

Baker West Neighborhood Association / General Meeting
3/04/09

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

Attendance: 45 people (1 council office, 2 police officers, 1 guest, 1 reporter, 40 residents)

New Members: Signed in to become members of BWNA.

Our City Forest Presentation by Brett:

- Tree grant application due by Friday, March 6 for private property tree. 5 species available.
- Organization provides educational opportunities for school
- Tree amigo program – provides volunteers to plant new trees
- Saturday, March 7, free bare root trees at Berryessa Flea Market, one per household
- Provides tree service for 3 years

Bylaw amendments (Discussion and Vote):

Explanation of agenda and time limit set – something new for this meeting due to the number of amendments (see slide).

Explanation of voting process by Kurt (see slide).

Amendments proposed by Board of Directors:

Amendment #2008-006: Combine two types of quorum into one. Eliminates exclusion of board members from quorum count.

Discussions/comments by members

- In agreement that members should not be excluded from count
- Question from member: Do you make big decisions for us? No big decisions are made, if that was the case, the association would be notified
- This is a neighborhood association and not a homeowners association, it has no authority over homes
- Member proxy vote – something to consider down the road.

Motion made to vote, motion seconded – all in favor. No opposition.

Amendment #2008-007: Remove requirement to attend 1 meeting in last 6 months to be considered a member in good standing

Discussions/comments by members

- Members will be present at meetings that they are interested in and not be there always.
- Different situations make it difficult for some members to attend meetings.

Motion made to vote, motion seconded – all in favor. No opposition.

Break for guest speaker -- New W. San Jose Police Cpt. Maynard Gamez

- 24 years with San Jose Police Department
- Work hours are from 3pm to 1am
- Looking to build good relationship with citizens
- The SJPD is low in personnel, currently the response time will be longer

Questions/Answers/Comments

- Neighborhood Watch Program is in danger of being cut as of July 1, is this true and what can we do? Member is concerned and feels it's important to keep the program. Cpt. Gamez --Yes, there are cuts but SJPD is willing to work with residents – residents need to take ownership of their neighborhood. Cpt. Gamez is willing to facilitate Neighborhood Watch Program meeting, feels there is a positive outcome of this program.
- Mary Ann Groen from District 1 office – The city is in the budget process and they want feedback. Create an e-mail writing campaign to save Neighborhood Watch Program. It's a great way to get the message to the mayor.

- Member -- There is heavy traffic and speeding on Bucknall Rd near Quito and Tamie Ln. Cpt. Gamez – Possible solutions is to bring traffic control and place speed markers in the area, will look into it.
- Member question – Are there any concerns about Westgate Mall and teenagers? No, not aware of any problems, mall owners have their own security and are working together with SJPD for safety.
- Member – There is a lot of speeding by Baker School, is it possible to send an officer to the area? The department is low in personnel and looking at more cuts in funding. The crossing guard program is also in danger of being cut.
- How much does it cost? I don't know

Compliments from a member about a meeting of Neighborhood watch program. Cpt. Gamez holds weekly meeting with his staff and will pass/share this information with his staff.

Amendments Proposed by John Dunse

Amendment #2008-008: Establish enough reserve funds for 2 special meetings

- No comments

Motion made to vote, motion seconded – complete opposition, did not pass.

Amendment #2008-009: Modify standard quorum to include minimum ratio of non-board to board members and minimum number of officers in attendance

- No comments

Motion made to vote, motion seconded – complete opposition, did not pass.

Amendment #2008-010: Require roll call vote upon request from 10% of members at a meeting

- No comments

Motion made to vote, motion seconded – complete opposition, did not pass.

Amendment #2008-011: Require secret ballot vote of confidence for all officer nominations running unopposed
Discussions/Comments

- Amend to simply add a statement that if a member is running unopposed, then a majority vote by show of hands is required to elect the person. Removed all other wording.

Motion made to vote, motion seconded – approved with modification. 3 members opposed.

Amendment #2008-012: Require annual membership roster update
Discussions/Comments

- Membership will be tracked by database kept by Kurt.
- Any procedure for roll clean-up? No
- number of members in association is a positive selling point
- amendment is not really needed, but it's a great idea
- Should it be in by-law of general rule?
- Amend to remove mention of Organization quorum (eliminated by passing amendment #2008-006) and allow members to notify anyone in the association instead of only Vice President.

Motion made to vote, motion seconded – all in favor, passed approved with modification. 1 member opposed.

Amendment #2008-013: Issue and use voting flags (one per residential address) at each general meeting
Discussions/comments

- None

Motion made to vote, motion seconded – complete opposition, did not pass.

Presentation of 2009 Officer

President -Kurt Schumacher

Vice President -Pirouz Maghsoudnia

Secretary –Lupe Dhanani

Communications Secretary -Julie Schumacher

Treasurer -Ron Marfil

- No objections

General Meeting Schedule (see slide and dates)

Discussions/comments

- December is such a busy month, can it be changed? Not sure, possible by-law.
- Why are there less meetings? Subject of by-laws at meetings was cause of less attendance by some members
- Members like the non-business aspect of the meetings – police officers, speakers, etc.

Motion made to vote, motion seconded –all in favor.

2009 Budget/Dues

Recommend no dues for 2009

Motion made to vote, motion seconded –all in favor.

Budget Report presented by Ron Marfil (see slide).

- Updated budget presented
- CAP application submitted and CAP grant extension granted for July party
- UNSCC membership granted
- Seeking permission to move funds to cover December neighborhood celebration from other events
- Safety Committee has money for cert. training that needs to be used

2009 Goals

- Add Neighborhood watch meetings

Committee /Task Force Updates

- Community Relations and Community Service committee in need of volunteers

Event Planning Committee Update given by Katie

- Thanked the Holiday party sponsors
- Food donations doubled for 2008 (578 lb) and 55 toys were donated
- Presented proposed calendar of events for 2009 (see slide)
- Event planning meeting for Sunday 3/8 at Starbucks on Campbell Ave from 2-3pm.
- A volunteer is needed for guys event in June
- “Color me Mine” donated 5 certificates for free sitting fee – passed out to member interested

Safety Committee Task Force update given by Carol

- Volunteers are needed to host Neighborhood Watch Meeting, booking currently for the month of May
- The program is in danger of being cut due to city budget cuts

Membership/Street Leaders Task Force update given by Michelle

- Street leader for Colusa is needed
- Additional volunteers are needed for back up, in case a street leader is sick or out of town
- Being a street leader is good for your health, a great way to get a quick walk

Communications Task Force update given by Julie

- Any ideas or suggestions for newsletter is welcomed, please contact her by phone or email

El Paseo de Saratoga Relations Task Force update given by Pirouz

- New owners are not moving on any of the request

- AMC is requesting permission from the city to operate past midnight; concerns about traffic/noise issue
- Contact city planning about concerns of traffic/noise impact – the sooner the better
- Keep San Jose Beautiful funds are available to beautify the end of Colusa at Elmwood. Labor comes from the neighborhood, looking to replace fence, put planters – any expert help would be appreciated.

Open Forum/New Business

- Kurt offered Baker West Signs to new members
- Next meeting Thursday September 3rd.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49pm

APPROVED