

**Baker West Neighborhood Association
General Meeting Minutes
10/24/07**

Meeting called to order 7:09pm.

Attendance: 57 residents; Pete Constant, San Jose District 1 Councilmember; MaryAnne Groen from District 1 office; Lieutenant Mike Crescini; Sergeant Gary Drake; Pizza My Heart (Patrick); Reporter for the Resident Newspaper.

Introduction given by Kurt Schumacher:

- Prizes given to the newest (4 months on Elmwood) and eldest (since Feb. 1959 on Elmwood) residents present at meeting. Prizes donated by Noah's Bagels and Jamba Juice.
- Defined what an association is and is not.
- Discussed benefits of an association: influence in the city; safety; sense of community; community service
- Displayed map of City Council Districts. Baker West is part of District 1, the far west side of San Jose.
- Displayed map of current associations.

Guest Speaker: Pete Constant, San Jose District 1 Councilmember

- Brief history of personal and professional background
- Helped start Lynhaven Neighborhood Association
- There were 13 associations when Constant became Councilmember, Baker West is #22.
- Constant's main goal is communication and getting feedback on what his population wants. This is achieved with feedback from association leaders.
- This area of San Jose has the least parks, worst roads, smallest amount of common space (community centers & libraries).
- Pete Constant's role is to:
 - Represent the interest of District 1, to be a go between
 - Govern the city as a whole, set laws & budget with other council members
 - Problem solver for anyone dealing w the city. Helps things get through the system.
- Pete Constant's Office Phone # is (408)535-4901. Magnets with helpful city numbers handed out
- District Office Hours for drop-in questions and comments:
 - 1st Wed/month 6:30-8:00pm at West Valley Library

- 3rd Th/month 10:30-11:30am at Cypress Senior Center (Stevens Creek & Cypress). Will not be here during November.
- Neighborhood Development Center has grants and other information available to associations.
- United Neighborhoods of SC County on 11/17/07. Registration fee will be paid for neighborhood leaders. Fee: \$10 before 11/7, \$15 after.

Q & A for Pete Constant

- Paving of streets - discussion on the process of repaving a street and how the cracks were filled. For more information on when your street will be repaved, if it hasn't already been, contact Pete Constant's office. Repair of streets is ranked by condition. Potholes can be fixed quickly if reported.
- Sidewalk Repairs - who is responsible? If a sidewalk, tree, or curb is damaged in front of your house, the city owns that object, but the home owner pays the bill to repair it.
- Appreciation for approval of curb cuts. Federal and state funds used for this. If there are disabled in the neighborhood, request the curb cuts for accessibility.
- Traffic Calming meeting will be held on 10/30/07 at 7:00pm at the Cypress Senior Center.
- Noise from El Paseo Shopping Center affects Elmwood residents. Drain covers are loose, steam cleaning in the middle of the night. District office will work with code enforcement and property owners to solve this issue.

Q & A for Lieutenant Mike Crescini and Sergeant Gary Drake

- Mayfield Ave. traffic patrols - contact district office, call traffic office (408)277-4341.
- Residential & vehicular break-ins: 5 people have been arrested in these cases
- Crime Report - website to look up neighborhood crimes. www.sjpd.org
- Solicitors coming door-to-door must have permits. Suggested rule - if you don't know them, don't buy.
- Call 911 for any urgent, active emergency.
- Call 311 for any non-urgent reports.

Demo of Website given by Kurt Schumacher

- Highlighted information on the website and stated purpose.
- Introduced core team members.
- Went over team descriptions, future events, how to contact association.

General Q&A

- Need to discuss whether dues will be needed. Feedback from Pete Constant was that there is a 50/50 split on those that charge and those that don't. There are grants available and the council office can sponsor some things. If dues are charged, they should be minimal.
- Suggestion to add a Disaster Preparedness Committee. Neighborhood needs to design a plan for a place to go in case of a disaster. Would like to see literature throughout the city on disaster plans.

Immediate Plans given by Kurt Schumacher

- Get people involved and signed up
- Build infrastructure, create by-laws
- Vote on officers

Agenda for next general meeting given by Kurt Schumacher

- Agenda for next meeting:
 - Share results of survey
 - Share attendance results from first general meeting
 - Give update on teams that have been organized
 - By-laws
 - Nominate officers
 - Financials

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Next General Meeting: Wed., 12/5/07, 7:00pm @ Moreland-West Community Center.