

THOUSAND OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2019

Location: Home of Marsey Kahn

In attendance: Mary Bitter, Dave Guthridge, Nigel Jahn, Abhishek Joshi, Marsey Kahn, Jodi Pierce, Sean Pierce, Jerry Strangis

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Guthridge, at 7:00 pm. Dave welcomed the Board members and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

The agenda was unanimously adopted.

Minutes of the last Board meeting had previously been sent electronically by Mary, and approved by the 2017-2019 Board.

Committee Updates:

•Crime & Safety – Ted

Although Ted was not present, he advised the Board in writing that he would prefer someone else become the chairperson of the Crime & Safety committee. Jerry and Sean agreed to co-chair the committee, as they are already working on the current issue of monitoring the creek.

Discussion followed regarding Pam Foley's camera rebate program and the importance of cameras in solving crimes. Video from neighborhood cameras played a crucial role in the arrest of the suspect in the Bambi Larson murder case. Sean added that cameras also help solve many burglary and car break-in cases. It was suggested that the Board work on providing education for the neighborhood regarding better crime prevention. Jerry and Sean will look into purchasing cameras in bulk for neighbors to purchase at a discount, and work with Pam Foley for reimbursement.

Ted also expressed his interest in monitoring issues that emanate from City Hall, and asked if the Board would consider creating a new committee titled "City Hall" that he might chair. The Board decided it would be best to have this discussion at a future meeting when Ted is able to be present.

•Park Preservation & Development – Marsey

Marsey was contacted by Rob Tidmore, PRNS, who notified her of the top preferences for park improvements voted on by the neighborhood at our October 16 general meeting. He also informed her that H.T. Harvey has not yet submitted their final report. The park improvement preferences are:

1. Replace benches and trash cans
2. Plant native oaks and sycamore saplings
3. (Tie) Create a path connecting Woodgrove Lane to the main park walkway/Build bird boxes

Following up on these items, Marsey sent Paul Formico, our park supervisor, the specs for the benches and trash cans, to match those in the Woodland Area.

On October 11, Jennifer and Marsey met with Pat Pizzo of Guadalupe Oak Grove Park to identify invasive plants in the woodland. They have been marked and will be removed by Dave's crew. Pat also discussed harvesting our own acorns, and how to store and plant them. Dave has researched sycamore saplings and thinks we will be able to get the appropriate variety. Some broken bender board was spotted along the trail, which Dave is going to repair.

Jennifer, Dave and Marsey met with PRNS on October 29 to consider possible locations for a path connecting Woodgrove Lane to the main park walkways. Dave designed and marked two paths that meet environmental restrictions for maintaining tree health. These locations were mapped, and on November 3 a survey was sent to the neighborhood via email and Nextdoor to determine which path is the most popular. Should funds permit, both paths may be combined, if the neighborhood agrees. The deadline to return the survey is November 10. Dave has offered to work with PRNS to make this project more cost effective.

On Saturday, November 2, Jennifer and Marsey harvested about 30 acorns and will be planting them in the next week or so. Most are destined for the open spaces in the Woodland Area. Planting locations will be staked, so growth can be monitored.

Jennifer and Marsey are meeting with Lee Pauser on November 7 to discuss bird boxes. Lee takes care of the bird boxes at Guadalupe Oak Grove Park, and has offered to provide a few bluebird boxes to get started. However, he also sent a 31-page monitoring guide, which describes the care necessary to maintain bluebird boxes. It is very involved and time-consuming, so the discussion will center around the feasibility of installing and caring for them. Hopefully, boxes for other bird species may not require as much care. One suggestion might be bat boxes.

Marsey will ask Rob Tidmore to provide a copy of the PowerPoint presentation from our October 16 meeting, so it can be posted on our website.

•Community Events – Marian

Marian was unable to attend, but asked that the Board consider a new TONA event – Christmas Caroling in the neighborhood. Plans so far include cookies, hot cocoa, printing of song books, and a possible appearance by Santa (they have a suit). The event might be called TONA 1st Annual Caroling, Cookies & Cocoa, or TONA 1st Annual Christmas Caroling with Santa. That, and other details, will be decided when the committee meets on November 12. Funding for cookies, cocoa, song books, etc., would come from the Community Events fund.

Mary made a motion to approve the Christmas Caroling event. Abhishek seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary spoke about the Help the Homeless Drive, which was a huge success last year. Sacred Heart and Life Moves were extremely grateful for the donations provided by our generous neighborhood. The drive runs from December 1 through December 15. Items may be dropped off at Mary's home. She will deliver them to the charitable agencies.

Mary felt the event (and other events) would benefit from more A-frame signs being visible throughout the neighborhood. She also felt we should continue to solicit email addresses from our neighbors so that we can keep more of the neighborhood better informed.

•Housing Development – Sam

Sam was unable to attend. There was discussion about the need for this committee. It was pointed out that it is important for TONA to be made aware of construction projects, such as the apartments behind Knollfield, and the senior facility on Almaden and Branham, during the planning stages, so that we may have a voice in the process.

Discussion/Action Items:

•Treasurer's Report – Abhishek

Abhishek reported that the 4th of July Parade account has approximately \$5500, Community Events approximately \$1000, and the General Fund approximately \$1200.

•D9 Leadership Group

Dave will find out from Sam when the next D9 Leadership group meeting is scheduled.

•SCVWD Permit Application

Dave will complete the permit application and submit to Sue Tippetts. An Adopt-a-Creek component is included in the application. Jerry would like to coordinate our efforts with Shay Franco-Claussen (Open Space Authority) and support her monthly cleanup of the creek. These events occur on the third Saturday of the month. Jerry is also in contact with the Hyundai dealer regarding homeless encampments along the creek, which are once again on the rise.

Dave has legal access to all SCVWD property, so he can work with Jerry, Sean and Nigel to regularly monitor creek activity by taking photographs, identifying locations of encampments, and notifying the appropriate authorities. Sean asked for a map of Wellington Square to use as a reference in identifying encampments. Marsey will provide.

Dave suggested an informal meeting of the Crime & Safety committee (perhaps the first weekend of the month), to traverse the creek. Information gathered would be forwarded to appropriate agencies on the 15th of the month, with a request for action to be taken within ten days.

Dave also suggested sending a monthly e-mail to the neighborhood to request volunteers for creek cleanup. Mary cautioned that our messages must be carefully worded, so as not to appear to single out homeless individuals. The cleanup activities are for the purpose of crime prevention, fire prevention, and mitigation of creek pollution. The Crime & Safety committee will compose a message and submit to the Board for approval prior to sending to the neighborhood email group.

Jerry will schedule a meeting prior to November 23 (the next scheduled cleanup) with the committee, Dave, and Shay Franco-Claussen, to discuss a partnership.

•Response to Mario Lopez re voting procedure changes

Mario Lopez is Civic Engagement Manager for SV@Home Action Fund. He emailed TONA to request an opportunity to speak to the neighborhood regarding changes in election procedures for 2020. The Board agreed that Mr. Lopez is not representing the Registrar of Voters, or any other government agency, and it was not necessary to respond to his request.

•BeautifySJ Grant Cycle 3 – Sam

Mary stated that the grant has been approved in the amount of approximately \$4900, mainly for the purchase of additional A-frame signs to increase communication between TONA and the neighborhood.

•Dates for future Board meetings

Dave suggested that the Board meet monthly, rather than every other month, on the 3rd Wednesday. He suggested we try this new schedule for a few months to see if its workable for most Board members. Due to the upcoming holidays, the next meeting is scheduled for December 4, at Marsey's house. Marsey said she would be willing to host all meetings, so long as the responsibility for snacks was rotated among the group. We also have options of using Pearl Avenue Library and/or a conference room at the Hyundai dealership.

Dave would like to send a monthly message to the neighborhood soliciting input for Board meetings. This would help inform us of community issues of which we may not be aware.

Jodi asked how often we remind people about the neighborhood website. It was suggested that all our communication with the neighborhood include mention of the website, encouraging people to visit it.

Mary made a motion to approve the new (trial) meeting schedule/location. Abhishek seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Mary made a motion to change our October general meeting to September (keeping the March meeting). Abhishek seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

•Items for Dave to discuss with Pam Foley

- Camera rebate program
- Fence height on Steval Place (SCVWD)
- Notifications of upcoming building projects
- Adding Thousand Oaks Park Woodland Area to City, County, State maps

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsey Kahn

11/6/19