

Alamo Square Neighborhood Association Board Minutes
April 18, 2005, 7:00pm
Location: Alamo Square Inn - 719 Scott Street

Number of Board Members Attending – 11

1. Emmett Gilman welcomed the April Board meeting and requested the board review the MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING. John Dallas motioned the board adopt the report. Eric Smith seconded the motion, and the March Minutes were adopted.

2. A motion to table the April Treasurer's Report, until status of the CD was resolved, was made by John Dallas and seconded by Dean Preston. The Treasurer's report will be tabled to the May board meeting.

3. John Dallas put forth a draft outline of ideas to present to the General Membership for input on legislation to control the Cannabis Club licensing application and operations. The board agreed to take this to the General Membership, and request the operators of the Cannabis Club speak with ASNA members at the same meeting. Emmett Gilman to coordinate with NOPNA and the Haight/Divisadero Merchants Association. The board will then take a position on the matter. Proposed Membership meeting dates are May or June.

4. Dean Preston motioned the ASNA Board President write a letter to District 5 Supervisor, Ross Mirkarimi, expressing support for "Chain Store" legislation, proposed by Ross Mirkarimi, if that position is approved by the ASNA membership. Carol Polk seconded the motion and the motion passed. A representative from Ross Mirkarimi's office will attend the April General Membership meeting to speak on proposed "Chain Store" legislation.

5. Joe Pecora will step down at year end as ASNA Newsletter Editor. December 2005 will be his last newsletter. Emmett Gilman, and the board, thanked Joe for the great work and many years of editorial service to ASNA. A replacement will be needed.

6. The board agreed to table the review of a proposal, that ASNA newsletter articles be signed, for next month.

7. Matt Magaña motioned the board adopt proposal language of ASNA's letter writing policy. Eric Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed.

8. The ASNA Park Committee gave a committee update and shared a proposed letter to be sent to Parks & Recreation. Dean Preston agreed to amend the letter.

9. The Rose garden invoice was tabled to next month in order to give Joan Anton and Emmett Gilman an opportunity to review.

10. John Dallas and Joe Pecora agreed to review previous document clarifying the duties of hosting ASNA General Membership meetings.

11. Board members discussed switching future Board meetings with the General Membership meetings in order to allow the membership to discuss topics and the board

to listen to the membership and vote based on membership feedback. This was tabled for next month.

12. The board discussed and clarified the reimbursement procedures for hosting events. Reimbursement of expenses is capped at \$50 for individual's/entities hosting ASNA membership meetings.

Lisa Bastick

Alamo Square Neighborhood Association General Membership Meeting

April 2005 Minutes

The ASNA General Meeting was held Monday, April 25, 2005 at the home of Catherine Horsfall at 712 Steiner Street.

ASNA President Emmett Gilman opened the meeting thanking Catherine Horsfall for opening her home to the neighborhood and hosting the meeting.

ASNA President Emmett Gilman welcomed and introduced District Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi to the ASNA meeting. Supervisor Mirkarimi spoke on Conditional-Use, Formula Retail, legislation proposed for District 5. The legislation, as outlined by Supervisor Mirkarimi, would impact the commercial district along Divisadero Street between Haight and Turk Streets.

The legislation will give an additional layer of community input prior to the opening of any chain store (Formula Retail) on Divisadero, between Haight and Turk Streets. The legislation defines Formula Retail and requires the formula retailer to appear before the City Planning Commission for a public hearing. This will afford the neighborhoods (i.e., ASNA) a number of opportunities for input for or against any proposed formula retail project along Divisadero.

In addition, any formula retail establishment would be required to notify tenants and homeowners of their intent to open a new project within a 300-foot radius of the subject property. This automatically notifies the neighborhood, and neighborhood organizations.

The proposed legislation will be reviewed by the Planning Commission on May 12th. The neighborhood can impact the results of this meeting by attending and testifying in support of the legislation or submit written testimony, supporting the legislation, directly to the Planning Commission. At this date, the meeting agenda for this hearing has not yet been compiled. ASNA members are welcome to contact Boris Delepine, in Supervisor Mirkarimi's office, at 415-554-6758 to learn when the item will be heard.

Additional topics discussed by Supervisor Mirkarimi and ASNA members:

1. Harding Theatre – Supervisor Mirkarimi noted it is currently under review at the Planning Commission.
2. Divisadero Merchants Association - The fight to save the Harding theatre brought the Divisadero merchant interests together and Supervisor Mirkarimi is working to develop a merchant association along Divisadero. He is also working with the city and outside agencies to improve the look and feel of Divisadero.

Feedback from the general membership included the idea to build a Business Improvement District (BID) on Divisadero.

3. Crime - Recent spate of blood feud shootings and deaths. Supervisor Mirkarimi believes joblessness and truancy drive the cycle of violence. The existing budget does

not address youth programs which is crucial to reducing long term crime and violent crime.

4. Cannabis clubs – Supervisor Mirkarimi had just come from a four and a half (4.5) hour hearing which included numerous government agencies and neighborhood advocates It was a pragmatic hearing and went well. The issue needs to be reconciled and the city is exploring regulation and taxation.

5. Tenancy-In-Commons (TIC) – Supervisor Mirkarimi noted it was currently at a stalemate.

The ASNA membership discussed the pros and cons of Formula Retail Conditional Use Legislation. John Dallas motioned ASNA support the legislation proposed by District Supervisor Mirkarimi. Eric Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed by the membership. A letter supporting the legislation will be sent to District Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi from ASNA President Emmett Gilman.

Robert Pritchard spoke on the plight of Sacred Heart Church, an unreinforced masonry building in danger of demolition, located at the corner Fillmore and Fell. On December 26, 2004 the church was officially closed and the parish disbanded by the archdiocese. A group called "Save Our Sacred Heart" is working to preserve the church. The archdiocese, Robert reported, is planning to remove many of the church's furnishings and architecturally significant features for transfer to other parishes outside the city. The group fears the building may be demolished. "Save Our Sacred Heart" strongly believes that the church should be preserved due to its architectural significance. It was designed by architect Thomas J. Welsh

Announcements:

- Joe Pecora will step down as newsletter editor. Many thanks (and long applause) were given to Joe. ASNA is seeking a replacement. Interested parties should contact Emmett Gilman.
- The Neighborhood Parks Council is holding a free luncheon and friend-raiser at SBC Park at 11:30 p.m. on May 24, 2005. The luncheon will take place in the seats behind the Giants dugout. There will be presentations regarding NPC's programs and awards presented to various park groups for their work protecting San Francisco's parks.
- Mayor's Community Budget Information Series; at City Hall, in Room 201 on Friday May 27, 2005 at 3:30 p.m. The discussion this month will focus on budget balancing options.