

Sam Hughes Neighborhood Association: Board of Directors
Minutes: Regular Meeting of 11/15/2011 (Himmel Park Library, PCPL)

Board members present: John O’Dowd (Pres.), Rick Bell (Membership), Carolyn Classen (Sec.), Kim Crooks (MCRC Cmte.), Christine Curtis, Doug Donahue, Steve Gilsdorf (Treas.), Susan Peters (Home Tour Cmte.), Gail Schuessler (News Co-Ed.), Frank Soltys, John Wilder (Website)

Board members absent: Janett Carbajal, Sheila Hoban (V.P.)

Guests and general public: Lori Anne Barnett (UA Phenology Trail), Hope Cramer (Pima Co., Dist. 5 Office), Don & Robby Laidlaw, Sharon Oliver (UA Phenology Trail), Betty Rowe, Echo Surina (UA Phenology Trail), Tom Thivener (Tucson Dept. of Transportation).

Call to Order & Roll call of Members: Pres. John O’Dowd called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. A roll call of the Board members followed.

Minutes of the past meeting reviewed: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of October 18, 2011. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

Agenda Review: The draft agenda was discussed. Time for each item was allocated. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The vote to approve was unanimous.

PRESENTATION : UA Phenology Trail (Echo Surina, Lori Anne Barnett, Sharon Oliver, Susan Peters)

Echo and Lori Anne presented a handout and a summary of a proposed project to develop a “phenology trail” of identified and systematically “tracked” plants in the SH Neighborhood. The UA’s National Phenology Network office, which is located in SHN at 1955 E. 6th St., would like to invite residents to participate in this government funded program. Discussion and questions focused on how the project would work. Susan and Frank are offering to serve as liaisons to the UA group. Steve Gilsdorf made a motion that the Board support the concept of the phenology trail as presented. Kim Crooks seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

PRESENTATION : City Alternative Transportation Project: Treat Ave. Bike Path (Tom Thivener)

Tom Thivener, the City’s “bike path coordinator,” presented info on paths that cross through SH Neighborhood, and the proposed projects that would turn these paths into “bike boulevards.” These boulevards, which would incorporate signal devices at quarter mile intersections, would then become part of a city-wide biking network of 40 bike boulevards. Tom provided maps showing proposed projects involving SHN. He also presented info on the various types of signal devices in use in central Tucson. The Treat Ave. bike boulevard has been the focus of much of his effort.

Discussion centered on the ongoing problems involving bike traffic along Treat, particularly at the intersection of 3rd St. O’Dowd and Don Laidlaw circulated photos of unacceptable traffic circles. Laidlaw urged the Board not to move forward on any proposals coming from the City until it has much more info. O’Dowd asked Tom about the process for input from neighbors on these proposed projects. O’Dowd suggested to Tom that he get together with the Laidlaws to discuss their concerns. O’Dowd also asked Tom to address SH neighbors’ frustration with cyclists who disobey the law by running stop signs and operating without lights.

In addition: Gail alerted Tom and the Board about a particular traffic hazard on Olsen and 3rd St. being caused by a tractor trailer from the Sun Station Post Office. A letter from Sun Station stating that the offending traffic will stop was circulated.

RETREAT AT SAM HUGHES (MINIDORMS) / REVIEW OF DEVELOPERS’ 2ND SUBMITTAL:

Mr. Finkelstein, the developer of a proposed SHN mini-dorm subdivision, has been told to resubmit his proposal to the City’s zoning examiner and to answer all of the comments. The news media is aware of SHNA’s opposition thanks to a TV interview given by Kim. Both the Development Services and Ward VI council member, Steve Kozachik, are taking a firm position that the R1 zoning of the site is not appropriate for the Retreat.

Kim brought up the Sam Hughes Neighborhood master plan as it relates to this site’s zoning. Because it would require Mayor and Council to amend the plan, it provides another obstacle to the development. Also, Kim announced that the landscaping plan for the site has been denied.

O'Dowd reported that he has submitted to Minnette Burgess a proposal that SHNA contract with her at the rate of \$200 an hour with a cap of \$5000 for the purpose of helping the Board pursuing a legal interpretation of the proposed application for subdivision in R-1 zone.

O'Dowd submitted that the Board invite Corey Reidy, neighbor to the site, to be on the Board.

ASSISTANCE FOR WINTER NEWSLETTER:

Susan reported that she is unable to do the bulk of newsletter prep by herself. Discussion followed on possible ways to proceed. The option of sending out a postcard as opposed to a newsletter was discussed. Since a newsletter costs only slightly more than a postcard mailing, Gail would like to see a newsletter come out. The best use of it would be to announce the annual meeting in January. Costs and content were discussed. As Board members offered to help, Gail offered to host a Newsletter cmte. meeting to work out the details.

RETURN OF SPRING FLING (SF):

O'Dowd announced that he still needs to write, as charged to do by the Board, a letter to the Board of Regents or to the president of the University saying that SHNA is strongly opposed to the return of Spring Fling to the UA campus. Penny Sims, SHNA's representative to the UA's Campus Community Relations Cmte., is following this.

OPERATION SNOWBIRD (OS):

Kim submitted to the Board a copy of the statement she included in a letter that she was charged by the Board to send to the Air Force. The letter expressed SHNA's opposition to any OS flights over central Tucson.

WATER PUMP STATION RESTORATION RFP FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SERVICES:

O'Dowd circulated the RFP that has been sent to architectural/engineering firms in the City. Responses are due December 1st. Should the Board award the project to a respondent, SHNA would have 90 days to go to the City for approval. Discussions about leasing, and about funding followed. Steve reported that SHNA has about \$34,000-35,000 earmarked for this project. Rick spoke up for tying a purpose to the site to give it meaning to the people in the community. Rick feels that all of the cmte. agrees that the tower is the first phase, but that not all are looking beyond this to the total project.

SHNA PARTICIPATION IN CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS and LUC REFORM CMTEs:

O'Dowd is requesting a Board member to step up to serve as a representative at meetings covering land use codes reform. Also, SHNA needs a rep on the CCRC (UA's Campus Community Relations Cmte.). This is an important opportunity to work with other neighborhoods.

ANNUAL MEETING:

It was agreed that a winter newsletter would go out announcing the annual meeting on Tuesday, January 17th (6:30 PM). The Phenology Trail will be presented by the UA group. Invitations will go out to Mayor Rothschild and Council member Steve Kozachik. Christine, Sheila, and Steve will work on refreshments.

In addition: Mention of the Sam Hughes School fundraiser led to a discussion of SH neighborhood schools. O'Dowd will write a letter for the Board to thank Mr. Pavon for his successful fundraising efforts. Gail suggested this for inclusion in the newsletter.

BROADWAY CORRIDOR:

O'Dowd now has all of the surveys of the historic properties on the north side of Broadway from Campbell to Country Club. The purpose of getting this info was to be able to sway the City toward saving historical buildings from being demolished. The City Transportation dept. is preparing a report, which they say is being hindered by O'Dowd's request for the surveys. The City is putting a task force together, which will include neighborhood and business representatives. O'Dowd is considering going to the County Board of Supervisors, to ask for the money to fund the task force.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:14.

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