

# BPNA, INC

## Executive Board Meeting April 9, 2009

**Time and Location:** 7:30-9:00 pm, home of Hal Edmonds  
**Directors Present:** Margaret Buss, Marc de la Vergne, Sally Flory-O'Neil, Rob Sperling, and Catherine Turrill  
**Directors Absent:** Dave Philipp

### Secretary's Report

The March meeting minutes, composed by Catherine and previously shared among the Board members via e-mail, were approved without changes.

### Treasurer's Report

Hal distributed copies of his two-page report, observing that we have a healthy balance. We agreed that the profit/loss format works well. A copy of the report also will be included in the Board's records, in accordance with the established procedure.

### ParkBeat Content for May 2009

We reviewed and amended the preliminary list that was included in the agenda. All article copy should reach Catherine by April 14 for bundling and delivery to Asha by 5:00 p.m. on April 15.

### **Article Topics/Authors, May issue of *ParkBeat*:**

- Historic home: Asha
- New members: Sally
- General Meeting recap: Margaret and Marc
- Ad manager replacment: Rob
- June Yard Sale: Sally and Rob
- "Recycled" household hints from Susanne Ventura: Sally
- September events (Governor's Mansion, SOCA tours: Margaret
- Call for BP volunteers for "Pops" and other events: Rob
- Friends of the River: Catherine

### General Meeting Recap:

When discussing the content of the article for the May newsletter, Margaret and Marc explained that they had not taken detailed notes on the discussion about the McKinley Village Project. Effectively this is now on hold due to the bankruptcy of the construction firm, though Phil Angelides has expressed interest in moving forward with it.

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### **Update on BPNA Website:**

Copies of a two-page report about the function and structure of the BPNA website, drafted by Pete Bramson, were distributed. Hal reported that the committee had met with Darby Patterson, a BP resident who has a web-design firm. She quoted an estimate of \$400 for the initial site design and offered to continue to assist with the website for no additional fee, in exchange for a free ad in the printed newsletter. The Yahoo domain will cost us \$120 per year. It was **moved, seconded, and voted** to authorize up to \$700 towards the cost of developing the BPNA website. However, we will need to select a domain name other than BPNA, as it is already taken by another organization. In discussion, it was noted that the idea of holding an open forum for public discussion on the website is still on hold. The new website should be up and running in about a month. Pete Bramson has indicated that he would like to continue working on it.

### **Liability Insurance Update**

Sally reported on her research into liability insurance for BPNA. She learned that State Farm Insurance is not prepared to deal with this kind of situation. She contacted an agent with All-Cal Insurance in Roseville (previously recommended by the Sierra-Curtis Park Neighborhood Association) who was able to come up with quotations, including one for a policy that would cover public events where alcohol (beer and wine) was served. The coverage would include the BPNA officers and the attorney fees, but not the homeowner who was hosting the event unless he or she was a member of the board. The fee quoted would amount to \$1500 per year (including \$600 for the directors and \$900 for the events). Sally said she would ask the All-Cal agent if the events already planned for 2009 would be covered by the new policy.

### **Old Soul at Weatherstone and ABC License, Update:**

Margaret already had shared information with the Board members by e-mail. By way of background for this situation with Old Soul, she noted that liquor licenses are supposed to be limited to one per census tract, but that we have 55. Old Soul is proposing to sell wine/beer in addition to specialty foods. A key clause in the law about liquor licenses is that neighbors of an establishment serving liquor are entitled to “quiet enjoyment”: this clause resulted in the over 20 conditions imposed upon Old Soul. In their response, the owners of Old Soul asserted that some of the conditions were not enforceable. Reporting on the hearing itself, Margaret observed that it was long—six hours—but orderly. The Old Soul owners, Tim and Jason, made a good presentation. As she had observed in her 4/1 e-mail, they “presented new information, not previously disclosed, including proposals for landscaping and other changes to the courtyard to minimize noise.” She commented that the ABC Board almost never denies a permit, so this situation was unusual. She also observed that the ABC staff member seemed very unprepared for the meeting (had difficulty making a presentation). However, the ALJ (administrative law judge) did a good job of moderating the discussion and will respond within 30 days,  
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as Margaret had explained previously in her 4/1 e-mail to the Board. Rob had a few questions, and asked if the decibel count that someone from the city code enforcement office had done near Old Soul had been brought up at the hearing.

### **Design Review Board/Planning Commission Restructuring**

The city's recent proposal to combine the board and commission has excited much discussion via e-mail and also prompted many comments at the April Board meeting. Topics raised included the BPNA Board's stance and how the Board might work with other concerned neighborhood organizations in formulating a response (it was suggested we seek Jon Marshack's advice if we are going to draft a written response); the importance of constructive criticism that also includes suggestions for possible solutions to the problem; the recent editorial in the *Sacramento Bee* (which had expressed opposition to the merger of the two boards); and the need to remember the context for this controversial decision, including not only the current budget crisis but also the on-going agenda of the developers. We also were reminded that the City Council meeting at which this issue was supposed to be addressed was scheduled on April 30.

### **Tent City Recap**

Rob reported that this story also has been covered by NBC Nightly News. Effective Monday of next week, "Tent City" residents will have 72 hours to remove themselves and their belongings from the property as SMUD is proposing to undertake some development there, part of which involves the substation already located on the site. A contractor is scheduled to begin erecting a chain-link fence around the SMUD property on April 13. As a way of coping with the evicted residents, CalExpo and Volunteers of America have come up with 50 additional beds plus another area where tents may be erected. Occupants of this site will have to leave it at 10:00 a.m. each day and cannot have pets, but there will be a kennel at Loaves and Fishes for their dogs. Salvation Army also will provide storage units on its property. According to a survey conducted by Tim Brown, about a third of the homeless contacted indicated they would be willing to move into temporary public housing (like CalExpo), but most prefer camping independently.

### **BPNA Boundaries**

The recent discussion of a merger between the Marshall School and New Era Park Neighborhoods has gotten varied responses from residents of areas within the two neighborhoods, which abut Boulevard Park. Margaret observed that neighborhood boundaries can overlap, however some residents still are concerned about the impact of the merger on them. The original Marshall School Neighborhood is bordered by Capital City Freeway, 24<sup>th</sup> Street, J Street, and E Street, but the new MSN/NEP Neighborhood could extend north to the American River and as far west as 16<sup>th</sup> Street. It was observed that, given the current proposal to secure National Register designation of the original  
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Boulevard Park development (see the March meeting minutes), we need to review the MSN/NEP proposal carefully (NEP currently includes part of the original Boulevard Park neighborhood as laid out by Wright and Kimbrough). Furthermore, the city regards the BPN boundaries as C Street, J Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Street, and 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Effectively BPNA needs to come to an agreement with MSN about our respective boundaries. Margaret said she would continue to discuss this with the MSNA.

**SOCA Home Tours**

Margaret and Catherine reported on the progress of the 2009 SOCA Home Tour plans. Homes still are being selected. The preliminary list includes the homes of Hal and Liz Edmonds, Vincent Bezdecheck, Mary Marks, Stephanie Tucker and, if necessary, Catherine Turrill. One of the 2020 H Street courtyard condos also will be on the tour.

**Donation Request from Monica Vejar**

Rob reminded us that last year BPNA had made a donation to the daylong event for families and children at Fort Sutter Park. This year the “Jazz in the Park” event will be held in Grant Park (June 7). It includes a silent auction fund-raiser to which BPNA contributed a “Family Fun Pack” at a River Cats baseball game last year (\$150). We agreed to offer a similar donation this year.

**Preservation Report**

Margaret had no news to report on local preservation issues.

**Other Items**

- Bon Faire Hearing (April 23?): Sally offered to attend.
- Spaghetti Dinner, Entertainment: Sally suggested that, after two years with Doctor Solar, we should seek another entertainer for the Spaghetti Dinner. She is seeking suggestions from Board members and BPNA residents.

**Adjournment:** The April meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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**Next BPNA Executive Board Meeting:** on May 14 (home of Sally Flory-O’Neil).