

NEW MONTEREY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN
MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING
April 11, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER (7:04 PM) – WELCOME ATTENDEES

Board Members Present: Howard Fosler, Bob Evans, Brian Greenshields, Alex Albin, Bruce Crist, Sharon Dwight, and Barbara Bass Evans

Guest Speaker: Moses Stites

Honored Guests: Nancy Selfridge, Joanne Kelly and Carl Miller

II. CEQA: Moses Stites delivered a thorough presentation on the role of CEQA in the planning process. An extremely powerful tool, CEQA is a California state law meant to provide for an orderly and transparent process for environmental analysis. It allows for public comment throughout the process and discloses environmental effects while preventing damage by mitigation or other alternatives. Enacted in 1970 under Governor Reagan, CEQA is not a permit... it informs the decision (but is not easy to figure out); one project, one document; and makes a good faith effort at full disclosure. There have been hundreds of updates to the CEQA law since 1970. CEQA does not apply to private actions not requiring public comment. CEQA documents include a full description of the environmental setting, a comprehensive project description, along with any alternatives. Levels of compliance include: none, negative declaration, EIR (significant impact on the environment), a categorical exemption, and a mitigated negative declaration. Howard asked for another meeting with Mr Stites to get even more detailed information on CEQA.

III. History Day Proposed For This Year

The Board discussed holding a History Day again this year, but decided unanimously to postpone further discussion until early summer for a possible event sometime in the fall.

IV. Wharf Leases

The Board considered the question whether the Association should be involved in the wharf lease issue. The Board decided to monitor the situation for now as there was disagreement as to whether it was out of our sphere.

V. Request for Music at 685 Cannery Row

The Board discussed the issue of noise in general coming from Cannery Row and the request from some businesses to allow for live music venues and/or Karaoke. Some issues in the past were taken care of by asking the business to keep their doors closed which kept the noise inside. In this particular case where Blue Fin is requesting live music, the board thought hard about taking a position especially as two of the board members had complained about music from the vicinity of Blue Fin in the past. Howard stated that we should check with the Police first to see if there were any complaints on file. In the end, Barbara motioned and Sharon seconded the motion that Howard send an e-mail to the Planning Commission letting them know that there had been noise complaints in the past from residents in New Monterey and that this was a concern to the neighborhood. The motion passed, with Howard voting nay.

VI. Consider Safety Issues at 600 & 700 blk of Newton

Sharon stated that there is a problem with emergency vehicles getting through those blocks of Newton when cars are parked on both sides. She stated that she had been in contact with police and firefighters

along with some of the neighbors. There was a discussion on how many neighbors were actually concerned along with discussions on the possibility of widening Newton ...36 blocks in New Monterey have been widened so far. Bob motioned and Barbara seconded a motion to take a position to improve emergency vehicle access. The motion did not pass as some members felt that the resulting parking issues would be a major sticking point . Sharon then motioned and Barbara seconded the motion for the Association to ask first responders their opinion of the situation and how they would suggest improving emergency vehicle access. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

VII. Lighthouse Model (Outzen Property) Complete—Dedication Scheduled

Howard wanted us to get involved and make comments on the initiative. Sharon then showed the Scholze Park plans and stated this was an NIP priority.

VIII. Lighthouse Traffic

Howard complained again to the City Traffic engineer on the flow of traffic on Lighthouse. He did mention that he had seen an improvement in the traffic flow over the last 3 or 4 days and asked the Board members to be aware of the flow.

REPORTS

IX. REPORTS

- A. SECRETARY: The Board approved the Jan 2011 meeting minutes, but asked that the Feb, March, and April meeting minutes be ready for approval at the next meeting in May.
- B. TREASURER: Nothing to report.
- C. NIP: Projects going forward include three grading/drainage projects combined as one, the Lighthouse EIR, Sloat Monument, Scholze Park frontage, 600 blk of Taylor Street walkways/berms, Cannery Row Rec Trail crossings, the ramp into Cypress Park and playground fibers to replace the sand.

X. Closing /Public Comment.

None. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.