

**Primrose Neighborhood Association
Quarterly Meeting, Feb. 11, 2010
West San Jose Community Center
7-8:30pm**

Attending: Andy and Jen Harris, Lori Kahn, Barbara Prince, Johanna Byrd, Jean Ridley, Dave and Arlene Barraza, Doug Bray, Michelle Klink, Amy Iwamoto, Ron Ogi, Meghan Revolinsky

Guest speaker: Emy Mendoza, Zero Waste Planner, Environmental Services, City of San Jose

1. Lori Kahn kicked off the meeting with introductions.
2. Police Update from officer Amir Khalighi. He has been the weekend swing shift supervisor for district Nora (~100k people) for almost one year. He has eight officers working for him. At the moment, they are focusing on violent crimes, and not as much on property crimes. As a result, violent crimes are down, but property crime is on the rise. A couple of areas in our neighborhood that they are focusing on are Starbird Park and the Cadillac/Winchester area.

Johanna asked a question about Neighborhood Watch funding going away – he did not have specific information on that except that it's been on the chopping block year after year, but somehow still gets some funding.

3. D1 Update – Meghan Revolinsky from Councilmember Pete Constant's office : Questions about the budget – not going great – have to close a \$100 million dollar gap. Public safety and core infrastructure are priorities for Councilmember Constant. Encouraged members to attend budget meeting/discussion to be scheduled soon so stay active and involved, attend his office hours.

Illegal Sign Cleanup (handed out flyer) and Dumpster Day (postcards will be mailed to homes) – starts at 8am, first come/first served, next chance is in three years. Contact Meghan if you do not receive a postcard.

Census coming up – make sure to respond to the mailing quickly. Census workers will visit residences up to 6 times if there is no response. State and local funding is based on the replies, which makes it very important.

Johanna asks about IPA (Independent Police Auditors) – fields complaints, and investigates as an independent party. Also, goes into the community to educate on how to interact with the police.

No updates on the house on Williams – no new information at this time.

4. General Business

a) Treasurer's report – Barbara – details in the handout.

b) Upcoming events

Garage Sales and Salvation Army pickup (Feb. 20) – signup sheet present at meeting – or call Jenny. Salvation Army will take e-waste, and will return part of the proceeds to the association (\$230 back for the last e-waste event).

Dumpster Day and Illegal sign Cleanup (Feb. 27)

Chevy's Fundraiser (Mar. 1 – all day) – handed out coupons for people to use during their visits to the Saratoga Ave. Chevy's.

Great American Litter Pickup (Mar. 20)

c) Future events

Next meeting is May 13th. Yearly elections will be held at that time.

BBQ in early July, and National Night Out will be in early August.

d) Neighborhoods Commission status

Lori presented some information on the latest meeting held. They were asked to help with the city's budget prioritization process.

Started last July after selection of 3 reps from each district via a caucus, another caucus will be held this coming August/September to provide an opportunity for the public to interact with the commission.

e) Local government petition

Passed around the petition for people to sign. More information on what the petition is all about can be found at <http://www.savelocalservices.com/>. Completed petitions must be returned by April 15th, 2010.

f) Pete Constant is up for re-election

Postcards available to give Pete a "High-Five" donation. People can also support him on his website at <http://www.peteconstant.com>. He does not currently have an opponent. There will be a candidate forum on April 24th for key elections in our area.

5. Guest speaker

Emy Mendoza, Zero Waste Planner, Environmental Services, City of San Jose

Had goodies for everyone – reusable bags.

Her department (Integrated Waste Management) looks at all of the recycling programs, waste reduction, etc. Other people with her department are also working on solar power and more efficient energy uses. Watershed people also in her department.

She presented a map of the watershed that highlighted creeks or waterways that have too much trash (trash impaired). When a site is so categorized, the EPA steps in to look at it, and requires that the cities responsible for those areas take action to correct the problem. So far, the Bay Area has 26 areas that are might be categorized as trash impaired.

Plastics are the top contributors of the trash – they never degrade in a water environment. The easiest first cut at this is to have people stop using the plastic shopping bags, and is a regional effort.

This initiative is asking cities to develop an ordinance to ban plastic and paper carry-out bags, to be effective no earlier than 2011, that applies to all retailers. Exemptions are green paper bags (40% or more recycled content), restaurants, non-profits, social service orgs, bulk/off-shelf paper & plastic bag purchases.

See <http://sjrecycles.org/> and <http://sjrecycles.org/bags/> for more information on the web.

6. Open forum, Q&A

Time ran short, and there were no takers on the Open forum or Q&A.

7. The meeting adjourned at about 8:35 p.m.

Minutes are respectfully submitted by Andy Harris, Webmaster.