

WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
5 MAR 2015

Call to Order: New President Gordon MacDermott called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the meeting room at the First United Methodist Church. Outgoing President, Dave Borton, was unable to attend.

Program Speaker: Vice Mayor and Councilman Andrew McCollough discussed the financial improvement of the City, though 15% of the previously laid off workforce has not been rehired. Several Police positions have been restored; including those specializing in remediating various aspects of Homeless issues. Twenty tons of human generated debris has been removed, by the city, from open space and parks in the last year. Both Boyd and Beach Parks have been temporarily closed to renovate and disrupt their use as hangouts. Beach Park will be renovated in a Terrapin Crossroads/City partnership. The City has set aside 3 million dollars of the ¼ cent tax money for new public buildings. They will continue to plan and save. SMART News: Traffic lights are being re-synched with train gates. Whistlestop plans to remove the existing historical building and replace it with a very narrow, multistory, mixed-use building. San Rafael residents and planners alike have opposed the plans due to closeness to the tracks, lack of parking, and the large footprint that does not fit the area/city. Orchid Spa has closed. The City has been using zoning rules to limit and curtail brothels posing as legitimate massage parlors. A temporary moratorium is in place, which can be lifted if needed. Use of goats to decrease excess fire fuel in open space has proved to decrease fires. May be used again.

Election of Officers: Dave Borton has stepped down as President. Gordon MacDermott was voted in as President. Chris Leinbach as Vice President, Ben Negrete as Treasurer, Vicki Fernandez as Secretary, and Anna Sellenreik, Richard Cunningham, Greg Reel, Dave Borton, and Daniel Alm will be Board members. Daniel volunteered during this meeting – welcome!

Treasurer's Report: Our balance on 31 Dec'14, after the Annual Picnic and the Holiday party expenses, is \$585.46. Our account is comprised of member dues and Raffle intake. All present were reminded that we are a nonprofit and all money collected goes to fund events. Our membership is lower than in recent years. We asked that people remind their interested neighbors to send in their dues so that we can continue to provide these fun events.

Hugo Landecker, from the Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association, spoke briefly re the impacts, and improvements, of the homeless issues in San Rafael. He praised the work the City has done to turn things around, but cautioned us to be aware of encampments in open space. Along with the debris, there is also risk of fires. All are encouraged to keep their eyes open, especially in what it appears will be another dangerous fire season.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Fernandez

