

NEW MONTEREY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MINUTES

10 MAY 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER

Howard Fosler called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Board members in attendance included Howard, Bob and Barbara Bass Evans, Brian Greenshields, Sharon Dwight, and Alexandra Albin. There was a total of 11 people in attendance for tonight's meeting.

II. SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

A. Mr Robert Reid, City of Monterey Urban Forester, presented an informative talk on the trimming/pruning of trees throughout the City of Monterey. There are city regulations guiding the trimming and pruning of both city and private trees. Of particular note was the issue of homeowners removing or cropping trees to enhance their view. Mr Reid stated that according to California State law there is no right to a view! If you are looking to improve your view, contact a certified arborist/licensed professional first to see what can legally be done. Overcutting canopies/topping of trees just to enhance a view is illegal. The only exception is for Skyline Forest residents, where pruning for views is legal as they have a CCR dating back to 1966. In fact, it was as a result of the excesses in this exception that in 1985 the City Forester position was created. Unfortunately, the 11 person staff was cut back to 7 in 2003 and could take further cuts, so they have cut back private property inspections.

B. There is a \$50 fee for a City permit to remove trees if not dead, dying, or dangerous w/replacements required (generally 1 for 1 and can be anywhere on the property). The City will go after illegal tree cutters and property owners, but finds education is the more cost effective approach – especially as there is only one code enforcement officer in the City.

C. Tree trimming is actually season dependent; for instance, fall is the best time to prune Monterey Pines.

D. Howard asked about the best way to handle tree issues with a neighbor (e.g., unsafe leaning or dead overhanging limbs). Mr Reid recommended you talk and write to your neighbor with your concerns, asking they contact a certified arborist. Mr Reid also suggested folks look at §833 and §834 of the California Civil Code for further guidance. Mr Reid stated that City residents can find all sorts of useful data at the tree section of the City's website.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

One member of the community brought up the issue of graffiti in New Monterey and showed pictures of recent graffiti activity at McClellan and Hawthorne and asked about its removal. The Board advised him to contact Mr. Doug Stafford at the City. The same neighbor also complained about the overgrown weeds at an unoccupied

property at 371 Hawthorne. The Board advised him to call Public Works prior to 1 June and let them know that the overgrown weeds pose a fire hazard.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

The Board discussed complaints about the intersections at both McClelland and Hawthorne and Irving and Hawthorne where there are no 4-way stop signs. Complaints of speeding and poor visibility at both the intersections were discussed. Sharon Dwight suggested the Board contact the Monterey Police Department and gather all the accident statistics at those intersections to decide how best to proceed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Waterfront Meeting. Howard asked the Board to get an update for next meeting.

B. Historic Context Survey. Sharon explained to the attendees the importance of the Historic Context Statement and Survey to our neighborhood, and that she was doing additional research chronicling the change in occupations in New Monterey over time. Bob stated that we still needed to go through four hours of videotape collected during the New Monterey Neighborhood History Day. All this data once consolidated will be forwarded to the City for inclusion in the Historic Context Statement.

C. Lighthouse Destination Study. Barbara stated that MST had money in hand to do an engineering study and install the Bus Rapid Transit infrastructure from Costco, along Fremont to the Transit Plaza, then onto Lighthouse. Barbara volunteered to listen to Hunter Horvath, MST spokesperson, speak on Wed at 5:00 PM at the Rio Grill in Carmel. Howard asked what action does the Board need to take on MST, but also stated that we need more data on what MST is planning. There was a brief discussion on the rail transit option, but that option was not nearly as far along as the BST option (federal grant has yet to be applied for).

VI. REPORTS

A. Secretary. Brian Greenshields presented the minutes from the 12 April meeting for

approval. They were approved as submitted.

B. Treasurer. Howard passed out a copy of the latest Treasurer report for review. The Board asked the report be based on the FY, be broken out by month, and contain more detail by expanding subcategories.

C. Garden Tour. Alexandra asked Howard for some help on ensuring the appropriate insurance is secured for next year's planned event.

D. Bay View School. Bob and Brian provided an update on the charter petition and again asked for a letter of support from the Board. Bob stated that the NMBA is waiting for our draft letter of support before submitting theirs.

E. Airport Liaison. Nothing to report

F. NMBA, CRBID. Nothing to report

G. CERT. On 26 June there will be an emergency response drill to review damage

assessment processes.

H. City Business Reports. Barbara will attend the Planning Commission on May 25 reference

the outdoor music request from Sly McFly's on Cannery Row.

VII.COMMENT

A. None.

B. Meeting was adjourned at 0905 PM.