

**Primrose Neighborhood Association
Quarterly Meeting, Nov. 19, 2009
West San Jose Community Center
7-9 pm**

Attending: John and Suzanne Marvin, Lori Kahn, Barbara Prince, Jean Ridley, Michelle Klink, Andy and Jennifer Harris, Jenny Bixby, Johanna Byrd, Darrell Linthacum, Rosamaria Hernandez, Meghan Revolinsky

Guest speaker: Pete Constant, District 1 Councilmember

1. Johanna Byrd opened the meeting with personal introductions.
2. Rosamaria Hernandez, who is the coordinator of the community center SNI (Strong Neighborhood Initiative) for Blackford NAC. She talked about the winter calendar that is now available, with activities and courses, as well as the activities at the Cypress Senior Center. Blackford NAC is doing its annual Gift Wish tree, which has wishes from teens and is at the Community Center. The gifts will be distributed on Dec. 22 at 3:30 at the Starbird Youth Center. They are asking for contributions. Also, there is giving tree event with the new Spanish-speaking PTA at Anderson Elementary Dec 19.
3. Saturday Dec. 5 from 3:00 – 7:00 is the annual San Jose Holiday Parade.
http://www.sanjoseholidayparade.com/inflation_celebration.htm
4. Barbara Prince gave a treasurer's report. PNA has \$1538.20 in its account and \$649.55 from the SV Community Foundation. This was a one-year grant for disaster prep, but we do not need to give it back. We spent some of the grant on CPR training. We started with a grant of \$2500.00. No more grants will be coming in.
5. Clean-up day report was given by Lori. This is the fourth year that we've had it. We had supplies and equipment, and 19 people helped, including kids. We collected 10 bags of trash. Lori and Dan hosted the after party with refreshments and pizza. Many thanks to all who helped.
6. Andy and Jen Harris and Johanna Byrd attended the Tuesday class given by the SF Office of Emergency Services. They received a useful booklet for how to prepare for an earthquake. Jen and Andy completed the 20-hour course, and in recognition received an emergency radio from PNA.
7. Pete Constant's office organized a tour of the 911/311 facility in San Jose. Johanna attended the tour, which was very informative.
8. Jenny reported on the District 1 Leadership Group, of which Lori and Jenny are members. Johanna also attends. This group's mission is to promote better communication between residents, neighborhood associations, and the District 1 Councilmember's office. The group also fosters networking and sharing of information between neighborhood associations. The group is working on plans for 2010.

9. Lori reported on the San Jose Neighborhoods Commission, of which she is one of three District 1 commissioners. They are also working on a plan for 2010, including a vision, and forming subcommittees. Lori will be working on the communications and outreach committee.

10. Rosamaria explained a little more about the NAC-- Neighborhood Action Coalition. Blackford NAC is the umbrella for the other neighborhood associations in this area.. They request that each NA sends 2 representatives to the meetings. Meetings are the first Thursday of every month with dinner. They work on the top ten priorities that were set by the community, and making sure that they get done.

11. We had a general discussion about the best way to do fundraising for PNA. We talked about restaurant night, where a portion of sales goes to the group. Mimi's and Fresh Choice do these. Retrodome will also do fundraising. We can invite residents from the entire district to attend. Dumpster day has become very expensive: the cost is \$500 per dumpster plus insurance. Pete Constant said that the city pays for a roving dumpster day—every other year a dumpster is paid for by the city. Pete also encouraged us to send his offices notices so that info can go in his newsletter. The deadline is the Friday before 1st Monday of each month.

12. Jenny talked about the Neighborhood Watch programs and said that she has set a date for a Neighborhood Watch Meeting for Hibiscus Lane for Tuesday, April 6, 2010 for 6:30. At least 10 neighbors must attend. NW has a lot of restrictions on how it is delivered. It has to be done street by street with a high level of attendance. Other neighbors on other streets are encouraged to reserve a date. The office is booking for April. The phone number is 279-8383.

13. It was suggested that we do an interest survey to see what neighbors are most interested in for fundraising and activities for the upcoming year (Survey Monkey).

14. Our guest speaker, Pete Constant, introduced himself to the group and gave a little background. He spent 14 years as a police officer, including 6 years as an officer in our area. He's been representing district 1 on the council for 3 years.

He began by talking about the farmhouse at 4005 Williams, and has been very aware of the problem. He helped to get the SJ Abatement program to reboard the windows, cut grass, clean up after the owner's fence rental expired. Code enforcement officers will be keeping a close eye on it, and residents should call his office with they notice anything. He discussed the historic register process, preservation, blight, property owner rights, and dropping house values. It was recently lowered in price to \$500,000. It is not officially on the register by clearly has the potential to be an obstacle to development. Pete has been encouraging developers to look at the property. A potential buyer must bring plans to the city for approval. That is when PNA could be of assistance. We should look for something of high quality that fits in with the neighborhood. The possibility of a developer doing just one or two houses is unlikely, due to the price of land, etc.

He spoke in detail about the budget process, and the events and conditions that have led us to the current soaring budget deficit. The three main sources of revenue for the city

have all dropped at the same time, creating a perfect storm: sales tax, fees and charges, and property taxes. Health and safety are the main areas that must be protected, and are considered mandatory items. His office is giving monthly updates in his newsletter.

He closed by answering questions about the budget and the police department.

15. The meeting adjourned at about 9:00 p.m.

Minutes are respectfully submitted by Jenny Bixby, Secretary.