

## **San Jacinto Neighborhood Association**

January Meeting

January 12, 2011

Minutes

### **Call to Order**

Alan Kamen called to meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Members present introduced themselves to the meeting:

Alan Kamen, Kay Sandor, Mardi Mitchell, Lynda Harvey, Hank Thierry, Ellen Whaley, Allison Buchtien, Kerry Thomas, Lisa Thomas, Russ Mertens, Jul Kamen, Lyssa Graham-Reynolds, Wayne O'Quin, Ron Venable, Tom Schwenk, Brenda Lee.

### **Announcements**

Galveston City Council member Elizabeth Beeton could not be in attendance at this meeting.

### **Community Police**

Annie Almendarez of the Galveston Police Department Officers were present. There are many programs. Three will be a tagging program of cars throughout east Galveston. The bait bike program will be reinstated soon. There will be classes held at the McGuire Dent location for how to remain safe. Her email address is [aalmendarez@cityofgalveston.com](mailto:aalmendarez@cityofgalveston.com).

Alan emailed the annual GPD Crime Reports of major crimes over the past four years. Lyssa raised questions to the accuracy of the reporting in that many crimes go unreported.

### **Treasurer's Report**

\$5000 was received over 2010. \$1200 in dues was collected in paid membership. Family memberships are the largest category of membership. The biggest expense was the Community Garden upkeep and additional expenses for the upcoming tree program. The report was given by Lyssa Graham-Reynolds.

### **Tree Committee Update**

A tree committee meeting was held Sunday, January 9, 2010. Members of the tree conservancy met and went out in teams of two to examine potential sites for tree planting. A spreadsheet has been started to determine who would receive trees. Every avenue and every street in the neighborhood was assessed for this project. Determination of tree planting sites was determined by the mostly likely chance of success for tree planting. This included the proximity of fire hydrants, telephone poles, concrete, and the overall condition of the property. Some residents received two notifications for tree planting. The next step will be to place

signage for new tree sites on neighborhood properties. Concerns were raised of the potential loss of signs placed in city right-of-ways. The costs for trees are free of charge. Other neighborhoods will also be planting trees. The goal is 700 trees among SJNA, East End, Lasker Park and another east end neighborhood. Julia Ann and Denise will take over as tree committee coordinators.

A special thanks was given to Patrick & Karen Geary, Brenda Lee, and Joanne Griffin for their selection of the type of trees.

### **Garden Report**

Harvesting of turnips, radishes, and tomatoes is ongoing. All of the gardens are full and growing well. There are 11 plots that are being grown by various families. There will be an open garden, which is usually held on the second Saturday of the month, which is this upcoming Saturday, from 9 AM to 12 Noon.

### **Galveston Historical Foundation**

Kay missed the December meeting. The Elissa is going out for a dry dock with day-sails going up. There is an upcoming 100 year celebration of the Hotel Galvez. New landscaping will be performed at The Galvez. At the next upcoming ArtWalk, exclusive art featuring the Hotel Galvez will be on display on the Friday before ArtWalk, Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **GAIN**

GAIN will present their recommendations for the Seawall parking plan at the next Galveston City Council meeting. There will be election of new officers for GAIN.

### **Galveston City Council**

The Galveston City Council will consider issues with the proposed Container Port on Pelican Island. It may require a SUP (Specific Use Permit) for consideration of the Container Port. Concerns were raised with major trucks traveling over the Causeway. Stay tuned for how this new project may affect neighborhoods. Additional information can be obtained by the Wharves' Board Web Site.

### **2011 Meeting Dates**

The second Wednesdays of every month are proposed as meeting times for the SJNA monthly meeting. Meetings are confirmed at the Hotel Galvez through the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. There will be no meeting held in the month of December.

### **GHF Awards**

SJNA received a plaque from the GHF. Alan raised concerns over where to display the plaque. The plaque should be displayed somewhere where everyone in SJNA could appreciate it. It is not a good idea to display the plaque outdoors. It was suggested that the Rosenberg Library could be a potential site. The Hotel Galvez and the Planning Department were also suggested as potential sites for the plaque. Kerry Thomas volunteered to build a structure to house the plaque outdoors. It could be made out of Teak wood and would be waterproof. Wayne O'Quin and Kay will work with Kerry to help display the plaque. Mardi suggested that the site to display the plaque should be done in such a way as to attract to people to the neighborhood. A vote was considered for each location:

GHF	3 votes
Garden	4 votes

### **Old Business**

Brenda stated that there was an article in the Houston Chronicle related to neighborhood conservation district. There was an article in the American Planning Magazine related to the NCD. Catherine Tinnemeyer and Brax Easterwood submitted the articles. There are many inquiries into how our NCD was formed given that other areas do not have zoning.

### **Code Enforcement**

#### **1615 16<sup>th</sup> Street**

There was a request for a demolition by the owner that went to the Landmark Commission. SJNA recommended that the residence should not be demolished. The house needs work but it is not falling down. The lot is 40' x 30' and if it is torn down, it would be difficult to rebuild, given the NCD requirements.

#### **1601 21<sup>st</sup> Street**

The owners were given to January 17<sup>th</sup> to demolish this majorly burned house. If the owners do not do it, the city of Galveston will demolish it and place a lien on the property.

#### **1818 Avenue L**

A burned house at this location will have 90 days from Nov 18, 2010 to demolish the structure.

#### **1728 Avenue K**

Another burned home where homeowners met on Dec 29<sup>th</sup> to negotiate how to fix up the dwelling. They met with Catherine Tinnemeyer to be advised on how to fix the dwelling.

#### **1501 21<sup>st</sup> Street**

Two huge trees may come down and affect power lines. These trees were taken down today by the City of Galveston.

## 2011 Election of Officers

Alan Kamen read the list of potential board members for 2011. Jussi Tinnemeyer chaired the Nomination Committee for selection of board member nominees.

Ellen Whaley, Janet Morris, Russ and Joan Mertens, Joanne Griffin, Kay Sandor, and Jussi Tinnemeyer were nominated as board members.

Treasurer	Lyssa Graham-Reynolds
Secretary	Hank Thierry
President	Tom Schwenk

All officers were voted by unanimity of the members present at the January meeting.

## Old Business

Kay Sandor gave a special thank you to Alan for all the work he has done in relationship to SJNA and the community of Galveston.

## Committee Chairs

Kay Sandor	Garden Chair
Ellen Whaley	Picnic Chair
Tom Schwenk	Clean Galveston
Joann Griffin	Clean Galveston
Tom Schwenk	Web Site
Russ Mertens	Membership Chair
Brenda Lee	GAIN Representative
George Lee	Newsletter Editor
Allison Buchtien	Newsletter Distribution
John Koloen	Galveston Daily News
Kay Sandor	GHF Representative
Joanne Griffin	Lost Bayou

Bookkeeper ???? – This was suggested by Alan as a check and balance to the office of Treasurer. Tom volunteered to perform an annual audit.

## New Business

Tom suggested we keep our Pay Pal account for membership to pay dues. Pay Pal keeps good electronic records of payments and receipts and places data in an electronic format.

**Adjournment-** The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.