



## MINUTES

Mission Hills Town Council  
TOWN HALL MEETING  
Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 6:00 p.m.  
@Francis Parker School, 4201 Randolph St

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**6:00 – 6:15 p.m. Social Networking**

**6:15 p.m. Call to Order** – PRESIDENT Mark Fehlman

**Introduction of New Trustees:** Jasper Benke, Dick Disraeli, Lara Gates, Sharon Gehl, Gary Nordstrom, Frans van der Lee

**2011 Officers:** Mark Fehlman: President, Lara Gates: Vice President, Sharon Gehl: Treasurer, Karen Valentino: Secretary

**2011 Committee Heads:** Finance: Sharon Gehl & Karen Foreman, Membership: Jasper Benke and Frans van der Lee, Public Facilities: Warren Shafer, Arts: Lara Gates, Business Enhancement Committee: Paul Dean & John Lomac

**Presentation of Business Award to Albertsons:** Barb Strona and Karen Valentino presented Ben Hernandez from Albertsons with a business award in recognition of their many contributions to the neighborhood (especially the 4<sup>th</sup> of July) and the fantastic remodel of the store.

### Introduction of Government Officials or their Representatives

**Congresswoman Susan Davis 619-280-5353**

Ricardo Flores, from Susan Davis' office, distributed the Davis Dispatch newsletter and spoke about the Congresswoman's reaction to the tragedy in Arizona. She plans to remain accessible to her constituents.

**CA Senator Christine Kehoe 619-645-3133**

Jason Weisz, from Christine Kehoe's office, distributed a newsletter with the latest information from the legislature. He reminded everyone that the state will not be sending out the tax booklet this year, but that they can be picked up at the post office or local library.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark Fehlman	PRESIDENT
Lara Gates	VICE PRESIDENT
Sharon Gehl	TREASURER
Karen Valentino	SECRETARY
Jasper Benke	
Richard Disraeli	
Karen Foreman	
Gary Nordstrom	
Scott Sandel	
Warren Shafer	
Frans van der Lee	

**Assemblywoman Toni Atkins                      619-645-3090**

Tim Orozco, from Toni Atkins' office, spoke about her recent swearing in, the various committees she will be serving on in Sacramento, and that she will be the Majority Whip in the Assembly. He distributed a press release about the state budget. The office will soon be moving to Bankers Hill.

**Report from the President & Membership Request:** Mark Fehlman summarized the many activities and events the Town Council was involved with last year along with other Mission Hills organizations, including the Vons project, Mission Nights, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and the Farmers Market. He spoke about some of the ideas generated from the Trustees' planning retreat earlier in the month. These include a tree planting day, public art projects, Pioneer Park upgrades, etc. Membership participation is highly encouraged, and sign-up sheets were passed around during the meeting.

**Update on Undergrounding and Street Lighting:** Paul Schulman presented an update on the undergrounding going on in District 2 Block 2E, and the historic street lighting that will occur as the undergrounding winds up. Staff members from the City were in attendance, including project manager Jihad Sleiman, Mario Reyes, Rick Mathis, James Bajet, Drew Potoki, and Graham Hufford, who answered questions regarding the project. Paul is forming a committee to help select the lighting specifications (Paul can be reached at [imradman@cox.net](mailto:imradman@cox.net) if interested in participating). These will then be submitted to the city by the summer, and there will be a closed bidding process to select the contractor. Timing for completion of the whole project is about 12-18 months.

A number of questions were asked about the repaving process, and the organization of the undergrounding components (water vs sewer vs telephone lines). More improvements will happen as the process continues, because paving and curb access are the last parts of the project to be completed. The workmen on the project were complimented for their courtesy.

Drew Potoki, one of the City arborists, spoke about tree replacements during the undergrounding project. He said that not many existing trees were impacted, but new trees are available. Since the project has taken a long time, some of the original homeowners who signed up to receive new trees have moved away. He suggested an announcement in the local newspaper to alert residents to the fact that replacement trees are available. He also spoke about lack of funding to trim street trees for general maintenance (the street division will trim trees that block right-of-ways: call 619 527 7500). He mentioned that neighborhood business groups in North Park, Golden Hill and Pacific Beach have been able to use city contractors to trim trees for a group of residents/businesses at a greatly reduced

cost. The Street Division should be called at the above number to obtain the necessary permit, which is free.

**Vons Construction:** Page Winkler from MCG Architecture displayed the final rendering of the new Vons storefront. The permit has completed the first round of review by the City, and demolition will begin after final approval, which is expected in March. Vons has a 9 month timeline for the project, but realistically it will probably be finished in closer to 12 months. Some of the final details, such as public art on the walls, are still to be decided, but were recognized as an important design element by the planning commission.

**Parks Update:** Lara Gates presented an update on a number of neighborhood parks:

- **West Lewis Pocket Park:** This is on West Lewis and Falcon, and has been in the works since 2003, with funding available since 2005. The project has finally gone out to bid, and will contain seating areas, art and some bird interpretative signage. This is expected to be completed by the summer. On the Goldfinch side, the lookout with the copper clad posts and poetry is overgrown and the posts need restoration. Lara is drawing up her ideas and plans and would like some volunteers to help with the project. The Town Council received a bequest to be used for public art, and Lara's new committee will help implement the bequest. One idea is to add a bench with a view of the canyon in honor of the benefactor.
- **Pioneer Park:** The initial fund-raising a couple of years ago was spent on refurbishing the Tot Lot. The City was supposed to use ADA funds to redo the public restrooms, but this money has never materialized. There is about \$30,000 remaining from the initial fund-raising, and a number of ideas on how to spend it, including possible alternatives to the bandstand used for the Concerts in the Park. This project will be a focus for the Town Council in 2011 and there will be more discussion at the April Town Hall meeting.

**Food Drive Update:** Lara Gates provided an update on the Mission Hills contribution to the San Diego Food Bank million pound food drive before the holidays. Collection bins were put up at The Gathering, Sothebys and Mission Hills Fabric Care. We will find out soon how much we were able to collect with short notice, and then have a bigger drive next year.

**Cell Phone Reception Improvement Plans:** Sharon Gehl provided a map of the neighborhood and asked for residents to mark areas of poor coverage for the various cell phone providers. The carriers did not respond to inquiries a few years ago, but it is worth trying again. Sharon asked for some technical assistance, and also for any realtors to help her document areas of poor reception.

**Street Tree Maintenance:** Lara Gates reiterated some of Drew Pataki's comments and encouraged neighbors and businesses to work together to get lower costs for

street tree trimming. There is a digital map of all city street trees, and the Town Council should work with the BID and other neighborhood organizations to formulate a working plan for tree trimming.

**Public Comment:**

John Bertsch, from the Meshugga Shack, asked for support from the Town Council in designating a 15 minute parking zone in front of Ascent Realty on Ft. Stockton and/or repainting the red zone curb in front of his coffee bar as a 15-minute space.

Other suggestions for follow up were: adding a left turn signal on Goldfinch at Washington; asking the city about the sidewalk improvements along Goldfinch (replacing the curb cuts in front of the old Mission Hills TV); painting over the graffiti in Pioneer Park; and traffic improvements in Presidio Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Valentino  
Secretary

BECOME A MEMBER, BE A VOTING PARTICIPANT.

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