

SAN TOMAS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

General Meeting 9/10/09 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Welcome & Introductions

CO-President Peter Rushbrook welcomed everyone and asked the audience to take a moment to say hello to someone in the room they haven't met.

Police Department Representatives

Campbell PD – Captain Adams

Captain Adams asked if everyone is enjoying the new signal light at Phoenix & Hamilton. PD has been focusing on areas near schools for traffic control. They made 101 traffic stops on Hamilton Ave, between Llewelyn and San Tomas Aquino and there have been 13 collisions.

DUI is up 54%, 8 in our area.

51 noise disturbance complaints

6 missing/runaway kids – all were found

56 property crimes, 18 were auto burglaries

A resident on Lisa Way had a boat stolen from his property. The wires had been cut to the nearby street light also.

Capt Adams recommended if residents see something doesn't look right, street lights out, etc. they should call PD.

It is becoming common now for thieves to cut and steal wire to recycle the copper inside for cash.

Recently, SJPD did a sting on recycling groups.

There were 2 reports of shots fired on Boise and on Superior....probably illegal fireworks.

In the Darryl area, some kids were approached and robbed by a suspect who pulled a knife.

3 weeks ago, a GPS was stolen from a vehicle. Another resident called in suspicious activity and the suspect was found.

Lil Ottos bar was closed by PD and Alcoholic Beverage Control – owners were charged several ABC violations. In addition there were drug sales and prostitution on the premises.

Capt reminded everyone not to leave valuables in view in a vehicle.

San Jose PD – Officer Foster

Things have been relatively quiet in our area this summer. Most crimes are near Cadillac Dr or near Starbird Park. Traffic study on 4 way stop on Darryl. There was a DUI suspect on darryl that hit parked cars. Residents followed and found suspect.

Buddhist Temple had wires cut also.

During summer kids were seen on Payne school property. Some teens loitering at Quik Stop, trying to get alcohol.

Question/comment – resident has seen teens walking across Westgate parking lot, near Hometown Buffet, seemed to be checking for unlocked cars

Question/comment – Moreland Way – car window was smashed, bookbag was stolen, including wallet.

Question/comment – whatever happened with gang shootings a few years ago? Arrests were made in the Cadillac Dr area

Question/comment – not as much gang graffiti lately. SJPD gang task force has been around a lot. Some gang members have moved out of the area.

Question/comment – is there a lot of gang activity in the Eden area? SJPD arrested some gang members attending a meeting in Hamann Park

Question/comment – Seems like the “parking police” have been active on Carola Ave & Court. Pete Constant commented there is a new pro-active parking unit.

Guest Speaker: Pete Constant

San Jose City Council Member, District 1 Representative

Just returning to work since spinal surgery a few weeks ago. He has lived here 32 years. Grew up in the Strawberry Park area. Currently lives in the Saratoga & Williams area. Has 5 kids ranging 3-8 yrs old.

Former SJPD officer, 14 years.

City of San Jose has had a budget deficit for several years, \$400 million cumulative.

Less employees = less services. The first few years budget cuts were “trimming fat”, improving processes and technology. This year closed with a \$85 million deficit. State will take additional \$20 million. Next year’s projecting \$100 million.

City Council members don’t agree on priority of spending or cuts. Will try in October to have Council budget session to prioritize.

San Jose has 2800 miles of streets to maintain and is considered the 2nd worst roadway infrastructure in the US. Estimate is \$850 million to repair. Past budget cuts included deferring infrastructure maintenance.

Other major costs to the city are the pension system for city employees (\$3 billion), and healthcare for retirees (\$1.65 billion).

Residents need to hold elected officials accountable and are encouraged to get involved in budget issues.

People should shop in their city to help support w/ tax dollars.

Parking is the only department that makes a profit. There is a special “school zone” unit, focusing on red zones, bus zones.

Announcements of upcoming events/issues:

9/23/09 National pollution prevention week – prescription disposal dropoff, cell phone disposal, resource fair 7:30 – 10:30 am

10/2/09 Domestic Violence Awareness Walk – 10:30 am at City Hall – Pete is on committee

10/8/09 Commission for people with disabilities awareness – at City Hall

10/8/09 Public Art commission outreach to discuss priority & spending 7-8:30 pm

Pete has ongoing office hours to talk to residents @ West Valley Library and Cypress Senior Center.

Website www.sjdistrict1.com

Question/comment – What about plastic shopping bag issue? City’s proposal is to prohibit plastic and charge a fee (tax) for paper. – Pete disagrees with City’s plan, feels now is not a good time to start this. Is paper bag charge a fee or a tax? Should be voted on. Issue will be discussed at City Council mtg on 9/22. Pete discussed the Public Service employee’s pay scale and its impact to the budget. Many public employees were hired 20-30 years ago. Negotiations with unions are difficult to control. Two-thirds of the budget is public employees healthcare and retirement.

Question/comment – Hotels planning/development. Years ago city planners thought hotels, shopping, etc should be in city center. Now changing retail planning ideas. Example is Santana Row, more profitable in West San Jose than it would have been downtown.

City gets revenue from sales tax, property tax, building fees/charges. All 3 have decreased at the same time recently.

Question/comment – What about population growth and planning? We are the most stable district because most land is built out already. General plan will look at growth in relation to transportation, services, water, etc. Meetings are open to the public and info is available online.

Question/comment – Coyote development? On hold indefinitely.

Question/comment – City moneys coming in versus going out? By law they must balance budget somehow. Projecting 4 years till balanced budget without making cuts.

Question/comment – How many police officers retiring vs. new hires? Trying to anticipate vacancies, to allow for 18 month training period. San Jose has 1.4 officers per 1000 residents, while the average is 2.6 officers per 1000. In spite of that, city has highest homicide solving rate in state.

Pete introduced Megan , liaison for Neighborhood Association.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of July 8 meeting minutes - postponed due to a problem getting minutes posted on website

Board Reports

Co-president Warren Campbell – The current economy has impacted everyone. This association is a great place to consider issues, access city government. STWNA empowers residents.
District 1 Leadership – access points for residents to give input on decisions made by city gov't.

Lisa Riggs, 1st VP – Block captain areas completely filled.
Block captains will be distributing flyer for “going green” 1st of Oct.
Nov 11th Block Captain mtg before general mtg.

Diana Wickman, 2nd VP – on vacation

Therese Ryan, Treasurer – financial report posted for review.
We need more Paid members to fund our goals.

Jeannie Grigsby – Secretary – 114 member-households currently for 2009. 1 paid for 2010 so far.
Payne MU has been reserved for general meetings for 2009-2010 school year, also for Oct & Dec events.
District said we cannot reserve for July 2010 – need to reserve alternate site for mtg.

Elaine Osborne, Dir. Of Events – Dumpster day – 8am – 12 or until full, 1 on Phoenix (SJ side) and 1 on Mendenhall (Ca side). Non-members can dump for \$25 or can join STWNA that day for \$15 for 2010
Need 5 volunteers for each dumpster. There will be a BBQ for volunteers afterwards.
Sharing & Caring Holiday event – One Warm Coat, Humane Society, Inn Vision, Soles for Souls

Ann Herosy, Dir of Safety – absent due to conflict w/ City of Campbell meeting

Heather Sutton, Past president – Going Green info night, Wednesday Oct. 14th – flyer will be distributed in early October.
Creek Cleanup - We have adopted the creek area between Campbell Ave and Payne.

Unfinished Business

Current opening for Safety Director
2010 openings – 1st Vice President, Secretary, Director of Events
At Nov mtg we'll talk more about plans for 2010
Volunteer drawing – Cert for Pinkberry Yogurt – Tyler Baughman & Meena Oza

New Business

Riverside Plaza – we're trying to get a presentation for the November mtg.

Sept 19th – Coastal Cleanup 9am - 12
Oct 8th – Disability Awareness Day 10 am – 2 pm San Jose City Hall
Oct 8th – Envisioning Public Art in District 1, West Valley Library 7 – 8:30 pm
Oct 14th Going Green information night 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Oct 16th Moreland Haunted Woods Pumpkin Patch www.mefhome.org
Nov 11th STWNA General Mtg

Moreland School District is looking for volunteers to help at Anderson Elementary & Moreland Middle schools

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm