

MNA Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2010

Board members present: Matt Piner, William Burg, Vivian Gerlach, Margaret Piner, Karen Jacques, Bruce Holmes, Marion Millin

Guests: Casey Kirk (Sacramento Press), David Roberts, Steve Cohn, Chris Little

No treasurer's report, bank balance \$4672.37

Vivian turned in receipts for 2 years' renewal for website. Matt turned in a receipt from printing membership renewal/ballot forms.

Minutes: Vivian posted: Matt moved, Bruce seconded, passed unanimously.

Feedback on Neighborhood Advisory Group: (NAG): Per Bruce, NAG cannot sponsor a candidate event because they are a city-sponsored function. Candidates can present themselves at NAG, but NAG cannot present itself as a forum. Given that there is probably not sufficient time to set up our own Midtown specific event, we will spread the word about the upcoming candidates' forum in River Park via our email list and website.

NAG: Ideas to generate renewed interest in NAG: Members provided feedback; Vivian feels like there is so much info that there is no opportunity to go in-depth on any one item and residents aren't given an opportunity to provide feedback - when developers come they are simply there to inform, not to discuss. Karen felt that some of the topics presented at NAG are less relevant to central city residents, and there is growing cynicism regarding early notification. Matt thinks the name "NAG" has a negative connotation. The fact that a lot of people show up because of controversy reinforces the negative attitude; would prefer a more positive, proactive approach vs. the more negative-seeming attitude of NAG. Karen thinks we have a new window of opportunity with the new city manager. Bruce said that NAG was the model for public community meetings when the city's neighborhood services department was far more fully staffed. Another issue is poor attendance at the agenda meeting. Karen mentioned it was hard to make it to the noon meeting. Karen mentioned CCAN (Central City Alliance of Neighborhoods.) (Pause)

Candidate for City Council District 3, Chris Little: Board members listed some of the things we like about this neighborhood and what we prioritize. Chris described growing up in Sacramento and his involvement in neighborhood/community participation including the Planning Academy. Bruce mentioned that MNA does not endorse candidates as a board.

Candidate for City Council District 3, Steve Cohn: Board members listed some of the things we like about neighborhood and what we prioritize. Steve interjected based on current city efforts and plans of other organizations like Regional Transit and Midtown Business Association. There was much discussion about the over-concentration of single uses (bars, etc.) in the central city vs. a more diverse model that promotes more residents and transit. Councilmember Cohn brought up the subject of Marijuana

dispensaries. We said that they thus far we have not heard of any problems. Mr. Cohn stated that we should consider not taking a one size fits all approach to regulating them and that a policy that would effectively ban them from the central city would not be right for those that have legitimate medical needs.

Mail-out of ballots/renewals: Vivian has the envelopes, ballots printed, Vivian and Margaret will coordinate a letter-stuffing evening.

Concert in the Park: Margaret is working on securing help from Girl Scouts for volunteer participation.

Responsible Hospitality Institute letter: Karen went over history of RHI's involvement in identifying Midtown problems and opportunities. Tuesday April 27th at 3 PM is date for all participant meeting. Meeting takes place at MBA office, 1716 L Street. Steve Cohn states there has been some follow up on MBA's part to the RHI report, but this follow up has not been communicated to neighborhood stakeholders. Steve is talking with Rob Kerth about what can be done to continue this process and open communication, including best practices. Some suggestions (lighting and parking) have been implemented. MBA has hired 2 new people.