

East Sacramento Improvement Association

Minutes of the January 4, 2016 Board Meeting

Sacramento Room, Clunie Clubhouse

Attending: Paul Noble, Rich Clowdus, Tom Griffith, Jim Hastings, Nick Kufasimes,
Ann Murphy, Kyle Mickiewicz

Absent: Brian Augusta, David Diepenbrock, Brian Holloway

Guests: Susan Ballew, Alice McAuliffe, Neil Fairbanks, and three other members of the Preservation Sacramento committee working on the creation of a historic district on 38th Street

President Paul Noble called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Guest Presentations – *Invited Guests and ESIA members welcome*

1. Chair Susan Ballew and her committee members provided a second update on their work to establish a City of Sacramento Historic District on 38th Street between J Street and Folsom Boulevard, originally known as Maple Avenue. There are 50 homes on these two blocks, including a few four-plexes. Alice McAuliffe reported that she has researched and completed Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form 523 on all of the houses. These reports include dates of purchase of property, date of original building permit, original owner and occupation. She has spoken with 40 of the 50 owners; ten owners live out of town and she will contact them by mail. Of the 40, about 30 are supportive, 2 are opposed, and the rest indifferent. Agreement of neighbors is not required for the establishment of a historic district, but Ms. McAuliffe and committee members believe there are advantages to getting as much homeowner buy-in as possible. The initiative for a historic district can come from the Preservation Department, which currently includes only the Preservation Director, or from neighbors.

Committee members explained that a historic district imposes some restrictions on remodeling, such as restrictions on window replacement, but that these restrictions are limited. They are convinced, however, that the proposed historic district is likely to prevent or at least limit the demolition of houses and building of oversized houses in their place. The committee asked for endorsement from ESIA, which they feel will help advance their proposal. Their next step is a meeting with Council Member Jeff Harris.

Business Session – ESIA members welcome

2. Minutes. Minutes for the last meeting, November 2, 2015, were approved unanimously – motion by Nick, second by Tom. We again discussed the advisability of posting minutes on the website vs. summary of board progress. We agreed unanimously to add 2015 minutes to the website and continue posting minutes, at least until the end of Tom's term as secretary in May – motion by Rich, second by Tom.

3. Treasurer's Report. Brian Augusta was not present at the meeting.

Executive Session – ESIA board members only

Old Business

4. Refinement of Kyle's Project and Charities program. The program concept was approved in the November meeting. Tom suggested changing the name of the program, removing the non-profit question from the application, and having a deadline instead of reviewing on an as-received basis. We agreed by consensus to change the name to "ESIA Neighborhood Grants" and remove the 501c3 question from the Request for Funds form. We also agreed that promotion of grant opportunities will be done via the newsletter and website. Latest revision, 1-20-2016, is attached. We unanimously approved the grant application form – motion by Rich, second by Ann.
5. Website development. Rich reported that PageWeavers billed us for December, but did not charge us for migration of website data the from Biz Nerds server. Rich asked that payment be submitted in a timely manner. Rich has cleaned up the site, including updating board member profiles and links to appropriate legislators. He combined the News and Events sections and cleaned up the wording of the History section. He suggested we include a list of Orchid & Onion recognitions and the board agreed. Ann and Kyle volunteered to search their ESIA records for lists of Orchid & Onion recipients. Rich's next project is to work with Brian Augusta to get PayPal and the membership form on the site. Rich noted that he has been able to make these changes at no cost to the Association.

New Business

6. Discussion of Josh Pane's presentation at the last meeting. The proposal is to erect a six or seven story "public market" on Capitol Avenue near Sutter Hospital. Plans include parking and shops below and apartments on the top floor. No action was taken.
7. Discussion of the 38th Street Historic District proposal. The Board was impressed with the amount of work the committee has done to advance this proposal and agrees that this two-block historic district might dissuade builders and the planning department from building over-size houses there. We also agreed with the committee that this initial effort might stimulate the development of more, larger historic districts in East Sacramento. We voted unanimously in favor of endorsing development of the 38th Street Historic District – motion by Tom, second by Ann. Paul will share a draft for board members' review.
8. Disposition of funds from MENA earmarked for McKinley Park. Paul and former MENA board members present reminded the board that this earmark was part of the MENA/ESIA merger agreement. We voted unanimously to transfer \$7,070.75 to Friends of East Sacramento for their ongoing work in improving the Park – motion by Tom, second by Ann.
9. Strategies for 2016 membership drive. We agreed to make this the primary topic of the February meeting and invite Cecily Hastings to advise us.