

East Sacramento Improvement Association

**Minutes of the June 1, 2015 Board Meeting**

Sacramento Room, Clunie Clubhouse

Attending: Paul Noble, David Diepenbrock, Ann Hamel, Jim Hastings, Kyle Mickiewicz, Nick Kufasimes, Rich Clowdus

Absent: Tricia Stevens, Tom Griffith, Brian Augusta, Brian Holloway, Cyril Shah

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

**Guest Presentations – *Invited Guests and ESIA members welcome***

1. **Proposed new Irish Pub restaurant at former site of La Fiesta Mexicana restaurant on Elvas.** Ciaran McCullagh lives in Arden Park and is formerly an East Sac resident; he recently purchased the La Fiesta location and business, at 6438 Elvas Ave. (at 65<sup>th</sup> St.) from the former owners, who retired. He's begun interior demolition and will soon present his plans to the city for The Knot, an Irish Pub. The building's size will increase by 600 SF to 3,000 SF and it would serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. He has many contacts in the local soccer world and expects significant business from them (and will feature streaming European soccer). He is partnering with Evan of Evan's Kitchen, who'll supervise the food (an expanded pub food menu) and obtained ABC approval for a full liquor license. However, the ABC limited his hours, and he's appealing, seeking longer nighttime hours. He has extensive restaurant experience, as does his brother (and his wife) who will consult; they have 5 Marin county eateries. Parking will be challenging before dinner but Elvas (east) and other parking spots will be available after 6:00. The board noted that the location will minimally affect nearby residents, and is surrounded by commercial/industrial uses. Lt. Faulkner (below) expressed support on behalf of the SPD. He expects to open by year-end.  
**ESIA Membership Campaign Thoughts and Ideas**  
Cecily Hastings provided a one-page 'hand-out' which she reviewed, covering successful strategies used in MENAs early years to increase membership, and suggestions to increase **ESIA membership**. The board expressed its appreciation for the many thoughtful ideas, including letters to new homeowners, an annual dinner and accepting dues via Paypal.  
**Sacramento PD Update**

Lt. Glenn Faulkner covered three items. NextDoor.com – people don't know the police don't see 'people-to-people' communications, and he recommended they use the 'share' tab - crime & public safety - to notify the police of suspicious activities, etc. Sacramento Steps Forward – Ryan Loofbourrow, formerly with the Sac Downtown Ptnrship, is Exec. Director. A non-government non-profit, it has \$1 million from the city to combat homelessness on the Alhambra corridor, over the next 2 years. Citywide, 11-12% of police calls are transient-related and Alhambra (C to R Sts.) is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most impacted area, after downtown. In June, Sacramento Steps Forward is using 'Navigators' to connect folks with services: psychiatric, medical vets, property owners. June 3<sup>rd</sup>, councilman Harris is meeting with Alhambra-corridor commercial/residential owners (incl. Sutter Hosp.) to discuss joining the Midtown Business Association. Better communication between property owners on Alhambra can facilitate more effective work on the homeless issue.



## **Business Session – ESIA members welcome**

1. Minutes. Rich added that he wasn't at this meeting, and asked to add language re: the \$6,638.75 McKinley-designated MENA check. Nick said his neighbors had 'requested' approval for 2 hour parking (item 10.). As amended, unanimously approved – motion by David, second by Ann.
2. Treasurer's Report. Brian Augusta provided an emailed report. Paul will clarify new membership funds received and other sources of funds deposited in May; full report to come at next month's meeting.

## **Executive Session – ESIA board members only**

### **Old Business**

1. Orchid-Onion Awards. After double-checking the votes, Paul reported an Orchid tie between 33<sup>rd</sup> & Folsom and the 37<sup>th</sup> & J St. building. The clear Onion winner is Express Furniture at 51<sup>st</sup> & Folsom. He will prepare two awards for the two Orchid winners, to be presented at the June 13<sup>th</sup> Pops concert. Paul claimed he'd have an Onion award prepared, but doubted anyone would appear to receive the prestigious honor.
2. Pops in the Park. Paul reported that we still need a few folks for both the June 13<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup> events. The city's volunteer crew will pitch in at all Pops concerts this year.

### **New Business**

1. Discussion of new Irish Pub, The Knot, on Elvas Avenue. The board was supportive of the new venture. Paul will send a letter of support to whomever Mr. McCullagh or his representative, Kyle, identify with the city planning/building depts.
2. An ESIA membership drive and Cecily's presentation were discussed. Several board members were impressed with the many good suggestions. Paul will add a new membership campaign, and an ad hoc committee to study same, on next month's meeting agenda.
3. David led the board's discussion on the city's current zoning ordinances and practices, which encourage 'bulkification'. Paul will email the volunteers who signed up at the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting on this subject, to elicit examples of bad construction. He will also email councilman Harris to ask for an update on the council/city's clean-up of the zoning ordinance, as was promised late last year. No one with the board has seen any evidence of any zoning ordinance changes.
4. Paul initiated discussion about the Ethics and Transparency Reform initiative sponsored by the League of Women voters and Eye on Sacramento. The board voted 7-2 (with 3 no preferences) against emailing members to advertise a May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting at Clunie. Paul and Nick reminded the board that, to avoid 'spamming' its members, the Board approved a policy requiring board approval (majority) of any ESIA member email blast. The discussion centered on whether a single-topic email to members carried an implicit assumption that



ESIA supported the neighborhood group or its cause. No one present suggested that ESIA formally supported this group's efforts. The board agreed that, to avoid the appearance of tacit support for any cause, it would be better included with other information-only items in an email blast. As well, it was noted that ESIA sends only the occasional email blast, which can magnify the import of any specific email. More frequent email blasts on varied subjects could diminish this perception.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.  
Minutes by Rich Clowdus