

Sam Hughes Neighborhood Association: Board of Directors
Minutes: Regular Meeting of 10/18/2011 (Himmel Park Library, PCPL)

Board members present: John O’Dowd (Pres.), Sheila Hoban (V.P.), Carolyn Classen (Sec.), Kim Crooks (MCRC Cmte.), Gail Schuessler (News Co-Ed.), Doug Donahue, Frank Soltys, John Wilder (Website)

Board members absent: Rick Bell (Membership), Janett Carbajal, Christine Curtis, Steve Gilsdorf (Treas.), Susan Peters (Home Tour Cmte.)

Guests and general public: Octavio Barceló (UAPD), Joan Driedger, Mary & Kent Pflibsen, Betty Rowe

Call to Order & Roll call of Members: Pres. John O’Dowd called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. A roll call of the Board members followed.

Minutes of past meetings reviewed: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the special meeting of Aug. 30, 2011. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of September 20, 2011. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

Introduction of Guests & Call to the Audience: The guests introduced themselves, but all declined the opportunity to address the Board during the “call to the audience.”

Treasurer’s Report: Due to his absence, Steve Gilsdorf’s monthly report of revenue was deferred.

Agenda Review: The draft agenda was discussed and agreed upon. Time for each item was allocated.

RETREAT AT SAM HUGHES/ ZONING EXAMINER DECISION/ PROPOSED CITY ORDINANCE:

Gail Schuessler reported on the recent meeting with Minnette Burgess, the attorney for the Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association. Thanks to Ms. Burgess there has been a breakthrough on City zoning as it relates to minidorms. Gail recommended that SHNA get behind Jefferson Park’s efforts to clarify the interpretation of the new zoning decision. Gail also recommended that SHNA hire Burgess to work on behalf of Sam Hughes Neighborhood in its opposition of minidorms. Attorney’s fees were discussed along with speculations on the interpretation of the zoning document. The Board strategized on how to move forward on this. In response to the suggestion that the Board hire Burgess, Frank Soltys was opposed. Soltys said he could support this if there were a cap on the fees. Less costly legal alternatives were discussed.

BROADWAY CORRIDOR:

O’Dowd informed the Board that as an individual he has filed a suit for production of records by the City of Tucson. These records pertain to the Broadway Corridor project.

MINIDORMS:

Kim Crooks reported on the latest interaction that her business has had with the minidorm developer, Finkelstein, who is proposing a project called “The Retreat at Sam Hughes.”

O’Dowd initiated a discussion about hiring Minnette Burgess to represent SHNA in a minidorm presentation to the City’s zoning examiner. This led to a discussion of R-1 versus R-3 zoning and speculation about the “red-tagging” program as it might relate to this.

John Wilder made a motion to give O’Dowd the authority to negotiate to hire a lawyer with a cap of \$5,000 on the fees, and with the stipulation that O’Dowd return to the Board for final approval of the hire. Sheila Hoban seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

UA STADIUM SCOREBOARD and SOUND SYSTEM:

Frank Soltys is monitoring the situation. Carolyn Classen reported on problems that Rincon Heights is experiencing due to the lighting.

OPERATION SNOWBIRD (OSB):

Kim Crooks, the SHNA representative to the Military/Community Relations Committee reported on the MCRC meeting of 9/21/2011. Kim handed out to the Board copies of her report along with copies of the announcement of an additional “open house public scoping meeting” on 10/19. This meeting was added because of complaints about the places and times of the initial meetings. In addition, Kim provided copies of the form to be used by the public

for submitting written comments about OSB to the Air Force. Kim said that opponents do not want any of the options proposed by the Air Force.

O'Dowd asked if the Board wants to take a position regarding OSB. Doug Donahue made a motion stating that the SHNA Board is against Operation Snowbird flights over central Tucson. Sheila Hoban seconded the motion. The vote was seven in favor and one opposed. Frank Soltys voted against the motion because he would like more information.

RETURN OF SPRING FLING (SF) TO CAMPUS:

Gail Schuessler reported that she is getting information from participants in the CCRC (Campus Community Relations Committee) that the return of Spring Fling to the UA campus is "a done deal." It appears that campus neighbors will only be able to have input on details pertaining to a SF on campus.

Carolyn Classen made a motion that SHNA send a letter to the directors of Spring Fling stating our opposition to the return of Spring Fling to the UA campus. Gail Schuessler seconded the motion. Frank Soltys asked for discussion before the vote. Following a discussion about negotiating ways to mitigate SF, the vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

PARKING PERMIT SYSTEM:

Sheila Hoban reported on the latest issues involving the Parkwise program. Sheila feels that because the Parkwise program is not likely to change, change will only come if SHNA instigates it. Sheila offered to coordinate a project to get student volunteers to paint the "no parking" zones near curb cuts, fire hydrants, corners, and alleys. Parkwise will come out to mark the curbs to be painted.

In response to Frank Soltys' question about parking enforcement, Sheila reported on a recent discussion on this by the Parkwise Commission.

WATER PUMP STATION RESTORATION:

O'Dowd reported that the committee may be expanded to possibly include: Rick Bell, Steve Gilsdorf, Dennis Garrison, John Wesley Miller, Frank Soltys, Kathy McLaughlin, and Sheila Hoban.

In addition, John has met with a UA College of Architecture professor, Paul Wiener, who is willing to work with the Committee on the restoration.

O'Dowd also mentioned a letter that he sent to the head of the City's water dept. about the project to date. O'Dowd thinks it is an important point that our council member is in support of the project.

Frank Soltys made a motion empowering the Water Pump Station committee to meet with the architect and come forward with a proposal. The motion was seconded by Kim Crooks. The vote to approve was unanimous.

HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS and LAND USE CODE (LUC) REFORM COMMITTEES:

O'Dowd reported on an LUC/historic neighborhood committee meeting that he recently attended. He asked for help in monitoring the 8-10 committees in town that work on such issues, especially those having to do with midtown and historic preservation. Kim Crooks and Gail Schuessler offered to look at the past minutes of the meeting that O'Dowd attended.

NEWSLETTER and ANNUAL MEETING PRESENTATION:

Gail Schuessler thinks her committee can produce a winter newsletter to announce the annual meeting and elections. There is money budgeted for this. Sheila Hoban suggested that the Board consider the "Phenology Trail" project as a possibility for an annual meeting presentation.

New Business/Old Business: Frank Soltys distributed a positive news article (*Tucson Citizen*, 6/19/96, p.7A) about Sam Hughes, the Neighborhood's namesake. Frank is concerned about negative stories that continue to circulate.

Building agenda for November's meeting: Items to be placed on the next agenda include: minidorms, the newsletter, and the "Phenology Trail." Other topics discussed for inclusion were: javelinas and the OSB.

Close meeting: A motion to adjourn was made by Gail Schuessler and seconded by John Wilder. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.