



General Meeting Minutes – October 26, 2009

The general meeting of the Stevens Creek Neighborhood Association – SCNA was called to order at 7:02 pm on October 26, 2009 at Round Table Pizza @ 4400 Stevens Creek Blvd by the Association Chairman, Robert Benscoter.

Present:

Robert Benscoter, Carole Camarlinghi, Rhovylynn Cansino (Assistant to District 1 Councilman), Don Price, Kamela Mivchandaur, Tom Sullivan, Tom Stiver, Diquan and Perry Gong, Lou Munoz, Mel Henry, Sandy Bouja (from Code Enforcement), Kristi Taylor (from), Jose Segura (from DOT-Parking Compliance)

1. Introductions

2. Minutes Approval

Robert motioned to approve the minutes from September. Carole seconded. All approved. Minutes approved.

3. Action Items From Last Meeting

- Rhovy to find out who has the jurisdiction to fix traffic light timing issues at Stevens Creek/Albany. **(Santa Clara has primary jurisdiction. Contact is Fred Laigo, Traffic Operations, (408) 615-3019.)**
- Rhovy to report second pothole. **(The pothole on Casa View is in the process of being fixed. Not finished yet.)**
- Robert volunteered to take photos and send to Don, (who does not live on-site). **(He took the photos of 5 business vans for a carpet cleaning company that are always parked overnight on Greendale and sent them to Don and Rhovy.)**
- All members are asked to write down addresses where blight is occurring and report them by the October meeting for the drive-through. **(The list is to be given to Code Enforcement.)**
- Robert to contact Chase and Wells Fargo, and the NA banks to get information and terms. **(Robert had opened an account with Wells Fargo. The check from Salvation Army and the Donation Event has been deposited. The \$250 Grant from Councilman Pete Constant was presented to Robert by Rhovy and Robert read the accompanying letter.)**

4. Enhanced Street Sweep Update.

The Eastern half of the neighborhood (Richfield to Saratoga) was completed on October 6th. Robert reported that a couple dozen cars (most of them abandoned) were removed. One of the parking officers mentioned that permanent sweep signage was in the works. **ACTION ITEM: Rhovy to inquire if this is so, and confirm.**

The Western half of the neighborhood (from Richfield to Safeway) is to be swept on November 3rd.

5. Code Enforcement Presentation

Sandy Bouja, Supervisor for Code Enforcement in District 1, presented an overview of what constitutes a code violation and blight.

Code enforces anything written in the SJ Municipal Code that falls on private property (residential or business) Health and safety is the primary focus for Code Enforcement.

The department is complaint-driven. They do not go out looking for violations. A complaint must be filed before they act. Cases are computerized. When reporting a complaint, addresses and specific/detailed descriptions are mandatory.

As an example, Over-flowing garbage containers in a complex. Code would need the complaint while it is happening. If problem is reoccurring, Code could make the complex get a larger garbage bin.

Example #2: Couch/Mattress left in driveway. Code will send a warning letter to the property owner giving 10 days to clean/dispose of problem or they will have to pay a \$250 fine.

Question asked: What is the turn-around time for complaints? An emergency situation is within 24 hours. Priority is within 5 days. Routine is within 10 days (often, all types are looking into sooner)

To file a complaint, call the main number (408) 277-4525, to report your problem. Calling directly is always better. They do not take anonymous calls but the reporter's info is kept strictly confidential.

Question asked: Is there an online form for complaints? Yes, from the San Jose City website. (www.sanjoseca.gov. Select "City Departments," then Code Enforcement." Under "How can I use the system?" select "Click here to learn more" then "Click here to file a complaint")

Code cannot prevent illegal dumping without knowing the party doing the dumping.

Question asked: What is the definition of "street"? Curb to Curb. Code does not cover violations in the street. (such as couches left in the gutter.)

Question asked: who would be responsible for maintenance behind the car dealers (like Honda) along Albany? The city would have to do some research to determine responsibility, but most likely the car dealer would have responsibility to the curb.

Question asked: Can dead trees be reported, either on private property or in the park strip (between the curb and the sidewalk), which is normally the property owner's responsibility? Yes, Code can contact the City Arborist to determine whether the tree is diseased.

Question asked: Where can one find the SJ Municipal Code? There is a direct link from www.sanjoseca.gov.

Question asked: The dumpsters at Blue Mango seem to be too close to the fence behind member's homes. Is that a violation? People would need to report it for Code to inspect the location of the dumpster.

6. DOT – Parking Compliance Presentation

Kristi Taylor and Parking Compliance Officer Jose Segura explained the different shifts within the department. Parking Compliance officers can cite vehicles on their own and always responds to calls. The Enhanced Street Sweep is a part of Parking Compliance. Vehicle Abatement is now part of Parking Compliance (and handles abandoned vehicles). The department's focus is to tow abandoned vehicles, prolonged parkers and to free up parking spaces.

They explained what constitutes a violation. There is no limit to the number of vehicles on one property.

To report parking complaints: Call 311 to report parking violations (i.e. cars parked in wrong direction, in red zones, handicapped places etc.). Dispatched calls also get passed onto Parking Compliance.

To report abandoned vehicles/prolonged parkers, call (408) 277-5305 for Vehicle Abatement which has full-time staff to take calls and complaints from 8a-5p M-F. Turn-around time is 1-3 business days.

Question asked: What does it take to get "T" marking painted in the streets? The city is shying way from using paints due to its high maintenance. Traffic Calming determines if a street warrants "T" markings.

Question asked: Stevens Creek Toyota frequently parks cars at the corners on Casa View near Miramar, making it difficult to make the turns. Who do we report this to? Traffic Calming could resolve this issue.

Question asked: What constitutes a violation when parking near/on the corner ("blocking an intersection")? Intersections are determined on a case-by-case by the officer. Sometimes citations are issued by the Police Department. Parking control badge numbers have 3 digits. And the letter "J"

Question asked: Can you park a car with a "For Sale" sign? Yes. This is not a violation (it's a First Amendment issue), however, the 3-day rule for parked cars does still apply, and do all other parking laws.

7. November & December Meetings

REMINDER: The Meetings in November and December will be held earlier in the month because of the holidays.

The November Meeting will be November 16th, and a representative from the DOT-Traffic Calming Division will be there to discuss Neighborhood issues.

The December Meeting will be on December 14th and will be a Holiday Meet-n-Greet/Party.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. The next general meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Monday, November 16, 2009 at Round Table Pizza at 4400 Stevens Creek Blvd.

Thank you to Round Table for providing the space.

Minutes prepared by Robert Benscoter from notes taken by Rhovy Casino.