

Baker West Neighborhood Association  
General Meeting Minutes  
2/6/08

**6:30pm-7:00pm - Valentine's Day Dessert Potluck**

**Meeting called to order at 7:09pm**

**Attendance:** 35 residents; MaryAnne Groen (District 1 Office); Lieutenant Dale Morgan; Sergeant Gary Drake; Peter Krane (Jungle); Mette Spears (Jungle); Diane Siegel (H&R Block); Adam Almejo (Peet's Coffee).

**How Well Do You Know Your Neighborhood? game given by Kurt Schumacher**

- prize given to resident who scored highest points (chose Jamba Juice certificate)

**Police Update given by Lieutenant Dale Morgan and Sergeant Gary Drake:**

- Discussion about safety in burm area of El Paseo Shopping Center. Suspicious men jumping fence with full backpacks seen by resident. For crime such as this, call 911 to report trespassing.
- Suggests residents talk to Councilmember Constant for nuisance issues with El Paseo and with Lt. Morgan for crime issues. If these incidents add up, they can become involved in discussions with mall management.
  - Action item: set up separate mtg to discuss El Paseo issues.
- Arrests have been made in district burglaries, some property has been recovered. Most common entry is from unlocked doors and open windows.
- Solicitors: will continue to come as long as people buy. Call if suspicious. Most have to be 18+ and have a permit (exceptions - newspaper, religious affiliation, under age fundraisers). For people such as PG&E or cable company, check for uniforms, badges, and company cars.

**Introduction of Local Businesses at Meeting given by Kurt Schumacher:**

- Diane Siegel from H&R Block - available to answer general tax questions. \$25 off for 1<sup>st</sup> time customers. Would like to be guest speaker for BWNA after tax season.
- Peter Krane and Mette Spears from The Jungle. Peace & Quiet room available for small meetings M-Th.
- Adam Almejo from Peet's Coffee - would like to bring coffee to next general meeting.

**Message from Sponsor given by Julie Arroyo, BWNA resident and personal trainer:**

- Personal trainer at Almaden Valley Athletic Club. Interested in exercise groups in BWNA. Contact info is on BWNA Yahoo! Group site.

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

- 45 people, representing 37 homes in attendance.
- Chart displayed showing attendance from various streets in BWNA.

**Highlights Since December General Meeting given by Kurt Schumacher:**

- Article ran in The Resident local newspaper regarding the noise issues at El Paseo Shopping Center.
- Top Yahoo! Group discussion: abandoned shopping carts, door-to-door solicitors, recycling, chimney cleaning.

**Introduction of Bylaws given by Ram Bhamidipaty:**

- Motivation - structure, democracy, civility/fairness
- Timeline - 2/6/08 initial presentation; 3/5/08 special meeting w/detailed discussion & change requests; 4/2/08 core meeting (adoption and nomination for officers); 6/4/08 - election of officers (positions through 2008 - normally election would be done in December)
- Association Structure - members, officers (executive committee), standing committees w/chairs, Board of Directors (officers and committee chairs)
- Major Points - independent, democratic, and fiscally sound; 1 vote per house (apartment units would get 1 vote); follow Robert's Rules

of Order (can be found on BWNA website); Basic code of conduct for formal meetings; every member has same rights.

- Copies of bylaws available at meeting and on BWNA website.
- Slide shown of the officer positions and what they entail.
- Define who is an active, voting member.

**Budget Report given by Kurt Schumacher:**

- Slide of bank activity (deposits and withdrawals) presented.
- Thank you for donations from Jack and Dorothy Williams (Former Valley West Homeowner's Association) and Ram Bhamidipaty.

**Team Updates given by Team Leaders:**

**Community Relations given by Kurt Schumacher:**

- Meeting dates sent for 2008. Next meeting will be March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Pizza My Heart.
- Ideas: Business Directory; "Constant Conduit" link to City Hall; Meeting Sponsors; Relationships with El Paseo businesses; Grants

**Grants given by Terry Hickman:**

- Applying for block grant, will be attending a training for application on 2/23/08.
- Can use additional people on grant writing team.
- MaryAnne Groen (from Pete Constant's office) spoke about grants available (CAP - Community Action & Pride Grant, HP Grants, Keep San Jose Beautiful Grant). City wants to give the associations money. Be sure to spend the full amount of money the grant awards BWNA. CAP Grant application is due 4/4/08.

**Event Planning given by Scott Shields:**

- 237 lbs was donated to Second Harvest
- City of San Jose organized successful Dumpster Day
- Upcoming Events: Easter Party on 3/29 (flyers available at meeting); Mother's Day Tea; Graffiti/Waste Cleanup; Father's Day Baseball Game; July 4<sup>th</sup> Block Party.

**Safety Committee given by Laura Shields, Lupe Dhanani, and Michelle Mapes:**

- Committee has 3 separate work groups:
  - Traffic Matters - traffic calming; sidewalk on Bucknall Ave; curb ramps (any curbs that have paint on them will be worked on in March. Curbs without paint will be worked on after July 2008).
  - Neighborhood Watch - Need a minimum of 10 connected households to set up a neighborhood watch. Participants must go to a 2 hour meeting to start. Up to 25 houses can participate. Looking to establish neighborhood watch pockets throughout association. After training, you would receive a sign for your window. Once 70% of residents are involved, we would receive signs posted at access points. Working on events such as fingerprinting children and graffiti abatement.
  - Emergency Response - preparedness for disaster; disaster preparedness kits; Community Emergency Response Trainings (CERT)
- Next meeting 2/28/08 @ 7:00pm - Westgate Church

**Membership Team given by Michelle Mapes:**

- Would like anyone who sees a new resident move in to give an introduction of themselves and BWNA and direct them to the BWNA website.
- Slide shown of current street leaders and the number of households/businesses they deliver to.
- List of areas we need more street leaders signed up was shown.

**Communications given by Julie Schumacher:**

- Bi-monthly flyers going out with occasional special flyers in between.
- Yahoo! Groups and BWNA website other tools for communicating with association.

**Yahoo! Groups given by Pirouz Maghsoudnia:**

- 11% signed up - 42 houses (52 individuals)
- Went over features of site and how to join.
- Any Yahoo! Group questions can be directed to Pirouz (e-mail or phone).

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

- Vote on bylaws
- Nominate officers
- Suggestions for speakers or topics welcome

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm.**

**Next BWNA General Meeting: Wed., 4/2/08, 7:00pm @ Moreland-West Community Center.**