



WGNA Board Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2016

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 Friske

Board Members: Christine Barold, Kristen Brown, Harvey Darnell, Archie Moore, Ed Rast, Soren Riice

7:07 pm – Call meeting to order (Richard, President)

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

In attendance: Richard Zappelli, Christine Barold, Kristen Brown, Matt Friske and Jeff Stanley. (Ed Rast and Harvey Darnell joined later in the meeting during Community Discussion)

2. (Action) Approve minutes from the 22 September 2016 Board Meeting (Elizabeth).

Elizabeth not here, in traffic.

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

Opening balance was about \$600, slight draw for PO box association

fees is about \$70. Overall, no baseline budget to look at. Looking at 2015 to see what the income is for this year. Book sales are on trend at 75% of last years sales. Financial health is good, \$7317 balance. Report copies offered to members.

4. (Action) Discuss & Vote on Frank Bramhall-Willow Street Park

We had 2 years of no meetings. Last month started working as a team with the parks department. Getting a new roof on existing restrooms w/in next 45 days, cleaned up, infant change stations will be added too.

Oct. 22, Angel Rios will walk through and make a list of parks needs such as bike racks, removing 31 dead trees, amphitheater sprinklers fixed, little league area looks good. Will fix sprinklers where brown areas are. Oak trees that came down on Camino have not been replaced.

3 site selections for little league. Trees removed for concession stands, but site has moved. Will replant those trees.

Additional item from Richard. Making a motion for additional rangers (refer to written example from Richard Z) Briton ave. along park had multiple case boxes strewn about. Need to bring back rangers there and along the trails. Motion to write a letter:

Read by Matt Fiske: (approved by Matt, seconded by Christine)

To Mayer Sam Liccardo, City Council, and Angel Rios of PRNS Dept. to reinstate the ten park rangers to the Parks Dept. that were discharged

Jeff s. – Has there been a call out to police to better patrol? Aware that police don't have resources. Rangers under county correct?

Richard Z – No part of the police force, they have money that is set aside for public safety. There is money sitting.

Jeff – would rather see 2 more officers in WG instead of park rangers.

Increase in crime is more of an issue.

Richard – Crime enforcement will have neighborhood meetings and request patrols on Briton ave. Police were there 2-3 days.

Jeff – that is the neighborhood watch, asked for a friendly amendment to the action to SJ police with direction towards the parks.

(David Z.- a lot of people have called the police. Gate closures, accessive littering, pot smoking – all are things police don't want to – neighborhood watch would work. We need rangers back, to enforce.

J- police and neighborhood watch can come together, say we have this program and need action. Use Next Door. Let people know it is going on. Only way to get action is to have more people involved.

Matt Fiske – Perhaps modify “to reinstate the ten park rangers (added after asap.) **and/or add more police**”

Richard approved, Jeff Stanly seconded – all approved

PL – Oct. 17 – debate. Can e-mail PL about it.

Jeff – adjourne voting portion, Christine seconded

*** * * * END OF BOARD AGENDA ITEMS * * * * 7:25 -
7:35 pm — Guest Presentation and Community
Discussion**

Speaker: Honorable Rod Diridon, Sr., Retired Emeritus Executive Director, Mineta Transportation Institute (at San Jose State University); former Chair of the California High-Speed Rail Authority Board.

Subject: California High-Speed Rail Open discussion and participation

Historic background on SJ Diridon station. Challenge was getting produce from SJ to other areas of state. RR between SF/SJ was built. Followed same right of way it does now. Revolutionized travel at the time. At that time it terminated in Milpitas. In 1960's automobiles changed the demand. Local community did an alternative transit study. Decided to buy the corridor and convert to an electric system. State leg. Placed the bill. \$218 mil. \$46 additional for spur lines. WE have what we have now. In 90's was adopted into local control. Trains today are often standing room only.

Cal. High Speed rail in 1996 was created by legislative action. Now gone through 4 gov. Requirement that a station be in SJ at Diridon station (in 2025). It will come in over Pochecho pass in tunnels in Fresno. Our task here is to decide how it will go through that station – tunnel or not. Tunnel is so environmentally destructive to the water table. If that is what the community chooses, personal opinion is it will go to LA. Been studied 3 times, because no dec. made. Alt. is to go along right of way w/ sound walls on both sides of the train tracks, and grade crossing. Final alt. (had been selected at one time) s turn elevated structure over 280 w/ center post spans. Similar to eastern span of Bay Bridge. W/ 8 years, a decision needs to be made. Defer to Ben.

7:35 - 8:15 pm – Guest Presentation and Community Discussion: Speaker: Ben Tripousis, Northern California Regional Director,

California High Speed Rail Authority

Subject: Alternate plans for the grade separation of the California High- Speed Rail as it enters Willow Glen. Grade separation options include "above grade" (bridges, overpasses or flyovers); "below grade" (tunnels, subways, or underpasses); and "at grade" (street or ground level crossing). Mixed gradation, budgeting, land use, sound walls to be considered.

Quick update to leave time for questions. On the way to N. Cal. The fund we have available, 20.7 billion dollars to complete a line from SF to Bakersfield. Phase 2 will be LA to San Diego and Merced to Sacramento. San Jose to LA will be 2.25 hours.

3 billion in construction moving this forward. 320 miles from Bakersfield is scheduled to connect to bay area in 2025.

In Bay Area, SF to SJ the 50 mile corridor is being cleared. The HS will run along the Cal Train which is in the works to be fully electrified. 4 HS /hour/direction and 6 Cal Train /hour/direction at the same time. Will increase the capacity for both commuters. Cities most affected were presented. Some curve straightening, modification of tracks, are examples of the affects.

Improvements hoping to be incorporated – 4 quadrant gates, limit pedestrian access. This will reduce fatalities. At-Grade crossings through the corridor. 60 grade crossings from SF to Gilroy. Will get regions help to resolve this. Each one is 100-150 million dollars/grade separation.

San Jose to Merced, 84 miles Diridon to Gilroy to central valley Y's. Primarily follows Monterey Highway, Highway 101 and highway 152 through the Pacheco Pass. We are clearing currently from Diridon to 8 miles past Los Banos. Working in SJ w/ city, Bart and Caltrain. Looking at external connections.

Visual Design Guidelines was created as a reference guide. These are the final visual design guideline with extensive review and input with the City of SJ.

Milestone schedule was presented moving toward a drafted document by Spring 2017 and End of 2017 have the Final environmental document and a record of decision.

Norm Kline asked about noise issues.

Ben – that is part of the study. In general electric trains are 20-30 decibels quieter.

Norm – but speed will change that too. (Confirmed underground is off the table.)

Bill Rankin – asked about data and when it will be shared.

Ben – Want the plan to show that what is said by the community was considered.

- Is there talk about bringing some art or plans for vegetation for the wall.

Ben- Likes the CODE program – allows the community to create art in the framework of the same structures. That is a second level of the outreach. This is about the first part – how to have those structures and where.

Nov/ Dec 2016 will schedule more SJ centric meetings.

Website: [www. Hsr.ca.gov](http://www.Hsr.ca.gov)

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David Z. – how many stations are city centric?

Ben – all of them.

David. Z – how many new stations?

Ben – Pampdale, Fresno, Bakersfield and a smattering of Diridon is a small station we need to build new. Diridon will be the grand central station of the West connecting busses/bart/ etc. Historic station will be included.

David – authority have a walk ability program?

Ben – will try to include a bit of that ethic.

Richard – still have ace?

Ben – yes and others.

- Why Bakersfield?

Ben – one of the larger cities in central valley. The city already identified land for growth out to I-5.

David z. – What about zone around stations?

Ben – City has Diridon master plan, similar to Gilroy.

Way to trickle down to other forms of transit?

Ben- Investment? (yes) It is about state wide rail modernization. Will invest into BART and VTA to improve those connections and they will be able to add ridership.

(Federal grant?)

State

Richard – why Modesto being skipped?

Ben – second step

R- Modesto would be a great location for affordable housing.

Ben – yes.

Open to questions and answers. 8:25 - 8:55 pm – Guest Presentation and Community Discussion:

Speakers: Electoral Candidates for the Board of Trustee of San Jose Unified Schools, Trustee Area 3: Pam Foley, incumbent, and challenger Olivia Navarro

Pam was introduced.

Born and raised in Portland. Gave history. Husband and I own 2nd generation Mortgage company that was in family for 60 years now. Proud to look out for employees and this is extended into our schools. Active in WG Foundation and Rotary Club of SJ and on the Central Y board. Involved in St. Francis and do a lot of community work. My passion is being involved in community. Passionate in providing best free education. There are struggles. WG Resident since 1990. Live S. of Curtner.

Husband is a WG Native. Daughter is a Jr. in college in Australia.

Ran for office in 2004 w/ goal of changing public perception of wG Middle and HS. Things were going on around the schools that had given them a negative. WGMS is now a good school, parents are now finding a wait list and 99% of the feeder list are going to WGMS. That is a fact she has done that.

Role as school board member is one as an advocate. Advocate for 32000 kids and how my decision will impact. Parents are frustrated on occasion and we try to learn from it and grow. This means I am talking to parents constantly, and they have encouraged me to run. It means I am not solving their problems, I am pointing them in the right direction. It doesn't always come back to me. I stay involved if it does.

Spend 20-30 hours a week, meeting principals, PTA meetings and listening to the issues, activities. A lot of issues are not my issue, but if it is school board related, I sit w/Sup. And talk to about it.

Richard – Public safety, lack of adequate parking – not resolved. What is happening w/ new campus where S. Lumber is.

PF – roads belong to city, we can work in partnership. Had conversation w/ Helen and Dev about partnering for better/safer streets for drop off and pick up. – There was a problem w/ WG HS where our buses were dropping off on Cottle Ave. To fix the mess that caused met with Ken Yeager and he connected them w/ Dept. of Transportation to find a solution. All walked around the campus, moved the drop-off to Dry Creek. We have to work w/ city. We need them to provide more crossing guards.

Richard – River Glen asked for 3 years, fatality has occurred. St. Chris just got crossing guards – told no votes from Willow Glen. Where is the school district on this?

PF – crossing guards are employees of the city, not the school district. That is a Dev or Helen or PL.

Richard – But when you increase the student body, why do they add to the problem

PF – If you buy a house in WG boundary, you want to go to school there. We need to find a way to make kids safe. Do not want to turn away because there is crowding in the traffic. Feel road diet will help.

Richard- Safety is a primary issue w/ Campbell Unified – NOT AT ALL w/ SJUSD. Seems like SJUSD should be making it a priority.

PF – happy to work w/ new city council for new crossing guard. Safety is on the mindset, but providing an education is equally important. Have to balance resources. Have new Superintendent, her roll is to advocate and work w/city more than prior Superintendent.

Tiffany Maciel – There are many students W/ Disabilities because the school board ignores task force reports from the state. The way to close achievement gaps is an inclusive. Mental health – Has not heard the board talk about inclusion. Postponed a vote on a fleet of buses instead of the human capital. Survey reports indicate inclusion was the top of the list. You talk about being an advocate. Reach out to those you write off a settlement agreement.

PF – when I make a decision for a child I do it w/ an open heart and understanding. They are based w/ The child in my mind. Not a financial decision, the best interest.

PF as far as inclusion. Inclusion is being investigated. Presentation today around inclusion. Superintendent is looking into how to implement it. Your comments do not fall on deaf ears. Has been to the CAC in September. WE have a lot of issues, we do the best we can to solve them, and sometimes we fail.

PF Chose to run again because many parents asked me to run again, wanted an advocate to help w/ all the 9 schools I represent. I am running because job is not done, Achievement gap needs to be closed. Best education possible relies on best teachers possible. Teachers need to believe all students can succeed, and we test them when they apply to make sure they have that mindset. We are working to retain them and give them all the coaching to make them successful. Gardner last year 3rd grade had 1% success rate on test, now 20%. This is not a quick result, it is a marathon that takes time to respond.

Olivia Navarro

Married to Ruben Navarro who ran for City Council District 6. Result of SJUSD, started at Washington. Involved w/ Sacred Heart, gets her kids involved.

One of the things she ran into when helping Ruben door to door, people kept asking me to help w/ the school. The city cannot do much, they are separate entities. Can collaborate. Hoping to make that happen. Same issue throughout the district – wanted to help them. Best way to empower the community is to start in the schools, make sure they are not leaving HS unprepared.

Fighting the achievement gap, the Booksin is best

Gardner – I visited the school, the families – upsetting. Could not understand in her frustration feeling there is a huge disregard. Kids are suffering. If you look at WGHS – 43% below standards, 70% below standards in math. Parents want a change. W

Not sure if all the families are asking here. Had a teacher who chased me down and said thank you for running BC it is time for change.

Speaking for 54% of SJUSD who are Latino. It is a great advantage to speak for these families. Galarza was telling something that was not getting translated correctly. We need to unite the schools, families and communities.

12 years ago, embarrassed to be in schools, now they are fleeing. Everyone wants the best for their kids. Resources are not being provided for them. Asking the community to look for a change.

Teachers are fleeing, WG 3rd grade teacher – ratio 1 teacher, no aid 30 students. Too many for one teacher to handle.

Endorsements – she listed them.

Tiffany – teachers are fleeing and 68% claim they do not feel the school district is run w/ integrity. When you have a parent like me come complaining about kid not in school, asking vote for buses because it fosters segregation.

We have had candidates who say they are for social justice. Will you stand up/

ON- yes. The mere fact that I am running. If I can't make a change in 4 years, you will have the opportunity to make change than so be it. The only person I am concerned about is making right by the kids

David – Studies about kids not sleeping well, nutrition, - what can be done to help poor performance.

ON – Agree. Kids are not grasping all the information if they are hungry. If parents are educated and know changes will happen. If you can break it down and keep families in the loop- they will do it.

Pam – we do offer free breakfast/ lunches to those that qualify.

David – by the time they reach HS families should be able to cook and understand nutrition. Kids don't know the nutrients. Not even the free meal.

ON – that is a big picture.

Constantly given initiatives to get healthy meals. Good nutrition. Healthy eating starts at home. Big bug is we got rid of home ec. And shop classes.

ON Gardner has the stigma that they are all ELL, it is not true. Make sure I get all voices. Have an open door policy. The family doesn't feel heard there – if you have a proactive instead of reactive response it will alleviate a lot of their issues.

Galarza/Hammer – what is the disconnect. Principal is great, but Galarza needs more support. Need to implement checks and balances.

What kinds of hands on experience you have in public schools.

ON Went to Castillero, volunteered in the afterschool program for 3 years in the 1993-1996. Lived between WG and Washington. In my kids school I am involved. My oldest is in SE and his is in a special needs. Rest are in parochial schools. Will be focusing more of my time on district and city council. This will allow me to advocate.

Richard – asked about safety. Washington when combine campuses? Talk at SJUSD about adding middle to elementary. What will you do to improve food quality and create better community situation for schools like Washington.

ON – AS far as Washington, always need for another Jr. High. There are a huge amount of elementary schools, but not enough Jr. High. That needs to be the selling point.

ON – report. Budget gain process. Trying to create a road show to present to the neighborhoods.

Note: each candidate has 15 minutes to talk **Subject:**
November 8, 2016 Election and candidates

8:55-9:00 pm — Closing remarks from the WGNA Board, adjournment, & cleanup

Meeting adjourned to 9:15