

## **Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association**

### **Board of Director Meeting Minutes February 3, 2010**

#### **Attending:**

Catherine Turrill, Hal Edmonds, Greg Smith, Margaret Buss, Tom Martens, Julianne Richards

#### **Absent:**

Asha Jennings

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The Board of Directors approved the minutes from the January 2010 meeting.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Hal said there was a \$20 refund check from the State. He did not know what it was for and was just going to accept it.

Hal would like to change banks. We had a free checking account with Washington Mutual. Washington Mutual was taken over by Chase, and now Chase is charging us for our checking account.

Hal recommends Merchant's National Bank. To change banks, he needs the signatures of the Catherine (as the Chairperson) and Greg (as the Secretary), for Catherine and Greg to fill out some forms, and provide him with a copy of picture IDs. Catherine and Greg filled out the forms, and provided Hal with copies of their respective California driver's licenses.

#### **Action Items**

**Hal will change the checking account to Merchant's National Bank.**

#### **Historic Preservation**

It is that time of year to start thinking about the Sacramento Heritage Association home tours. This year's home tours will be bungalows on Q Street.

Margaret gave a summary of the January 2010 Neighborhood Advisory Group meeting.

- ❖ Historic plaques will be available soon. The cost of the plaque is \$400. Margaret suggested some inexpensive signs, like many cities have, as a lower cost alternative.
- ❖ There are no project alerts in Boulevard Park.
- ❖ The Neighborhood Advisory Group is collecting all the information from the home tours, and plan on compiling them into a single booklet.
- ❖ Someone from the Mayor's office spoke and answered questions. The tenor was very general, nothing specific.
- ❖ Someone from the Police spoke, saying that there are more crimes of opportunity now so be careful. Those crimes include burglary, aggravated assault and robbery. There does not appear to be any increase in crime in Boulevard Park for now.
- ❖ There was a demonstration of competitive stacking. This is an activity where students race to stack and unstack cups in particular configurations. Margaret said this was jazzy and fun. The group was promoting itself to recruit members.

### **General Meetings and Annual Activities**

The By-Laws say the Board shall have four meetings per year. The Board has broadly interpreted the "four meetings per year" as any meeting or annual activity of the Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association.

The Board agreed we need to develop an agenda for the proposed general meeting in May 2010. We want agenda items that are of interest to people. Suggestions for agenda items included:

- ❖ Composting by the City of Sacramento
- ❖ Bill Berg on Historic Homes in Sacramento
- ❖ Someone from the Mayor's office or Steve Cohen's office
- ❖ Stein Buer on Flood Control in the Central City. This might be more appropriate for the proposed October meeting.

Tom suggested a BBQ in the common area. This might bring more people to the meeting, and would make it more of a social activity.

Catherine asked if there were any volunteers for the Marti Gras party. Matt Valine usually provides the music for the Marti Gras party. Generally, guests bring their own food, desert and beverage. Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association provides the tables and chairs, and non-alcoholic drinks. Catherine will need help moving the table and chairs, both to and from the event. Asha and Julianne may help Catherine.

The Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association generally helps out with Pops in the Park. We volunteer at a booth (table) that serves alcohol. We sell tickets and serve beer and wine.

### **Action Items**

**Catherine will check with Matt Valine about providing the music for the Marti Gras party.**

**Hal will coordinate the Pops in the Park event.**

### **Lunch with Councilman Steve Cohen**

Councilman Steve Cohen invited a representative from Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association to lunch on February 8, 2010. The Board suggested Councilman Cohen be asked about the following topics:

- ❖ Downtown development. What are the City's plans for the central city?
- ❖ Medical marijuana clinics. There are more and more such clinics in the central city. Does the City have plans to regulate them?
- ❖ McKinley Village. What are the City's plans for McKinley Village?
- ❖ Second Saturday. Does the City have plans to provide more mass transportation for Second Saturday?
- ❖ Emergency Evacuation. Does the City have plans for emergency evacuation of the central city?
- ❖ Livestock. Does the City have plans to allow residents to raise chickens (and possibly rabbits)?
- ❖ Reporting Crimes. Julianne said she had problems reporting crimes on-line. Margaret said she had similar problems. Is the City aware of this? Is there a plan to do something about it?

### **Action Items**

**Greg will attend lunch with Councilman Cohen on February 8, 2010.**

### **Anti-Graffiti Meeting**

The City is holding an anti-graffiti meeting on February 24, 2010. There tends not to be too much graffiti in our area.

### **Action Items**

**Hal will attend the anti-graffiti meeting February 24, 2010.**

### **Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Boundaries**

The Association needs to define its boundaries, in part because neighborhoods coalesce around issues. We want something that people can identify with. If the boundaries are too large, the association will not be effective on these issues.

Neighborhood boundaries can overlap with one another.

Any changes to the boundaries will have to be voted on by the general membership of the Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association.

### **Urban Farm Stands**

David Douglas called Catherine about the urban farm stands. Alkali Flat Neighborhood Association (Mansion Flat?) was not going to continue with their farmer's market, and Ms. Douglas was looking for an alternative. Now it turns out that Alkali Flat Neighborhood Association really wants to keep the farmer's market. So, the farmer's market is going to stay there. She apologizes for getting our hopes up.

### **Yes for Youth**

This is an organization founded by Roger Dickenson. It is a coalition he has put together, and it will be on the November ballot. Mr. Andrew Peak is asking if he can come and talk to the Board, or at the General Meeting.

### **Action Items**

**Catherine will invite Mr. Andrew Peak to the March 2010 Board of Director's meeting.**

### **Outreach to Renters**

Julianne has been thinking about how to reach out to renters. She suggests contacting some of the property owners, such as Whistler and Neilson. They may have suggestions, or be receptive to working with us.

### **Park Beat Newsletter**

Asha sent out a message saying that the Historic Home article, and a call for a history of your house were both held back from the February issue. So we have two articles that are ready for the March issue.

We need an article thanking the Betzing's for hosting the Marti Gras party later in February. It has been two years since they did this.

Catherine said Bill Berg said he would write up an article for the next two issues of Park Beat.

There was mention of a drought/water conservation article. Tom suggested this might be better in April. Catherine would like to mention the Alkali Flat Neighborhood Association farmer's market, and thought these articles would go well together.

Catherine suggested we could ask the Sacramento Area Bicycle Association to write something up.

Catherine suggested we might be something from Councilman Steve Cohen's newsletter.

There was mention of an article about the plaques from the Sacramento Heritage Association.

Margaret would like to write an article about volunteering. You can volunteer to do the little things, from cleaning out street gutters to helping the green thumb brigade. You can volunteer at the voting stations, or for the Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association activities. Julianne suggested referencing Hands on Sacramento.

Margaret would like to write an article about local businesses, even if the business is outside the Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association boundaries. The Board thought this would be a good idea.

Julianne suggested an article on composting. This also might be a topic at the General Meeting in May. We could have a talk by someone from the City on solid waste.

Hal was asked if there would be a real estate article next month. It sounds like we may not need it.

There was discussion of the letter Catherine received about Tom Cress. The person was very disappointed with Mr. Cress, and was writing the Board because the person thought the Park Beat sponsored Mr. Cress. The Board agreed that the Neighborhood Association does not endorse businesses that advertise. If a person has a complaint against Mr. Cress, there are avenues other than the Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Board of Directors to pursue it.

## **Action Items**

### **Articles Margaret said she would be responsible for:**

- ❖ **Competitive stacking at the Neighborhood Advisory Group meeting**
- ❖ **Volunteering**

### **Articles Catherine said she would be responsible for:**

- ❖ **Marti Gras thank you article**
- ❖ **Check with Bill Berg about historic homes article**
- ❖ **Sacramento Area Bicycle Association article**

**From last time:**

**Asha will draft a simple style guide for the Park Beat newsletter.**