

**Baker West Neighborhood Association  
General Meeting Minutes  
6/4/08**

**Meeting called to order at 7:08pm by Kurt Schumacher.**

**Attendance:** 33 residents; MaryAnne Groen (District 1 Office); Lieutenant Dale Morgan; Sergeant Gary Drake; Pat Hamer (Pizza My Heart).

**Prizes:** Pizza My Heart (meeting sponsor) donated 2 t-shirts and 2 sweatshirts that were given to those sitting in chairs with special stickers.

**Discussion:** How to address Kurt Schumacher, as president of BWNA. Kurt would like to be addressed as "Kurt".

**Proposal:** Meeting should be considered started at actual business time, after sponsor information and games/prizes. Once the opening ceremonies (sponsor, games, prizes) are complete, then meeting starts.

**Message from Sponsor given by Pat Hamer, Pizza My Heart Manager:**

- Pat is involved in BWNA committees and is active, supportive contributor to group.
- Gave brief history of Pizza My Heart.
- Owner - Chuck Hammers. Wants to give back to community in two ways:
  1. Free field trips for schools
  2. Encouraging managers to join neighborhood groups

**Approval of April 2008 Minutes:**

- It was motioned and approved to accept the April 2008 Minutes as corrected.

**Bylaw Amendments:**

- Need 50% of members present to vote. There were 21 charter members before this meeting, 12 new tonight = 33 total members. 22 members were present, meeting requirement to vote.

- Process to vote on amendments: discuss amendment, someone makes a motion to approve, someone seconds the motion, open debate, close debate, vote. Need 2/3 majority to pass vote.

**Bylaw Amendment #2008-005 Vote:**

- See attached document for full text of amendment.
- Summary: Any member in good standing can make a motion to make and amendment. Vote goes to the next meeting.
- Open for debate:
  - Request made by member that BWNA uses roll call method of voting for all voting.
  - Motion made by Michelle Mapes and seconded to decide on method of taking votes.
  - Vote by call of hands, motion denied.
- Amendment #2008-005 text displayed and read.
  - Amendment approved by roll call vote.
    - Voting Members: 1925 Ashland Way; 1982 Ashland Way; 1957 Colusa Way; 2049 Colusa Way; 2072 Colusa Way; 2026 Elmgrove Ln.; 2027 Elmgrove Ln.; 2033 Elmgrove Ln.; 2041 Elmgrove Ln.; 5001 Elmwood Dr.; 5095 Elmwood Dr.; 5278 Elmwood Dr.; 1914 Mayfield Ave.; 1924 Mayfield Ave.; 1951 Mayfield Ave.; 2069 Mayfield Ave.; 5045 Paseo Olivos; 18404 Paseo Olivos Way; 1923 Serge Ave.; 1979 Serge Ave.; 2085 Tamie Ln.; 5008 Tiberan Way; 5093 Tiberan Way.

**Bylaw Amendment #2008-001 Vote:**

- See attached document for full text of amendment.
- Summary: Replace "core meetings" with "general meetings".
  - Amendment approved by hand vote.

**Bylaw Amendment #2008-002:**

- See attached document for full text of amendment.
- Summary: Annex two houses on Bucknall Rd. into BWNA boundaries. If homes are not annexed, the only difference is that the residents cannot vote. They can still attend meetings and/or events.
  - Open for debate.

- Motion made to vote. Motion was seconded.
- Motion made to stop debate was approved.
- Amendment #2008-002 text displayed.
  - Amendment approved by hand vote.
- Typo fixed in text file.

\* Motion made to continue voting on bylaw amendments after guest speaker.  
Motion not seconded.

**Bylaw Amendment #2008-003:**

- See attached document for full text of amendment.
- Summary: Removal of enrollment fees.
- Open for debate:
  - Two unrelated issues in amendment:
    1. enrollment fees
    2. annual dues
  - Motion made to vote on enrollment fees and annual dues separately. Motion was seconded and approved.
- Amendment #2008-003 text displayed.
  - Amendment to remove enrollment fee approved by hand vote.
  - Amendment to remove annual dues approved by hand vote.

**Bylaw Amendment #2008-004:**

- See attached document for full text of amendment.
- Summary: Removal of requirement to be a member to participate on a committee.
- Open for debate:
  - In text, strike "anyone" and insert "adult".
  - Due to legal issues, needing a legal waiver from parents, and CAP Grant requirements, only adults can be a committee member. Children can help, but cannot be a committee member.
  - Debate closed.
  - Motion made and seconded to limit committee members to adults only.

- Motion approved by hand vote to accept change to amendment to allow only adults to serve as committee members.
- Amendment #2008-004 text displayed.
  - Amendment approved by hand vote.

**Guest Speaker: Sergeant Gary Drake and Lieutenant Dale Morgan:**

- Captain Calderon unable to attend. Sergeant Drake will report back to him issues brought up at meeting.
- Suggested everyone look at [www.sjpd.org](http://www.sjpd.org) and the Crime Reports link to see a list of neighborhood crimes.
- Listed a variety of vehicle burglaries, vehicle thefts, and assault reports that came up when doing a local crime report on the website.
- Q & A:
  - How do the SJPD and Sheriff's Department work together?
    - The Sheriff's Dept. shares information about the location and types of crime. The boundaries are intertwined and often need both officers. Will check to see if the Sheriff's Dept. reports are put on the Crime Reports website.
  - If a resident uses mace or bodily harm towards a trespasser on their property, what legal repercussion does the resident face?
    - District Attorney makes those decisions based on the information in the report.
    - If someone is trespassing on your property, call 911 first. If they are outside, stay locked inside. If they are inside, do what is reasonable to protect yourself.
    - SJPD does not want you to risk your life when you confront a criminal.
  - What is the power of a Neighborhood Watch Group?
    - Neighborhood Watch is a great program. Neighbors know when something is out of place.
    - If criminals walk through a neighborhood and see people watching things and see neighborhood watch signs, they tend to look for another area.

- Information about how to start a neighborhood watch program is on [www.sjpd.org](http://www.sjpd.org).
- Recent car break-ins:
  - Reports were filed. These incidents are typically young kids looking for loose change and easy to grab items.
  - "Harden the target" - lock your doors and keep valuables out of sight. Don't leave newspapers to pile up outside your house. Keep lights on inside and out.
  - Often, fear of crime is much more than crime itself. For a city this size, we live in a safe city and the car break-ins should not make us feel less safe or that our neighborhood is having problems.
- Incidents at El Paseo:
  - Problems there spillover into the neighborhood.
  - If you see people looking into cars or hanging around for no apparent reason, call SJPd. They want to check these things out.
  - El Paseo is a decent shopping center (no tattoo parlors, etc). Need to expect some issues when you live next to a center. SJPd does patrol the shopping center occasionally.
- What is the response time when you call 911?
  - Calls are timed starting from the dispatcher.
  - Calls are prioritized from 1-5. Depending on the situation and availability of officers, response time varies.
  - There are currently 1348 officers in the SJPd. That is 1.5 officers per 1000 people (big cities such as Chicago have 10 officers per 1000 people). SJPd is at 1998 staffing levels. There has been 150,000 population growth since then, but no police dept. growth.
- When was the last year SJPd hired a significant number of officers?
  - Constantly hiring due to attrition. 29 were just signed on to go to the academy.
- Are there any walking beats in the areas around us?

- Maybe at shopping centers, but walking beats are best in densely populated areas. In areas like this, where things are spread out, driving is better.
- Are officer's present during Prospect High School's dismissal time?
  - Prospect High School has officers assigned to the school every day. They have a daily presence on the campus.
- If thefts in our area occur more often, what happens?
  - Stats are kept and the number of officers sent to an area is affected by those statistics.
  - Redistricting is going to happen every 10 years.

**Guest Speaker: MaryAnne Groen, District 1, Pete Constant's Office:**

- Prescription Drop-Off and Thermometer Exchange on 6/20/08 from 7:00am-1:00pm at the Cypress Senior Center.
- To help with gang issues near Starbird Park, free summer Teen Health Care will be available at the Starbird Youth Center. Get the word out through libraries, churches, or other organizations involving adolescents aged 12-24.
- SJ Fire Museum will have antique fire trucks on display at Club Auto Sport 7/2/08 - 8/29/08.
- Councilmember, Pete Constant, is working on a porn filtering issue with the libraries. If you feel strongly about this issue, please come to their meeting on 7/17/08.
- Bucknall Sidewalk update: did not receive state grant, but Department of Transportation is now looking into a federal grant that comes up in July. Will need to acquire the property the sidewalk would go on (approx. \$145K). Hoping residents will donate the land. Total cost for design and implementation of the sidewalk is close to \$600,000.
- Curb cut for painted corners will start in July. For those not painted, they will happen in 2009.
- Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> is National Night Out. Effort to take back neighborhoods. Lock doors, turn on lights, and go out with your neighbors. Crime prevention units are mapping events and community employees will go around to the events.
- Festival in the Park is 9/20/08.

- Magnets available with resource numbers.
- *Calling 911 from cell phone does not connect you to SJPD. Call 277-8911 from cell phone to connect to the SJPD 911 line.*

#### **Officer Elections:**

- No vote is needed per bylaws since there is 1 nominee per position.
- Nominations closed.
- Election opened. Election closed.
- All officer's approved.

#### **General Meeting Schedule for 2008:**

- Meetings currently held on even months. Motion made and seconded to keep the same schedule until December.
  - Motion approved by hand vote to hold meetings on even months until December.

\* Motion made and seconded to move discussion on 2008 dues, 2008 budget, and 2008 goals to a later meeting due to running late. Open debate. Closed debate.

- Motion approved by hand vote to table discussions until next meeting.

#### **Committee Updates:**

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

- Met with LeBoulangier execs to discuss handicap access issues. Signage has been approved, they were very receptive and everyone left with a heightened awareness.
- "Constant Conduit" - relationship and communication between BWNA and the District 1 office.

\* Discussion: When can officer's quit being committee chairs?

- When members step up and take the chair positions.

##### **Events Update given by Katie Taylor:**

- Guys Game - June 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. San Jose Giants, \$8/ticket. Meet at BBQ at 6:15pm. RSVP to Scott or just show up. Families welcome.

- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Block Party in the works. Plan on Harmony Way. Event will be finalized when we get word on CAP Grant.
- Ladies Tea big success, enjoyable event.

\* Motion made and seconded to extend meeting 10 minutes. Motion approved by hand vote to extend meeting.

**Safety Committee Update given by Carol Carter:**

- Chair needed for committee. For now, Carol Carter and Michelle Mapes are Safety Committee contacts.
- There have not been any recent formal meetings.
- Focus is on getting the neighborhood watch training sessions organized. Need at least 10 households represented. Training session is for adults only due to the material discussed. Meeting is currently scheduled for mid-August for Mayfield Ave. residents.
- Looking into disaster preparedness. City is offering a 2 hour certification course. Would like to organize one of these for the neighborhood, either at a general meeting or as a special event.

**Membership Committee Update given by Michelle Mapes:**

- If street leaders see new residents move into the neighborhood, try and introduce yourself and give information about BWNA.
- *Need street leader for Northlawn.*

\* Kurt Schumacher gave quick intro to lawn signs that a neighboring association uses to announce meetings and events. Will discuss in more detail at next meeting.

**Communications Committee Update given by Julie Schumacher:**

- If you have important info to put in the flyer, send it to Julie ([julie@bakerwest.org](mailto:julie@bakerwest.org)).

**El Paseo de Saratoga Relations update given by Pirouz**

**Maghsoudnia:**

- Task force formed - 5 members, Pirouz leading.
- El Paseo has a plan to add almost 8000 square feet around the old Bombay Company store.

- Survey went out to neighbors to identify concerns and issues. Over 30 responses have been received.

\* Motion made and seconded to add items on the agenda not covered at this meeting to the next meeting. Motion approved by hand vote.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.**

**Minutes Submitted by Secretary, Katie Taylor.**