

**Baker West Neighborhood Association  
General Meeting Minutes  
12/5/07**

**Meeting called to order 7:03pm.**

**Attendance:** 45 residents; Lilly Shoemaker (All Ears Bookstore); Lieutenant Mike Crescini; Heather Sutton (San Tomas West Neighborhood Association).

**Prizes awarded by Kurt Schumacher:**

- Two residents who sat in seats with silver stars were given prizes donated by Noah's Bagels.

**Message from Sponsor given by Queta Eagle, Real Estate Agent from Coldwell Banker**

- Has been sending local mailers for 25 years.
- Market is great in BW neighborhood.
- Flyers given to residents advertising her services.

**Review of Last Meeting given by Kurt Schumacher:**

- 61 people attended 1<sup>st</sup> general meeting.
- Displayed chart of what streets were represented. Would like to see good representation from all streets.
- Overview of what was covered at last meeting and what actions were taken after that meeting.

**Financing Update given by Kurt Schumacher:**

- 5 founding members each donated \$50 to an account for BWNA.
- Schumacher's have given a \$200 loan.
- PO Box fee is \$72/year.
- Room rental fee is \$204 for 4 months (\$51 per meeting).
- Suggestions for funding: cash donations from members & businesses, dues, sponsors, grants, fundraisers, pay as you go, good & services donated by members & businesses.

**Update on Burglaries given by Lt. Crescini:**

- Two burglaries occurred around Thanksgiving holiday - one on Northlawn, one on Serge. Both occurred in the morning hours.

- Upsurge of burglaries in "District Nora", this area of town, many over Thanksgiving holiday. Currently looking at people for matches. Process of identifying fingerprints is time consuming and complicated.
- Mostly seeing entry through slits in screens, open windows. Taking laptops, iPods, flat screens, tools, money, and jewelry.
- Have not seen assaults occurring during burglaries. All homes have been unoccupied.
- Passed around a Neighborhood Watch pamphlet and stressed importance of starting a neighborhood watch program in BW and it's helpfulness to both police & residents.
- Kim Gattis is the Neighborhood Watch specialist. Will work with Safety Committee.
- Call 911 if you see anything suspicious.
- Don't open doors to people you don't know.
- Keep windows closed and locked.
- Add extra locks to sliders. Alarm systems are great.
- Keep lights on in your front AND back yards at night. Burglars may target homes with lights off.
- Have a list of what you own - serial numbers, make, and model in case stolen items are recovered. Much easier to get items back to rightful owner if this information is provided.

#### **Q&A for Lt. Crescini:**

- Graffiti at Baker School - there is an aggressive graffiti unit and the School District is also fast to respond to graffiti.
- If cleaning graffiti costs over \$400, crime is a felony.
- Shoes over electrical wires can sometimes suggest a place where drugs are being sold.

#### **Guest Speaker: Heather Sutton, President of San Tomas West Neighborhood Association**

- Importance of defining difference between a Neighborhood Association and a Home Owner's Association. Went over what a Neighborhood Association is and is not.
- Neighborhood Associations are purely voluntary.
- Why have a neighborhood association:

- Improved Neighbor Relations. Research shows knowing your neighbor yields - safer neighborhood, increased community awareness, improved neighborhood pride.
- Increase Community Opportunities - communication with association and city leaders, community service.
- Collaboration Opportunities - community goal setting, community response and participation.
- Increase Community Resources - individual community members, city and local organizations, neighboring associations.
- Establish by-laws, establish purpose
- Priorities of teams.
- Dumpster Days - San Tomas West had 7 dumpsters.
- Funding Team - SJ CAP Grant (Community Action & Pride).
- Gang Awareness Night - educating community.
- Block Party - bike decorating contest, mounted police, food, fire dept., resident band.
- Association was recognized by Councilmember Pete Constant as leaders making a difference.
- Strategies for increasing turnout - timing of communication; publish agenda; more you talk about what you are doing, what you've done, what you are going to do, it encourages people to come.
- Have opt-out option for those that don't want to receive flyers.
- STWA has seen a decrease in crime since the association began.
- [www.santomaswest.com](http://www.santomaswest.com)

#### **Team Updates given by Team Leaders:**

#### **Governance given by Kurt Schumacher:**

- Writing by-laws. Will introduce at 2/08 meeting, discuss at 4/08 meeting, ratify at 6/08 meeting.

#### **Community Relations given by Kurt Schumacher:**

- Business directory; information conduit to City Hall; meeting sponsors; partner with El Paseo businesses.

#### **Event Planning given by Scott Shields:**

- Toy/Food drive going on now.

- Overview of other upcoming events - dumpster day, garage sale, block party.
- Pizza My Heart Fundraiser night, 12/11.

**Safety Team given by Laura Shields:**

- 12/12 - 1<sup>st</sup> meeting at Maxim's Restaurant from 7:00-9:00pm.
- 7-8 people coming now, anyone welcome to come to meeting.
- Need project leaders.
- Neighborhood Watch and Emergency Kits are some ideas.

**Membership Team given by Julie Schumacher:**

- Street Leaders in place. Still need street leaders for Quito, Bucknall, Serge, Paseo Olivos Dr. & Ct., Northlawn Dr. & Ct.
- Would like to create newcomer packet for people moving into area.
- Get flyers to people who have not yet participated.

**Financial Grants given by Ron Marfil:**

- Meeting date pending.
- Chase funds that are available.
- Get paperwork going on grants. Grants will require proof the money was spent as intended. CAP grant is matched in volunteer hours.

**Open Forum:**

- Noise from El Paseo - Jenny Bock spoke about the steps she and her husband are taking to eliminate the noise issues for the houses that back-up to El Paseo. Calling 311, notifying mall management, and the district office are helping. She would like a team formed regarding this noise issue (particularly residents from Elmwood Dr. and Colusa). Passed around a charter for noise, abandoned carts, tree trimming. Mall will be fined if in violation of rules.

**Agenda for Next General Meeting given by Kurt Schumacher:**

- Introduction of by-laws.
- Noise from El Paseo Shopping Center.

**Before You Leave given by Kurt Schumacher:**

- Pizza My Heart Fundraiser - Tuesday, 12/11
- Toy/Food Drive

- Yahoo! Group
- Sign up for a team
- Sign up to be a street leader

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm.**

**Next General Meeting: Wed., 2/6/08, 7:00pm @ Moreland-West  
Community Center.**