

East Sacramento Improvement Association

Minutes of the October 6, 2014 Board Meeting

Sacramento Room, Clunie Clubhouse

Members Attending: Paul Noble, Tricia Stevens, Tom Griffith, Brian Augusta, Ann Hamel, Nick Kufasimes, Cyril Shah

Members Absent: Kyle Mickiewicz, David Diepenbrock

Guest: Steve Hansen

President Paul Noble called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm.

Guest Presentation – *Invited guests and ESIA members welcome*

1. Steve Hansen, City Council member representing downtown, midtown, and Land Park is leading the opposition to Measure L, the “strong mayor initiative” on the November ballot. He provided background and presented his arguments against the proposition. The mayor would be able to veto budget items and ordinances such as the recent pond renovation in Land Park. A difficult-to-achieve 6 to 8 vote would be required to overturn mayoral vetoes. The mayor would be able to fire the city manager, making the position more political. Vested interests such as developers would be more likely to influence election of the mayor. Cities that have changed to a strong mayor are not likely to change back because of “default bias.” The neighborhood associations that have taken a position are all opposing the measure.

Business Session – ESIA members welcome

2. Minutes. Minutes for the last meeting, September 1, were approved unanimously – motion by Nick, second by Tricia.
3. Treasurer’s Report. The report showed expenses of \$100 for Kid’s Day donation and \$527.10 for the newsletter. Income from dues was \$70. Ending balances were:

Checking	\$3,601.84
Savings	\$9,008.88
CD	\$11,509.54

Executive Session – *ESIA board members only*

Old Business

4. Candidates Forum. The consensus was that both the assembly and council forums went well. Turnout was high enough that we had to add seats; Paul estimated 75-80 attended.
5. Proposed revisions to membership dues. Tom reviewed his earlier proposal regarding changes to membership dues:

- Retain annual membership fee at \$15 for the calendar year
- Add a three-year membership option for \$40
- Add a lifetime membership for \$150
- Clarify that “membership” pertains to all the adult members of the household
- In conjunction with PayPal, have a membership form in the Membership link of the website. The form could be fillable, i.e., members could type then print or print the blank form and write on it.
- List members and membership category in Membership link on website.
- List those who donate each year in the website with a “Thank you.” Refresh each year in January.

It was noted that our bylaws state that changing membership dues requires a vote of our membership. After some discussion we agreed that this recommendation adds membership options and does not constitute a change in our existing \$15 annual membership. Paul noted that these additional options should be added to our bylaws...and that we do not have an electronic version of the bylaws. He asked Tom to type them, Tom agreed. Tom volunteered to draft a membership form for the board’s review.

The proposal was approved unanimously – motion by Tricia, second by Ann.

Note: Will we also collect email addresses from other adult members of the household and include them in emails? Can all vote?

6. ESIA subcommittee progress reports. Paul noted that the recommendations from subcommittees consisting of two or more board members can come to the board as seconded motions. We took these actions, committee chairs in parentheses:
 - Land Use (Paul), attached, approved unanimously
 - Community Amenities, formerly Parks, (Brian) – discussed, will revisit after Brian reviews with committee
 - Public Safety (Tricia) – attached, approved unanimously
 - Communication (Kyle)

New Business

7. Measure L: Do we take a stance as an organization?

The board was impressed with Steve Hansen, presentation. Given that our membership is probably divided, the board agreed to not take a position on Measure L.

8. Report on effort to designate 1224 44th Street as historically significant (Tom)

Tom reported on the disappointing preservation hearing he and his wife attended at the planning department and the preservation director’s refusal to allow any discussion of planned additions to the nominated house. The board discussed Tom’s draft letter that Paul and the presidents of MENA and ESP are considering sending to the Preservation Commission, attached. The board voted in favor of supporting the draft letter – moved Ann, seconded Nick. There was also agreement that the president should seek board consensus when representing the board, as he did in this case.

Note: As a result of later discussions with preservation staff, the letter was not sent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm

Tom Griffith, Secretary

Land Use Subcommittee

The members of the Land Use Subcommittee (Paul, Tom, David and Kyle) met to develop a proposed charge for the group. We present the following as a seconded motion to the Board for its consideration:

The charge of the Land Use Subcommittee shall be the following:

- Reviews requests from City Planning and Preservation Staff, investigates if necessary, and recommends action to the Board.
- Works with appropriate City staff to clarify our role in the project approval process.
- Works with our Council Member, Planning Department and others to develop recommendations for the Board concerning limitations on size and design of remodels, rebuilds, new construction and repurposing of permitted land uses.
- Addresses other land use issues brought to the attention of the Board.

ESIA Safety Committee
September 30, 2014

I. Responsibilities of Safety Committee

A. Areas of Responsibility:

- Pedestrian and Bicycling Safety
- Traffic Safety
- Crime and Law Enforcement

B. Activities of Safety Committee

- Monitor activities of City
- Get involved in ongoing City committees, including the City Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee
- Make recommendations to ESIA Board
- Be proactive and initiate programs to increase safety in East Sacramento
- *Provide education programs to East Sacramento residents*

II. Potential Action Items

- Address homeless issues at McKinley Park
- Investigate recycling center at Safeway and crime-related issues
- Investigate City Police Department allocation of resources to East Sacramento, including POP officer assignments
- Investigate security initiatives for East Sac, including special assessment for private security
- Promote and help coordinate Neighborhood Watch groups
- Monitor McKinley Village tunnel issues

III. Assignments:

- Ann – verify Police Department contact
- Tricia – research City committees
- Nick – research City issues

Potential Action Items for Safety Committee

Preservation Commissioners, Director, and Council Member Cohn :

This is a joint expression of our strong reservations regarding the nomination of 1224 44th Street as a historic landmark. We would hope that the first nomination for a landmark residence in East Sacramento would be well communicated, would inform the public about historic preservation and, most important, would be exemplary. Unfortunately this nomination is none of these.

Communication. Our three neighborhood associations, East Sacramento Improvement Association (ESIA), McKinley East Sacramento Neighborhood Association (MENA), and East Sacramento Preservation (ESP) were not provided copies of the nomination for Landmark status that was prepared by an environmental consultant. We were also not sent notice of the hearing, thus depriving us of input on the nomination – a significant exclusion. A notice of the hearing was sent to neighbors. Unfortunately, this notice offered no information or links to the preservation criteria, nomination process, or landmarks in the current registry.

The House. The nomination states that this house has features, "...that reflect Colonial Revival design." There are many iconic houses in East Sacramento that do not just "reflect" but are excellent examples of Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Tudor, Italianate, and other styles of architecture. The nomination also references the prominence of the original owner, William Rooney, office manager for Wright and Kimbrough. As shown at in the histories of the 480 houses in Amanda Meeker's masters project on Tract 24, there are many original owners of greater prominence than Mr. Rooney.

Preservation. ESIA board member Tom Griffith attended the hearing. He reports that he attempted to ask questions about the relationship of the landmark nomination and the pending remodel of the house. We were astonished to learn that the Preservation Director would not allow any questions or discussion of proposed changes to the exterior. The general contractor was willing to explain the remodel, but was not allowed to. How can an informed preservation determination be made without considering the significant changes that are proposed for this house? Tom talked with the general contractor after the hearing and learned that current plans include replacing the sunroom on the south side of the house with a two-story addition, adding a second story above the porte-cochere on the north side, and other additions in the rear. Rather than preserved as an original, the house apparently will be noticeably larger. "Preserve" is usually defined as to keep in original or unaltered state.

There is a troubling trend in East Sacramento, the remodeling and rebuilding of homes with the "new" house being much larger than the original. This problem is on the minds of many residents and is a priority that our associations hope to address. We fear that landmark status for this house will not instill confidence in the City's preservation process. Worse, it may become an embarrassment. We urge you to withhold approval of this nomination until preservation staff and our associations work together toward initial and subsequent East Sacramento landmark designations of which we may all be proud.

Sincerely,
Paul Noble, ESIA President
Ellen Cochran, ESP President
Deane Dana, MENA President