

## **Baker West Neighborhood Association**

**December 2, 2009 / 9<sup>th</sup> General Meeting**

**Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Kurt Schumacher.**

**Attendance:** 31 members, Councilmember Pete Constant and assistant Rhovy

**New members:** Signed in to become members

### **Agenda overview:**

Sponsor

Business

--approve minutes from last meeting

--Participation Rates

--Vote for 2010 Officers

--Vote for Meeting Calendar

--Vote for 2010 Goals

--Vote for 2010 Dues

--2009 Financial Report

--2010 Budget

--Committee Updates

Open Forum with San Jose Councilmember Pete Constant

**Sponsor:** Kirkwood Plaza / Subway

Subway in one of the newest businesses in the plaza provided snacks and invited all members to it's new location.

### **Business**

-Approval of minutes from last meeting

-Review of 2009 events / accomplishments (see slide)

Vote for 2010 Officers – all confirm

Vote for 2010 Meeting Calendar – no discussion, all in favor

Vote for 2010 Goals – some ideas

Increase membership by 20% as well as yahoo group membership

Member asked question if voting by proxy for neighbors that are absent and per by-laws the answer is no, a change can be done by proposing an amendment to the by-laws.

Get 3 more people to actively participate

Host dumpster day (city still holds dumpster day every 2 years)

Sidewalk on Bucknall Rd

Community service

Organize a long time resident dinner

Member input – Is AMC part of the goal? Police notification of speeders

Vote for 2010 Dues – board recommends no dues for 2010.

Member input – suggestion that dues will create more of a commitment from members to participate as well as seek more fundraisers

2009 Financial Report / 2010 Budget – presented by Ron Marfil (see slide)

Presented a chart of all checks written and balance as of 11/09. Ron is currently keeping 2 spreadsheets, due to grant provided by Keep San Jose Beautiful. Account is available and open to anyone who wishes to review it.

### **Committee Updates / Events Update by Katie Taylor**

Successful Halloween parade

Impromptu garage sale

Holiday Party – 4897 Bass Court, please bring food and toy donation and RSVP

Best decorated House Contest – submit votes to Katie, winner will be announced at Holiday Party.

### **Committee Updates / AMC Task Force Update**

December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting has been postponed, please notify neighbors and help pass the word. Meeting was postponed due to no operation plan submitted by AMC.

No new date. Please participate when next meeting is announced, share thoughts with Councilmember Pete Constant, he may be able to send message to City Hall.

If interested in helping the AMC Task Force, please notify Pirouz and Marijka.

### **Open Forum with San Jose Councilmember Pete Constant**

C. Pete Constant opened with remarks that it is very important to keep all channels of communication open, so when sharing a community or city concern we should share our concerns with all 11 councilmembers of the City of San Jose.

C. Pete Constant strongly supports neighborhood associations, he believes it creates a large voice and creates a majority.

### **Issues**

AMC – C. Pete Constant is aware of our neighborhood concern and we are all waiting on AMC's proposal.

Sidewalk of Bucknall Rd. – City doesn't own the land and cannot ask for a donation, BWNA can ask for the land to be donated, could not add more.

Traffic issues – No physical improvements to streets due to lack of funds. Department of Transportation is looking only at low cost traffic calming solutions.

Recommended that members be consistent and persistent with traffic unit, the more people call it the sooner it will get attention.

Citywide Budget Issues – C. Pete Constant explained the process of the city budget adoption, process started in November of 2009 for approval in July 2010. Started with discussion of different funds and took input from survey/polls of what are the resident needs, as well as input from neighborhood association leaders. It ends with individual budget meetings.

C. Pete Constant explained his categories that should go in a budget, 1.) We must do it, ex. Water pollution control plant, safety issues, police department, etc. 2.) Should do, ex., parks, libraries, community centers, etc. 3.) We would like, no examples. 4.) Government shouldn't do, no examples.

Budget is currently in its straight 8<sup>th</sup> year of deficit (\$400 million). Next year's deficit is projected to be \$100 million, as well as the following 3. It is not an income problem, but

a spending problem, expenses are going up and the city cannot control previous contracts and agreements. All elected officials should be held accountable.

C. Pete Constant said that discussions are ongoing in trying to identify unnecessary programs. The city needs to manage and fix things.

### **Open questions by members present**

What are special interests? Neighborhood associations, labor unions, businesses, non-profit groups – all competing interests.

San Jose Redevelopment is fixing things that are already in existence, improvements of sidewalks, etc.

C. Pete Constant announced a new smart phone application used to notify city of blight and potholes(see flyer), he also advertised his community office hours.

Question posed about pension funds? Pensions have changed and \$40 million more will be needed to keep the pensions – when pensions were granted only a short term was taken into account.

C. Pete Constant also announced that he will be running for re-election in 2010 and is seeking the support from all members of BWNA.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.**