



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Notes from the President

Marlene Bird did an excellent job in putting together a valuable resource binder on "A Step by Step Guide to Emergency Preparation". During last month's meeting she presented Phase 2 of a 2 part presentation to those members present **Thanks Again Marlene**. This is another example of neighbors and residents who work together to make sure our neighborhood gets better each year. We are looking into reproducing the resource binder in a spiral bound version. Stay tuned for more information to come.

SAN JOSE/EVERGREEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT Notice of Availability of Revised Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report

2 Key Update components that were analyzed in the Revised DSEIR include:

- Changing planning period for San Jose College Facilities Master Plan from 2021 to 2011
- Installation of a Multi-Use Athletic Field along Leigh Avenue

The Revised DSEIR can be viewed on-line at the following link:

<http://www.maasco.com/clients/sje.asp>

REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD:

Public comment period began May 5, 2010 and ends June 18, 2010. Written comments and/or questions on the Revised DSEIR should be directed to:

Robert Dias, Executive Director
Facilities - Construction Management - Operations
San Jose/Evergreen Community College District
4750 San Felipe Road
San Jose, CA 95135-1599
408-270-6400
robert.dias@sjeccd.org

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF HEARING: The San Jose/Evergreen Community College District Board of Trustees will hold a public meeting to consider adoption of the Updated and Revised DSEIR on Tuesday, July 13, 2010 at 7:00pm in the Technology Center, Room T-415, San Jose City College, located at 2100 Moorpark Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128-2799

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. *Michael*

SONA General Meeting June 10, 2010

6:30 PM Coffee and Snacks

**Catch up with your
Neighbors**

7:00 PM

SJPD

Budget Update

"Our trip to Egypt"

Jussi and Lena Rajna

8:30PM Adjourn

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Sherman Oaks Community Center, 1800A Fruitdale Ave Room 1. SJ CA 95128

Our Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the same room.

Notes and News

You may have noticed detour signs and marks on the pavement along Hwy 280. Caltrans received funds to install freeway metering lights along Hwy 280 from Bascom to the 10th/11th Street exits. Allowing cars to ease onto the freeway instead of the rugby scrum we currently see will prevent stop and go traffic on the freeway and reduce the amount of exhaust that we get in the neighborhood. Board member Randi Kinman discovered that the meters on Moorpark were scheduled to be set at the corner of Menker Avenue. Concerned about the affect this would have on surface streets she reached out and eventually got a meeting with Caltrans, VTA and San Jose's Department of Transportation and outlined the problems that would be created. Through a series of emails she discovered there is an option to move the meter farther down the ramp where traffic naturally comes to a standstill when exiting freeway traffic is crossing with entering traffic. The issue is convincing Caltrans to do so. If you are interested in helping by attending meetings or talking with staff or elected officials, let Randi know (see below for contact info). You can also contact Councilmember Oliverio's office and reference case number 6397 under the name Randi Kinman. His info is pierluigi.oliverio@sanjoseca.gov or call 535-4906.

Marlene's Emergency Preparedness binders were such a hit we ran through most of our stock and are now considering reprinting. Are you interested in ordering a binder for family or friends? If so, it would help us if we know how many to print. Marlene put together an incredible step by step method to help you prepare your home, car and workplace without visiting a hundred websites and being overwhelmed by information. She did all the groundwork for you, all you have to do is pick a page and follow along. Before you know it, you've completed the entire book and have done what everyone knows they need to do but never gets around to doing: Develop an emergency plan and lay in the appropriate supplies.

Michael, Steve and Randi are putting together the official SONA response on the SDEIR for San Jose City College, so contact them if you have input.

Those of you on our email list have probably received a note that you can now pay your dues via PayPal online. You can also add a donation if you like. If you are not on our E-list, now is the time to join. Your information stays in house and is never released to anybody. We simply send you electronic versions of the newsletter and also update you on meetings and events that happen outside the time frame for inclusion in our newsletter. You will never receive a phone call or solicitation. And, our E-list is going to be part of our long term goals for connecting neighbor to neighbor.

Thanks to everyone who helped with our "Cash for Cans" drive in May. Board members Jussi and Lisa traveled around the neighborhood picking up cans and bottles. They will continue to collect throughout the year, so stay tuned for the next pick up time. With (hopefully) the warmer weather of spring and summer coming along, we know you will all be using more cans and bottles. You've paid the CRV on these, so why not let SONA redeem them? Simply toss them in a bag and let either Jussi or Lisa know you're saving them. That's all it takes to help SONA raise money to print newsletters and host our get-togethers.

Our meeting in June will allow us to get to know Egypt better thanks to Jussi and Lena Rajna who recently visited there. Stay tuned for upcoming meetings because our next two meetings are geared for family summer fun. We'll be having a game night at the Sherman Oaks center (with air conditioning) and a play night at St. Elizabeth Park.

Congrats and thanks to new and renewing members: Susan Price & Victor Jang, Betty & Bob Slater, Shabbir & Jumana Latif, Jussi & Lena Rajna, Patricia Wolf, Lisa Steingart, Nadine Douglas, Bill & Lea Adams, Chris Amann & Bil Todd, Carol Worley, May Inouye, Mary Kay & Michael LaRocca, Yoka Drion & Paul Gonda, Lynn Sisson, and Jan & Jim Hawkins

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Website Administrator, Patrick Solmon	287-8795	
Website	www.sona-sj.com	

SONA's newsletter is published monthly and distributed to almost 1500 residences. It is partially funded by a City of San Jose CAP Grant. All ad copy is due by the 15th of each month. Our all-volunteer group welcomes your participation and comments.

SONA Newsletter Editor: Randi Kinman

Friends of Bascom on the Move

With the impending completion of the Bascom Community Center and Library, residents have formed a "**Friends of Bascom Library**" group. Friends groups can be found at all of our libraries, sponsoring events, raising funds for programs and volunteering their time. This partnership helps cut costs at each branch by allowing residents to become involved in book sales, bake sales and other efforts that augment the City's budget.

By developing close community relationships, our libraries become a strong part of our community. Children know their local librarian by name, families participate in a wide range of programs, job seekers have friendly staff to help them on in-house computers and students find assistance during study times or tutoring sessions.

Libraries are a key component in the development of a safe and prosperous neighborhood, so it's no wonder that the first "*Friends of Bascom Library*" meeting drew dozens of residents. Thanks to the use of a large room at our new Vietnamese restaurant on Bascom Avenue, Com Tam Than, SONA residents and others were able to get together and discuss how we can join with our library staff. Board member Steve Kline and former board member Susan Price-Jang are leading this charge.

Unlike other libraries, our Friends group is faced with a big hurdle coming out of the gate: The City of San Jose is renegeing on promises to open this library when it is completed. During the search for a site and the development of plans for the Bascom Community Center and Library, residents were assured that our facility would open when completed. Citizens who sat on the development team (Randi Kinman, Susan Price-Jang and Michael LaRocca) asked repeatedly about the ongoing cutbacks and were repeatedly promised that all sites would be open. As long as eight years ago it was obvious that the economic situation would not get better, would in fact get worse, and residents were told that the pain of budget cutbacks would be shared. If opening all facilities meant they would only be open part time, that was what was supposed to happen. It has only been recent (in terms of the length of this process) that we were told there was a possibility the site would not open at all once complete.

The Bascom site is due for completion in just a few months, Fall 2010. There are currently no plans or proposals to open the site for at least a year (2010-2011 cycle) and no guarantee that it would open with the next (2011-2012) budget cycle. Our budget cycles begin on July 1. There has been no proposal made to put the site on a contingency list, allowing it to open if money is found outside the current budget. The *Friends of Bascom* are actively lobbying to change this. Along with the Seven Trees branch, the Friends want all libraries opened, including Bascom on 1/1/11. This means intensive work to convince City Council members to do the right thing and keep promises. Because there is no current intention to open for 2010-2011, library staff have not been allowed to start purchasing materials (books, furniture, computers) that take months to arrive. If not ordered, then that is another excuse to not open the doors.

So far, the Friends have worked with staff to find out the true costs of the Bascom and Seven Trees sites. Looking at this budget cycle, the sites could be opened for half the budget year beginning 1/1/11. The monthly cost to maintain the closed buildings is \$26,150 while actually using them would cost \$101,000 each month.

The Friends group marched with others at a recent rally and spoke before our City Council. They are continuing to write letters and recruit members. They are consistent in sending the message that all facilities, not just ours, should be opened. By the time you read this, decisions may have been made, but it is never too late to join the *Friends of Bascom Library* in their work to make our local library the hub of community activity. You can learn more by contacting Steve (see pg 2) or by visiting the *Friends of Bascom Library* Facebook site. You can also make a great fashion statement by buying one of the wonderful teal t-shirts designed just for the group.

Our community has worked for more than a decade to bring services here that other communities take for granted. We have paid the same taxes year after year even though we haven't had the benefit year after year. While the Friends of Bascom Library group will eventually work only on our site, they have been sending a clear message that all libraries, not just ours, should open.



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