

# NEW MONTEREY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MINUTES July 13, 2009

I Call To Order- 7pm by Howard Fosler, President.

Board Members Present: Barbara Evans, Robert Wemheuer, Joanne Kelly, Bruce Crist, Sharon Dwight  
Board Members Absent: Nancy Runyon, Bob Evans  
Public attendance: three

II Special Guest Speaker- Frank Sollicito, City Council Member

Mr. Sollicito discussed the difficult budget process just completing, but expressed satisfaction at the result, saying everyone gave up something and no one is completely happy with it. He forewarned us that next year will probably be even harder. He said the biggest problem, "the elephant in the room" is the State and what it may well do. It has in the past, and is poised to raid once again the coffers of the county and local jurisdictions for funds to help it balance its own budget. This will upset all the hard work, planning and sacrifice of these entities and make them resort to even more cutbacks. He asked that everyone concerned contact their State officials to protest this maneuver. He said there is still a lot of fat at the State level that has been left untouched, singling out 500 commissions that remain intact. In his opinion, the only solution is a redesigned State government geared to provide fiscal responsibility to one of the largest economic entities in the world and currently one of the worst run.

Mr Sollicito also praised the City's employees who all gave up raises and took pay cuts totaling \$1million to help meet the budget. He also said the consolidation process is proving itself viable and timely, citing the demise of a Monterey fire truck and its replacement by a Pacific Grove truck. He said we have a lot of catching up to do on infrastructure maintenance and improvement, citing the police department building as one example.

Mr. Sollicito took questions from the audience, most of which asked about what the City can do to improve its financial position. He said he is searching for more revenue and hopes to improve the budget process by expanding beyond one year at a time to perhaps to five years.

III Old Business:

- A. Area Plan Update is waiting City Council funding
- B. Report on Subcommittee Meeting. J. Kelly and S. Dwight met with the Police Chief to discuss parking problems in the neighborhood. He was interested and caring saying he would discuss the matter with his people

to enhance their cognition of the problem. They left the meeting less than satisfied that he understands how important some parking issues are, such as unattached trailers with no brakes parked on hilly streets.

A member of the audience, D. Presser, commented on seeing a possible catastrophe when a shopping cart left the Trader Joe parking lot, zoomed down Forest Avenue thru the David Avenue intersection, and crashed broadside into a car at Sunset Avenue.

C. Membership. President Fosler reported there are about 17 new members. Revenue is up substantially since we began asking for donations. There are 29 people who have sent in more than their annual dues with contributions of \$50 and \$70 leading the list. President Fosler sent personal thank you notes to each of the 29 donees.

It was suggested that new members also get a note of gratitude. Fosler said he would follow up on it.

E. Newsletter: President Fosler noted that with hefty help from four volunteers 800 newsletters were distributed this month. Discussion followed on whether we should mail a future letter. J Kelly suggested and it was agreed that we wait until the weather deteriorates and manual distribution is more difficult before doing so. We will revisit this in October in anticipation of the year end letter.

As policy, membership will run annually and be \$10. Dues received from September on will be credited toward the next year. Donations will be noted separately in the year received.

F. Brochure: The draft was discussed and tentatively approved with additions and corrections to amend to the form. Paper stock was provided. President Fosler will see to finalizing the document and submitting it to the committee for final approval before printing.

S. Dwight indicated she had no prospective date for distribution by the CERT team.

#### IV. New Business

##### A. City Council Imminent Items

1. Fixed Guideway Project. Discussed with no action
2. Proposed Change in Minutes- Action v Annotated. Discussion strongly favored leaving the minutes reporting as it is. While technology is proving beneficial in many ways, relying on televised documents leaves much to be desired. Mr Sollicito had earlier mentioned his drive for transparency. B. Crist and S. Dwight asked how this added to transparency. How long the televised record would be available was also questioned by S. Dwight. President Fosler was asked to address the board's concerns to the Planning Commission before it made its proposal to the Council.

3. Zoning Corrections. Technical in nature, the two in New Monterey were reviewed. No action taken.
4. Green Points Checkpoints leading to Green Requirements. Brief discussion revealed this was mandatory. Part of being a Green City.

B. Resignation of Board Members

1. Bob Evans asked to resign due to new professional obligations that conflict with board meeting times. Discussion followed that finished with the consensus that Evan's contribution was too valuable to lose over a scheduling conflict. It was decided to relieve him of his secretarial duties, but ask him to continue as a board member and editor of the newsletter. Fosler will attempt to change his mind. It leaves us with the secretary position unfilled. Fosler will contact prospects for board membership to see if anyone would be willing to take on the job.
2. N. Runyon asked to be relieved of treasurer duties due to professional demands. B. Crist offered to take on the responsibility of the position. It was resolved by unanimous consent that Runyon be relieved of duty and Crist appointed to the position of treasurer and all its powers and duties be granted to him within 30 days. Fosler will oversee the changeover. The board noted that Runyon has done an exemplary job with the demanding position and has enhanced recordkeeping effectiveness for which it is deeply grateful.

C. Reports:

1. Minutes of June 8 meeting were accepted.
2. Treasurer's Report was not submitted.
3. Airport Liaison Report noted no new information received.
4. NMBA, CRBID No report due to time constraints.
5. CERT, NIP no report
6. City Business Report
  - a. Short Term rentals died a rapid death when the Council learned of the expenses and procedure required to modify existing rules.
  - b. Appeal to Planning Commission of ARC decision concerning 585-625 Cannery Row (Shake). The board feels exceptions should be very rare and this case does not warrant one. It unanimously voted to direct Fosler to notify the Planning Commission that it supports the ARC and asks that an exception not be granted.
  - c. Status of the Appeal to Planning Commission of 443 Wave Street (Holiday Inn Express) to modify its porte-cochere was discussed. S Dwight noted applicant was

asked to redo and resubmit its plans. She will continue to monitor progress.

- d. B Evans agreed to represent board at the next Planning Commission meeting to voice our concerns about the change in scope of the minutes.

D. Action Items;

1. Following up on Mr. Sollicito's address the board discussed at length a number of his points. Particularly concerning was his mention of the state's capability, even likelihood that it would "borrow" money from the counties and cities to help it bridge its budget gap. Substantive discussion ensued after which it was decided we would write a letter to the authorities involved. Those included the Big Five, (governor, majority and minority leaders of the assembly and senate) and our two representatives. Fosler was asked to send the letter stating our strong opposition to this maneuver.
2. Concern was expressed about the seriousness of parking trailers on city streets. If only an eyesore or irritation, one could perhaps overlook them. But the danger involved was highlighted by two examples of runaway conveyances, one a boat trailer and one the parking cart, both of which careened down steep streets stopping when they hit a car. It being clear that the police department didn't seem concerned with such possible events it was decided Fosler would write a letter to the editor of the paper voicing concern for vehicles with no brakes parked on city streets and alerting citizens to the danger.

There being no further time available, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Howard B. Fosler  
Acting Secretary