

BPNA, INC

Executive Board Meeting

March 12, 2009

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

Change in Meeting Location

Because of a conflicting engagement, Hal Edmonds could not host the March meeting. He and Catherine agreed to exchange hosting dates (she originally was scheduled to host the April meeting, which now will be held at Hal's home instead).

Special Guest Presentations, 1: William (Bill) Burg

Local historian Bill Burg, a resident of the Winn Park/Capitol Avenue neighborhood who is writing his Sacramento State MA thesis about the original Boulevard Park development by Wright and Kimbrough, made a brief presentation about his research. He also shared archival materials that had been collected by the Historic Boulevard Park Committee (HBPC) several years ago and lent to historian Leslie Crow for use in developing a National Register nomination. This project was interrupted by her death in 2006 and the notebooks were inherited by the University of the Pacific together with the rest of her professional papers ("Leslie Crow Papers"). Margaret Buss, one of the members of the HBPC, had not seen the notebooks since before Leslie's death and had not known where they went. In discussion, we agreed that the final disposition of the notebooks needed to be discussed (should they be kept at SAMCC, for example?). Rob suggested that we might want to scan the contents of the notebooks so that there would be at least one duplicate set of the material that could be accessed more easily.

Bill explained that he plans to finish his thesis by September. Currently he is taking photographs of houses in the BP neighborhood. The final part of the thesis will be the paperwork necessary to apply for inclusion of Boulevard Park as an historic district in the National Register of Historic Places, a process he knows well through his current work as a reviewer of National Register nominations for the Office of Historic Preservation. The nomination would involve only the original Wright and Kimbrough development, which was bordered by B Street, H Street, 20th Street, and the north/south boundary line between the homes on 22nd and 23rd Streets. Boulevard Park also was this company's first development, which adds to its historic importance. In discussion, both Rob and Dave offered to share additional information about their homes (Dave also has old photographs of his family's home in the neighborhood). Margaret explained that the

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Special Guest Presentations, 1 (continued)

National Register nomination would not prevent home-owners within the historic district from making alterations to their property. In this regard, she noted, city regulations tend to be stricter.

Bill has been invited to make a presentation about his thesis project at the BPNA's general meeting in April. He told us that he has a portable scanner, and that he could arrive before the meeting to meet with individual homeowners and scan any old photographs or printed materials that they wanted to share with him that evening (possibly between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m., the starting time of the meeting).

Special Guest Presentations, 2: Clark Mildenhall

Clark Mildenhall, a resident of the Winn Park/Capitol Avenue neighborhood and member of the Sacramento Old City Association, is co-chair of the 2009 SOCA Home Tours (with Kay Knepprath). He asked to attend the March meeting so that we could discuss the Home Tour, which will be in Boulevard Park this year. Three residents of the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood already have offered to open their homes: Vincent Bezdecheck, Mary Marks, and Catherine Turrill. Jon Marshack has suggested that tour participants could observe progress on his home renovation from the outside (he would not be opening up his entire home to the tour). We discussed various aspects of the tour, including the criteria for selection of a home (curb appeal, unusual structural or design features, historic importance, etc.), the selection process (it was suggested that the BP board develop a list of possible houses; Sally also offered to walk around the neighborhood with Clark so that they could identify some likely homes together), the time-frame for selection of homes for inclusion in the tour (Margaret suggested that we try to get a list of homes to Clark within the next couple of weeks), and the location of the street fair (the meridian on 22nd Street is recommended over the one on 21st, given the greater amount of traffic on 21st Street). Bill Burg, who is in charge of organizing the fair, explained that it usually included live (but **not** amplified) music as well as vendors, and that a prominent, accessible location is preferred (Grant Park, which also was considered for the street fair, is a little too remote). The meridian was chosen not only for this reason, but also because it is a signature feature of Boulevard Park. For the meridian location to work well, we might need to close off a full block to traffic (the amount of space needed will depend in part on the number of vendors lined up for the event; a space also is needed for a large, handicapped-accessible "honey hut").

Secretary's Report

The revised version of the minutes from the February meeting, reviewed and discussed by the Executive officers via e-mail prior to the March meeting, were approved.

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Treasurer's Report

Copies of the two-page report prepared by Hal Edmonds were distributed and will be included in the Board's records, in accordance with the established procedure.

ParkBeat Content for April 2009

Before reviewing the topics of the articles in next month's newsletter, we discussed the need for a new person to coordinate the preparation of the bundled newsletters for the block captains. It was agreed that each bundle also should have a cover sheet with the name of the block captain. Sally offered to take over the tasks previously handled by Corey and will serve as the contact person for the block captains. We also discussed the need for a new advertising manager, given Jessica Mazur's recent decision to give up this volunteer service. Rob suggested that we might want to post a notice in the newsletter once we had decided how it should be worded.

Catherine will continue to coordinate the article collection for *ParkBeat*, but needs to initiate discussion of the article topics before the Board meeting in the months when the meeting date falls very close to the 15th, as happened in March.

Article Topics/Authors, April issue of *ParkBeat*:

- Historic home: Asha
- New members: Sally
- General meeting: Mark
- "Victory" gardens: Margaret (already written)
- National Register project: Bill Burg (guest article)
- Annual SOCA Home Tour: Catherine
- June Yard Sale: Sally
- Friends of the River: Catherine
- BPNA website: Hal
- Green Thumb: Sally

General Meeting on April 8 (Ethel Hart Senior Center)

Based on the availability of guest speakers for the main topic of the meeting, the McKinley Village Project, April 8 (originally the second Board's choice, after April 1) was selected for the meeting date and a room was reserved at the Hart Center for 6:45-9:00 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

- 7:00: Introductions
- 7:05-7:30: Presentation by Bill Burg
- 7:30-? Presentation by the McKinley Village Group (they will arrive around 7:20 and will be using Powerpoint)

Marc is coordinating the General Meeting and Rob and Sally are handling refreshments (Rob is bring bottled water, Sally is bringing cookies). We also will want to have a sign-in list to record the names of the people in attendance at the meeting.

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Business Items

Tent City in North Sacramento (Blue Diamond/PG&E property)

Rob reported that there will be a general meeting about the “Tent City” issue at the Hart Center on Wednesday, March 18. Residents of Dreher Street, which is just to the north of the Diamond Almond plant, have been badly impacted by the Tent City, as explained in a recent exchange of e-mails with the BPNA Board. The problem also has been covered in recent newscasts and currently there are rumors that the city might be planning to take steps to close the site. Both Rob and Dave plan to attend the March 18 meeting. Dave asked us what the Board’s official stance was on the issue, and what he and Rob were authorized to say as spokespersons for BPNA. In discussion, it was agreed that our general stance was to express empathy for the plight of the homeless people, but to refuse to tolerate any of the illegal or unsafe activities associated with the Tent City (drug or alcohol abuse, increase in neighborhood crime, lack of adequate sanitation, etc.). Furthermore, it is our position that the city and county, not the homeowners impacted by the situation, should be responsible for finding a solution.

Pops in the Park

Usually held late in June, the Pops in the Park event scheduled for McKinley Park has been supported by BPNA in past years. We’ve been asked if we would like to have an advertisement printed in the program, and Rob recommends that we do this—perhaps something incorporating the neighborhood’s signature logo, the horse and buggy. He said that he will work with Sue (who represents Pops in the Park) on this project.

Neighborhood Summit Meeting Re-Cap

Margaret reported on the Neighborhood Summit meeting held earlier this month. She said that she found the sessions very useful and recommended that more than one Board member try to attend in future years as it is hard for a single individual to attend all the workshops. One of the benefits of attendance is the opportunity for networking with representatives from other city neighborhoods. She commented on the session about the neighborhood schools at risk of closure, and how they might be kept open, possibly through increased use by the surrounding community as a resource.

Proposed Modifications of the City’s Design/Review Board Structure

Margaret attended the recent NAG meeting that included a presentation by Bill Thomas about this issue, which also has been discussed by SOCA and will be a topic of discussion at the next Preservation Roundtable. It is a controversial issue. She reported that she heard that the topic had been taken off the city calendar at the request of City Council members because they felt that more “outreach “ was needed. Concern has been expressed that the proposed modifications would dilute and weaken the rules that have
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Proposed Modifications of the Design/Review Board Structure (continued)

protected and preserved historic features of city neighborhoods. Rob commented that due to recent city growth some processes may need to be speeded up or streamlined. Margaret responded that a middle ground is needed—we are not seeking a long drawn-out process either. Sally reminded us of a recent article in the *Sacramento Bee* on this related topic. It was agreed that the BPNA did not need to take any action yet.

Preservation Issues

Margaret said that she had nothing to report this month.

Other Business:

Marshall School/New Era Merger?

Board members were sent an e-mail about a proposed annexation of the New Era Neighborhood by the Marshall School Neighborhood. This affects some residents who currently are members of BPNA but who reside east of 24th Street. We talked a little about the history of the three neighborhoods and how their borders had been determined. In some cases there is an overlap. The greater BP neighborhood, as recognized by the city, extends between 16th and 24th Streets, and between I and E Streets.

BPNA Liability Insurance

Sally reported that she had been in touch with the insurance agent who works with the Sierra/Curtis Park Neighborhood association. The estimate mentioned for that group's liability insurance, approximately \$1200-1400 per year, is comparable to the estimate given us by a local agent. The other agent also asked if we had a brochure with information about BPNA. Presently it costs about \$400 a year to secure insurance for the Spaghetti Dinner, so a blanket policy covering the entire year would be an increase of \$800-1000—if it also would cover events held at the homes of individuals who are not on the Executive Board (we cannot offer someone temporary Board membership status so that our liability insurance extends to his or her property). Rob suggested that it made sense to get liability insurance through a local agent, but that we also needed to determine whether or not events like the Spaghetti Dinner would be covered by the policy. Because the meeting was running late, he recommended that the discussion be continued via e-mail exchange.

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

Next BPNA Executive Board Meeting: on **April 9** (home of Hal Edmonds, as stated at the beginning of the March meeting minutes). It is the night after the General Meeting of the entire BPNA (April 8, Ethel Hart Senior Center).