



NORTH OF PANHANDLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

NOPNA Board Meeting Feb. 6, 2010, 9:00 AM

Board Attendees: Jarie, Kevin, Jane, Angela, Dan, Leela, Kandace (Quorum)

Visitors: Christian (ASNA), Sommer (Pres. DMA) & Remi (VP DMA)

Board Candidates: Eric Dudley, JJ Strahle, Kay Ewing, Kimery Leong

350 Divisadero Update

Background: 350 Divisadero (located at Oak & Divisadero) wants to open as a Medical Cannabis Dispensary (MCD). This location was previously an MCD in 2007. The federal government was going to seize the property and the owners abandoned.

Joseph Hunt came to a NOPNA meeting in March 2009 and proposed opening a boxing gym at this location. The owner requested a façade grant (which was denied) from the city, and have performed several improvements to the property.

Mr. Hunt's attorney Terrance Hallinan, filed a letter of determination in Oct. 2009 with the zoning administrator asking for an opinion about the change of use to a MCD at 350. (As background, Mr. Hallinan was a former DA). The planning department, in its opinion, stated that from a permitting point of view, it never changed use. NOPNA became aware of the change in status in January through a neighbor. We initially filed a jurisdiction request. We subsequently engaged pro bono counsel and filed a Letter of Determination (LOD) signed by ASNA, NOPNA and DMA. The Planning Commission has accepted our letter. Next step is unknown, but we are looking for some sort of appeals process. Our overall position is that public process was not followed. Ross Mirakarimi's office supports a public process. We are strategizing with counsel on various steps to take.

Attendees discussed and raised various questions and information learned

- What is current legislation? Are MCD's not taxed?
- What is the process around a "PCNN" – regarding limiting number of new MCDs, proving that it's not neighborhood serving
- Also noted that Mr. Hunt owns another MCD in the Mission (Mr. Nice Guy) and in Sept 2008 someone was murdered while leaving that facility. Raises question on patient safety issues and character

Legal counsel is J. Gregg Miller. He is an attorney at Pillsbury-Winthrop and he focuses primarily on land and real estate issues.

In discussing with other neighborhoods who have dealt with this issue in the past, observed the following steps were critical:

- Having beat cops present at hearings to testify
- Having diverse representation from the neighborhood

Expect to receive a response to our LOD response within the next couple weeks.

In the meantime, focus on planning what to do next.

Attendees also discussed what position NOPNA would formally take.

The main positions discussed were lack of public process, proprietor not a good neighbor, and impact on patient and public safety

Also discussed the need to identify and involve a point-person as someone to take the lead on the issue that is close to the location

- Suggestions – Adam Straus, Lisa Zahner, locally affected merchants



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MOTION PASSED – NOPNA position is we do not support 350 Divisadero as a MCD because there was no public process.

Divisadero Merchants Association (DMA) – brief discussion led by Sommer

DMA is going through and pulling together criteria regarding new businesses, including identifying red flags that might hinder existing businesses. (e.g., parking, safety) Currently DMA encompasses Geary to Haight and over 40 businesses are involved.

- Discussed the issues that arose regarding the proposed pre-school on Divisadero.
- Agreed to be more coordinated and communicate with DMA, ASNA and NOPNA
- Agreed to clarify that positions taken by neighbors do not necessarily reflect the position taken by the board (re Divisadero Pre-school).

Calendar of Events

- March meeting for Meet the Merchants – Jarie will look into whether Jannah would be interested in hosting
- Block Party
 - Will still be on B2B weekend
 - Who will coordinate this year?
 - Approach Adam Straus
 - NOPA Little Ones (Holly Ames)
 - Desi potentially to coordinate music
 - Kevin to approach David to gauge his interest in being involved this year
 - Possibly moving Grove between Baker & Lyon
- Sunday Streets
 - Will be in September
 - Involve safety group / parents group
 - Volunteer to have a welcoming/friendly intersection – the organization already has a framework
 - Dan will coordinate with Michael
 - Jane can coordinate with Parents group
 - Leela can coordinate with Safety

MOTION PASSED to move Board Retreat to first weekend in December (before holiday party)

Emeritus positions

- Board approved to make Suzanne Cowan publisher emeritus
- Board approved recognizing Larry Griffin as a Board Member Emeritus

Newsletter

- Board to get summary of content/newsletter topics
- Board to get electronic copy when the issue goes final

Tactical Guidelines Discussion

- Discussed the framework for proposals
 - 3-5 days to respond – put timeframe in subject line
 - Jarie to look into conference call service for having live discussions on controversial issues
- Informational communications



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Policy on purchasing material for volunteers

- Jarie to draft our policy

General Meetings

- Carve out time for allowing general announcements about events
- Thank you to our newsletter advertisers
- Standing agenda item to promote NOPNA membership

Bistro Gambrinus

- Trying to get hours extended beyond 9pm
- They are invited to present at our next general meeting

Finance/Budget Discussion

- Divisadero Grant was approved for \$36K for graffiti/etching removal and protection
 - NOPNA will receive \$1200 to administer the funds
 - Grant money when received will be deposited into a separate account
- DCYF Grant for \$1500
 - This is a Community Challenge Grant for authorized for safety expenses
 - Kevin to follow up on status
- T-shirts
 - Possibly use logo from contest
 - Need to follow-up with Ferris on whether we can re-use his artwork
 - Need to decide before block party on who will oversee and what we will order
- Funding request for NOPA little ones
 - They've historically had \$3000/year, but this is their last year for eligibility under the grant
 - For 2010, they would only need funding for Oct-Dec. (estimated at \$300-\$400)
 - **MOTION PASSED** to allocate \$400 for 2010 with expectation for a sustainability plan for future years
- Budget passed pending changes as discussed
 - Correction to Major Activities – newsletter expense
 - \$400 allocated to NOPA Little Ones
 - Allocate all \$1500 to Safety activities (no separate allocation)
 - Bike the block (\$200) and Networking (\$50/event)
 - Reduce holiday party expense to \$500

Strategic discussion

- Incorporate strategy discussion into our board meetings
- Revisit wording (respect, engage, inspire) and Jarie to re-circulate

Announcements

DPH – granted \$20K to organize the Masonic neighbors on fixing Masonic
NOPA Velo – had their first ride – ~40 people showed up



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West of Masonic, north of panhandle – consider more outreach and finding leaders – discuss at next board meeting

Leela is going to interview police chief in February – send email to Leela with any questions

Submitted by,
Angela Alvarado
NOPNA Treasurer