

NOPNA Board Meeting notes

Date: 5/24/05

Attendance: Tys, Jen, Paolo, Beth, Kevin, Debbie

Location: Debbie's house

Note, due to the low attendance number the meeting was a bit looser and more informal than previous meetings.

Financials

Paolo brought the budget v actual numbers to this meeting on his spreadsheet (I didn't get an extra copy, but you can email him to get it)

- As noticed in previous meetings, we have problems with reconciling where we are with advertising revenue because the process/communication is not clear.
- NOPNA continues to lose money each year
- One suggestion is to reduce the number of pages of the newsletter down to 4 from 8 to save money, with possibly having a more detailed version online

Newsletter

Discussion continued about reformatting the newsletter, to perhaps put more of the 'neighborhood gossip' items (what new businesses are going in, construction, etc) on the website and stick to just facts/news in the newsletter.

Tys suggested that we vote online with all board members about the decision to reduce the number of pages since we didn't have a quorum at the meeting. He also wanted to check with the printer to see how much we would save by reducing the pages.

Membership

Several felt that we should really focus on getting more individual members rather than businesses, since we exist more to serve neighbors than the businesses. Action item: organizing a 'membership day' where we actively solicit new members. Jen will talk to Leela about it.

Safety issues

All agree that the 'Respect' campaign went really well and discussed maybe setting up another day where a few of us go around to more blocks and distribute signs. We will definitely have the signs at the block party to hand out. Jen reported that the safety committee seems committed but may have trouble getting started and might need some leadership help from the board. They also may be more ad hoc and active only when issues come up.

News

Jen brought up the issue of residential, single-family homes getting torn down and 3-unit buildings built in their place. Specifically it is happening right next door to her house on Lyon St. and she wondered if we had any policies about NOPNA's position on non-commercial development. We agreed that we might have to take on this issue on a case-by-case basis. For example the pink church on Hayes was not of historical importance and the owner was very open and forthcoming about designing the new 3-story building

to fit in with the other buildings on the block. In Jen's case, the house that is to be torn down is one in a three house row that look like a mini-version of the painted ladies. And other single story homes have been torn down and replaced with 3-story 'Richmond special' looking buildings. Jen offered to see if other neighborhood groups had policies on this issue and will report back to the board.

2006 board and elections in Nov 2005 – Tys brought up that we need to start thinking now about recruiting new board members for 2006 and deciding if each of us wants continue on the board next year. Action item: to figure out a transition plan this summer.

Final item: a neighbor of Jen's on Lyon street, James, owns a green house that is very dilapidated. So much so that he lives the majority of the time in the east bay because his roofs leaks badly when it rains. There is also hazardous waste in his yard and access to it from the street that has attracted homeless campers. He told Jen and Chuck that he had gotten a letter from NOPNA telling him that he needs to clean up his house. We discussed that it didn't come from NOPNA (see email messages that clarify what happened) This led to a broader discussion about the transition of the neighborhood and whether James realizes what a gold mine he owns and could sell for a huge profit if he can't maintain his property vs having middle-class white folks push out people who have lived in the neighborhood for 50 years just because their house doesn't look nice. We didn't come to any resolution on this as it became much more a philosophical conversation.