

East Sacramento Improvement Association

Minutes of the August 3, 2015 Board Meeting

Sacramento Room, Clunie Clubhouse

Attending: Paul Noble, Tom Griffith, Brian Augusta, Rich Clowdus, Ann Hamel, Brian Holloway, Nick Kufasimes, Kyle Mickiewicz

Absent: David Diepenbrock, Jim Hastings, Cyril Shah

President Pail Noble called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

Guest Presentations – *Invited Guests and ESIA members welcome*

1. 41st Street resident Nancy WOLFORD-LANDERS. Nancy, an ESIA member noted that her father was involved in ESIA in 1957 and the organization was challenging Mercy Hospital even then. Mercy will be building a sound wall behind the seven houses that abut hospital property on 41st Street. At issue is the height of the wall, which the neighbors want to be 8 feet high, but which Mercy and the contractor have alternately said 6 and 8 feet. In July 2013 Nancy submitted a petition requesting an 8 foot wall, signed by her and the other six neighbors, and received no response from Mercy. Paul contacted Mercy's COO and then the President in July of this year and received no response. Finally, after contacting Council Member Harris, Nancy received a letter from Mercy President Edmundo Castaneda informing her that an 8 foot wall will be built. However, Mercy has not yet submitted a revision to their approved plans which specify a 6 foot wall.

ACTION: We agreed that Paul would direct a letter, on paper and electronically to President Castaneda noting that we are aware of his written commitment to construct an 8 foot wall, and urging him to expedite the revision in plans necessary for Planning Department approval of the 8 foot wall. Copies to include Planning Director, Council Member Harris, Mrs, WOLFORD-LANDERS, and board members.

Note: Paul sent this letter on August 11. On August 13 he received confirmation from the Councilmember's staff that Mercy's architect has contacted Community Development re changing the plans to include an 8 foot wall.

Business Session – ESIA members welcome

2. Minutes. Minutes for the last meeting, July 6, 2015, were approved unanimously – motion by Brian Augusta, second by Paul. Tom agreed to do summaries of progress from each of our 2015 meetings for posting on the website.
3. Treasurer's Report. Brian Augusta distributed the August treasurer's report including the year-to-date cash flow (YTD cash flow) suggested earlier by Rich. Kyle recommended separating member dues and donation, agreed by consensus. Also in response to a suggestion from Rich, Brian provided reports showing income and expenses for 2013 and 2014. In 2013 expenses were \$7295, income was \$3283, for a net of \$-4012. In 2014 expenses were \$2295, income was \$2380, for a net of \$-85.
Ending balances as of 8/3/2015 were:

Checking	\$14,423.00
Savings	\$9,017.89
CD	\$11,571.48
YTD cash flow	\$4,403

Rich raised a question about the large amount of cash in checking not earning any interest. We unanimously approved a motion for the treasurer to move money from checking into savings as needed to earn interest. Motion by Brian Holloway second by Rich. Noting the total of our assets at over \$35,000, Rich also questioned the advisability of holding this much money. He asked if it might be inconsistent with our tax-exempt, nonprofit status. Kyle suggested we consider offering grants and volunteered to write a proposal. Brian Augusta suggested that we review past expenses and grants and consider what additional programs and activities to support in the future.

Executive Session – *ESIA board members only*

Old Business

4. Discussion of demolition at 525 40th Street (tabled from last meeting). Douglas Thompson, a neighbor of the house proposed for demolition, had submitted written comments on the deadline noting that this 100 year old house is one of the few remaining examples of small homes built in East Sacramento for railroad workers at Elvas Station. Unfortunately the house was demolished on the deadline because of approval granted the day before by Preservation Director Roberta Deering. Board members noted that this is another example of the preservation/planning process not working and that we may once again end up with a 2700 square foot house next to a classic one-story craftsman.
5. Membership campaign next steps (tabled from last meeting), and report on new members recruited by board members. Rich asked for clarification on the membership list Paul emailed the board. Rich recommended that we develop a strategy and begin our membership drive in January. There was agreement that we should include some social events for members. A large, perhaps full page in Inside East Sacramento was also suggested.
6. Report from Jim Hastings on his contact with Sacramento Steps Forward. Jim did not attend so this item was postponed.

New Business

7. Report from Land Use Committee on July 22 meeting. Paul noted that four problems and six potential solutions were identified in the meeting with neighbors who volunteered to work on the “bulkification” issue. He also reported that Council Member Harris has agreed to convene another meeting with Land Use Committee members and appropriate City staff to discuss the widespread concerns about demolitions and rebuilds in East Sacramento.
ACTION: Paul will email Councilmember Harris to recommended a meeting to focus on the first two solutions recommended. These are:
Recommend plans for the replacement structure be submitted before a demolition permit can be issued.

Require Design Director review of the demolition application, including the replacement plans, with the opportunity for neighborhood input.

Approved unanimously – motion by Brian Holloway, second by Kyle.

Note 1: Paul emailed this to Jeff Harris on August 12, attached.

Note 2: In response to the Board's concerns about front setbacks, the City's Law and Legislation Committee approved in their July 14 meeting a "technical cleanup" of building code reinstating the former East Sacramento setback, i.e., the minimum front setback cannot be less than the average of the setbacks of the two adjacent houses – and applying it throughout the city. It is expected that this should easily pass review by the Planning and Design Commission and City Council within a few weeks.

8. New flight patterns from SMF that impact East Sacramento. Based on Paul's email exchange with County Supervisor Phil Serna, including the information that flight routes are set by the FAA and that the route changes made in January were done to increase efficiency and promote safety, we agreed to take no action on this matter – motion by Kyle, second by Tom.

9. Open.

The board discussed Cyril Shah's frequent absences, noting that he has attended only one of the seven previous meetings this year. We agreed that Paul should contact Cyril and ask if he still wants to remain on the Board.

Rich reported that he has contacted John Marcotte of Biznerds and arranged for John to post new board members, bios and photos.

Brian Holloway invited the Board to his back yard for a social gathering. This may happen in place of our September (Labor Day) meeting.

Tom Recommended that board members have name tags to wear at public events, including general membership meetings and Pops in the Park that we sponsor; the board agreed. Ann will investigate having them made and report to the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Tom Griffith, Secretary