

**NEW MONTEREY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

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November 14, 2011

7pm

- I The meeting was called to order by President Fosler.
Board members present: S. Dwight, R. Evans, H. Fosler. Absent excused: B. Crist. Absent unexcused: B. Evans. B. Greenshields resigned in October. A. Albin is on medical leave. Six members of the community attended.
- II **Special guest speakers** Kim Cole, Principal Planner, Rich Deal, Traffic Engineer and Henry Ruhnke, architect, presented an abridged slide show describing briefly the changes envisioned for Downtown and North Fremont Street with more emphasis on Lighthouse Avenue and the eastern end of the tunnel and Del Monte Ave. The audience was mostly interested in the reconfiguration of the eastern end of the tunnel inasmuch as the proposed changes are significant. The consensus seemed to be that there was a great deal of change proposed without much improvement to traffic flow.
The presentation then moved to Lighthouse Avenue where the favored proposed change, known as Mod Three, was illustrated and explained by Deal. Numerous questions pointed out the loss of traffic flow from busses, restrictions due to turn lanes and loss of parking. Again, no improvement in traffic flow seemed to be the choking point for the audience which asked lots of questions and offered many comments. The Counter Clockwise Proposal was also discussed. Mentioned was the fact the Council has reversed itself twice on this issue. It currently disfavors it due to the sensed opposition of business interests toward it in favor of the Mod Three proposal. Several residents disagreed with this position saying that traffic flow was the critical issue, and that not all Lighthouse Avenue businesses agree with the Council. Cole suggested those concerned with the proposals appear at the City Council meeting tomorrow night to voice their concerns.
Deal also reviewed the reasons behind the proposed changes to speed limits on artery streets in the neighborhood, saying his hands are pretty well tied by new state laws.
- II Fosler invited **public comment**. No one asked to speak.
- III The rest of the meeting was hastened along by Fosler due to time constraints and the lack of quorum. He asked for further **discussion of the Presentation**. Most of the discussion involved the best way to make known the consensus opinion of the people present to the City Council at its meeting tomorrow night. Many said they could not attend and asked for alternative means of reaching Council Members. Phone calls and email methods were discussed and at least two people said they would try to attend.
Dwight mentioned there was hope the City could modify the speed limit changes shortly when new studies are available after the changes are made.
Fosler asked for discussion about the future of the association. He pointed out we are perilously short of board members now with one having just resigned, one out on extended leave, one often absent due to business requirements and one recovering from illness. He asked all board members to advise him promptly whether they intend to serve again in 2012 and asked others to consider volunteering for a board position. He pointed out the work of the association is impacted by the

number of people available to provide effort and that the more we have the less there is for each person to do. He mentioned that more heads thinking normally results in better decisions. He went on to ask for ideas about the forthcoming annual meeting. A tentative date of Monday, January 23 was proposed. Brief discussion of the tenor of the meeting led to dropping the idea of serving alcohol.

IV **Old Business** items reviewed by Fosler included a mention of the Presidio plans. He said he asked recently for an update from Congressman Farr, DLI and the City, but has heard nothing definitive.

He mentioned that several people had asked for action to reopen access to POM and a member of the audience voiced his interest in this. It was pointed out that not all people favor it and there would be a need for major reconfiguration of lower Presidio. This is an historic area where change is not encouraged. He asked if the association should write a letter in support of passage, but no consensus emerged.

Conversation moved to changes in lower Presidio that are in the works. Dwight mentioned the bike path is almost complete thru the area with modifications at Hawthorne Street and Van Buren Street in the works. She mentioned how delicate the process was just to get approval for the above grade installation of the path.

Also discussed briefly was the proposal going before the City Council to study the possibility of creating a street roughly following the route of the new path. Most agreed it was a bad idea.

Fosler asked for guidance on whether the association should write a letter favoring the rapid rail plan that would construct a line from Castroville or Marina to Custom House Plaza. Overwhelming consensus was that we do not favor such a plan and a letter should go forth immediately stating our position.

V. **Reports:**

Brief comments were made about the crime issue. Fosler said we have not had a crime wave and the concerns of the summer seemed abated now. He mentioned the new police chief Phil Penko would be our speaker in February.

Dwight reported on NIP activities saying there were fewer projects proposed this year than in the past, so it is a good time to put forth one's ideas for capital improvements and she asked for suggestions.

Dwight also reported that our CERT team has a newly qualified member and that they recently inventoried the supply boxes in Archer Park and Hilltop Park. She also mentioned a community pot luck sponsored by CERT as a fundraiser will be Friday 12/9/11 from 5:30 at the Youth Center. \$5 and food to share will get you a fun time, she said.

Fosler reported that the committee charged with suggesting to MPUSD what it should do with the Bay View campus has its final meeting this week. He said that generally the committee will suggest the site remain in use as an educational facility. More details will follow the final committee (aka the 7/11 Committee) meeting and report.

From the airport came news, said Fosler, that there was a new taxi plan on the way following many complaints, including his. Shortly, there will be a person acting as a starter/ tourist guide who will organize taxis all of which will soon be able to service the airport. There was until now only one company licensed to pick up fares. That didn't work well, thus the change.

There was no report on Bay View Academy or a Treasurer's report.

COMMENTS: Thanks to an actively participating group of residents the meeting was lively, informative and we hope helpful to the officials there who are responsible to the community to serve its needs. The meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted by H. Fosler, acting secretary.

