget” to disperse as they see fit. This will give community a chance to voice priorities with discretionary funds. They are using a smaller group and not sure how that will work. Will pass that information when it comes.

Deadline to sign up is January 18th.

Community Center Ray (?)

Winter classes start at the end of the month. Will bring brochures next month. Offer an array of classes from youth to adult seniors. Teen program is being built. After school program at Schallenberger, allowing kids to just drop in. Teen centers are drop-in M_F 3-6 PM and camps during school breaks.

Audience question: "For classes and programs, there wasn't anything in the evening?"

No we go until 7, many end 6-6:30. We are thinking of passing out surveys and going door to door to get community feedback regarding what services and times are desired. Preschool and senior program is strong, everything in the middle we'd like to see grow.

Archie Moore – Senior Citizen's community

Thanked committee for a tour of Down town SJ and LG. This was the 3rd or 4th year. Personally thanked Richard Z. Seniors look forward to it, tell their friends. We need a lot of support and he lives in is Almaden Rd. and WG way. Village WG, Summer Crest and Sienna. Can speak for WG mainly, working on project for 4-5 years, need for public transportation in that area. Seniors are reliant on Outreach, and it isn't that good. We need a lot of help, and support. A lot of seniors there, with a lot on the ball. They need your help. Begging for transportation and cross walk safety. Snuck in a hope for 3 buses next year.

Richard added working w/ the group in NY who manages the village to get a van or a bus line out there. They are building a new project in the area, but cannot give this group more funds for transportation. This does need community support.

Archie – We need a bus line or shuttle. We have a van, it is old and high. We are not that mobile.

Harvey – VTA is doing a revamp of their service and will have a lot of committee meetings hoping Archie watches and adds his voice to those meetings.

Richard – in the 3 projects he mentioned there are 700 people in WG boundary's

6 SPUR presentation by San Jose Policy Director, Laura Tolkoﬀ (7:42)

Thanked the audience for coming and Richard for the invitation.

Asked audience to raise their hands if they have been to the offices, about 8 people did.

Noted had a hard stop at 8:15.

History

Started 106 years ago in SF after the earthquake and fire destroyed the city. It was made of civic leaders who wanted to keep residents and help the city start over. We describe ourselves as a think and do group. Gave an example on a report about BART. One of the accomplishments is the Golden Gate recreational park. Working on MUNI. Worked on SJ fiscal condition and why it is hard for things to get fixed as quick as we want.

Mission

Support good planning and good government. We are a 501 c3 non profit. We are independent of the city and VTA.

We have an **agenda for change**.

- 1) Concentrate growth inside existing cities
- 2) Build great neighborhoods
- 3) Make it affordable to live here
- 4) Give people better ways to get where they need to go
- 5) Lay the foundations of economic prosperity-for everyone
- 6) Reduce our ecological footprint and prepare for climate change
- 7) Support local government – partner and the ones able to make change.

How we work:

Mainly do research, bringing people together to discuss the next question that big cities face. WE publish all the reports and put them on line. We also publish a magazine for our members (also on line). Recomentations are not pulled out of thin air. Are actually from meetings with people looking at the issues and going through a process.

We provide opportunities for education and engagement. 80 programs are put on in San Jose. These are free to members or small fee to the public. Luncht time programs, trivia nights, - you name it to learn about what people are doing in the city. Chance to have real dialogue.

We advocate those recommendations with the city. That is how we implement our recommendations over time.

(H mentioned there is a VTA date on the calendar...)

Most of the growth in the bay would not just happen in SF, but in Oakland and San Jose.

Presented a graph on how growth is anticipated in the next few years.

Believe that regional decision are made at the local level where they will have impact. Opened offices in all three cities. This is our 5 year in San Jose in May.

So we are now in the 3 largest cities of the bay area.

Asked why SJ not Fremont or somewhere more central?

The preference of millenials, availability of transit, and there is more space than other cities we are able to fill in.

HD added SJ is 180 square miles.

Our work in SJ:

Will grow the most than any city 400, 00 people, 470,000 jobs and 120,000 housing units. Showed a map of the housing approved in 2011.

Ed – We are the only large city that has less population during the day than the evening and that impacts our city budget. We haven't been able to attract enough jobs, but we are incentivized by housing. What does SPUR think about it?

- Think that is the narrative we have heard for 40 years, and CA is challenged because of prop 13 making it hard to raise money to fix the roads etc. But we we dove into the cities finances and asked if the challenges were permanent or temporary. Found , it is true that jobs bring more money than housing, but housing add to the budget. Those residents support the restaurants, museums, and services in the city. We are trying to convey it is not black and white.

HD – Unless housing is denser than 200 units/acre

ER – property taxes do not go into the general fund. You are not going to see the incremental property tax until 20 years out. So the combination of the tax with sales tax – they spend a lot of \$ in other cities. So we have a difference of opinion

We care a lot about it. The city can't invest unless they have money to do it.

ER Unless you can do something about Prop 13, the problem is we are hitting 9.5 % sales tax...and still don't have the \$

Audience question -Would millennials prefer to walk to work? Most people like SF because they can live/work there and not need a car.

Development has changed to ground floors offering business spaces.

Richard – the Mel Cotton Site – hearing it will be another big box store, single level. Wondering if it is smart planning. They require a lot of parking and doesn't fit into the fiber of what we are saying.

Agree, vision is to make a more walk able neighborhood.

Back to work we are doing:

There three reports

Getting to great places – focus on urban design. Designing a place more people want to be in.

Freedom to move – directed at VTA. How to create more mobility options. Now it doesn't serve enough people enough of the time.

The future of downtown San Jose –

All available on website.

We don't advocate for positions until we have policy on it.

Opportunity 1:

Central San Jose has walkable urban fabric and unique neighborhoods

Opp. 2

San Jose will be one of the most transit connected places in the country. (BART by end of this year, high speed rail)

Opp 3:

SJ has most social and cultural institutions in the South Bay

Urban Design

We do a lot at the policy level. Good urban design is not architecture. More of the ingredients of a recipe. Bringing buildings back from the street, blank walls and dead space, very long blocks....new development we look for something with easy pedestrian access, transparent glass walls, Generous sidewalks. This encourages people to walk, things to look at safer. Focus on ground floor. 3-10 stories..still focus on the ground floor. That is what WG has! As you grow, support that.

-In growth is good. Balance that to our neighborhood. Do you prioritize older neighborhoods or the fringes of older neighborhoods?

SJ has articulated priority in central down town SJ and then along the transportation routes. That is what we focus on.

DZ – I lived in NYC. I don't see SJ at all like a major city. It started very suburban. Gone from green farms to strip malls. Three largest cities – Los Angeles, San Diego....we are just over 1M. Is SJ urban/suburban?

We are not going to be NYC or SF. Down town will be more Urban. ½ the people who walk to Caltrain are from the Alameda. So there is a footprint that can grow in a more urban way. We can grow in a way that is authentic to SJ but still respect the

7 San Jose District 6 Councilmember, Dev Davis

Introduced self and noted where her kids are at school, WGE and Hoover. Loves urban design because WG should be more walkable.

Invited you to call or e-mail if you have anything you need her to know or respond to.

Feb. 25 SJ City college – to talk about priorities, and let neighborhoods get to know one another. WG, Santa Row, Rose Garden....280 and 880 cut through. Would like to know the priorities before she goes into the budget session.

Soren – When is the budget session and deadlines?

- Don't have the calendar, State of the City is February 11 (at Gunderson HS (Allen))
 - The mayor will be coming to the Feb. 5 meeting as well.
- January 21, Saturday Community trust and forum to start the dialogue w/ community/ police to build trust.

Noted a lot will be at march in Down Town SJ

Yes, but this was planned well in advance of that.

New homeless concerns hotline. If emergency call 911. If not, connect to this hotline.

If you know homeless and want them to connect to services, she handed out a card for that.

HD

On your card, the number isn't it different?

No, that is my direct line.

Richard – We have our web page/FB page. Would like to have something updated monthly on our site/page.

One of council assistants will be doing a monthly newsletter, and an article in the resident for regular communications.

Richard, would like to have it on our web page.

We are struggling with drugs at Willow Street park, not enough park rangers. They show up late at night and on weekends often staying until 2-3 AM. Parks department said it is hard for them to get them bc they have to be trained like police and police earn 2x as much. Thought a solution would be to have police come through .

- Will make that suggestion, but it isn't in their job description to get involved in illegal activity. Not trained in de-escalation.
Happy to bring it up w/ the chief when I meet with him next.

I am in my second week. Communications has not started yet.

DZ City has a lot of progressive things but

DD – I am on a committee for the Smart City to be more data friendly and update website.

ER – Past council staff has been on website, not for many years.

DD- if you are on my e-mail list, staff contacts were given out. But it will be awhile before we can get them posted.

ER – but it also included neighborhood associations and a map of where they are so new residents would find us.

DD – Happy to do that, but it will be a while.

PA – Noted appreciation of moving toward more data friendly. Asked if he passed on the tracking of

Yes. We will continue on with sales force. Will be using Constant Contact and using PO contacts.

He will mine the data from the last two years to see what the issues were and what who we can circle back to on those issues.

Have regular update w/ planning looked at all open permits and zoning changes and we go through them one at a time. Some were dormant, others active. What I do not see are things in works that haven't gone to planning.

Richard, thanked her for coming

Meeting adjourned to 8:37