

San Jacinto Neighborhood Association Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: March 11, 2015 7 PM

Location: Hotel Galvez

Attendees: Alice O'Donell, Brenda Donoloio Lee, Patrick Geary, Karen Geary, Nancy Neil, Tome Schwenk, Tom Norrell, Debbie Sparkma, Craig Brown, Angela Brown, Richard Batie, Sherrie and Ralph Bender, Barbara Canetti, Rosa Morgan, Patrick Sully, Denice Franke, Allison Buchtien, Julie Ann Brown, Lee Glover, Sylvia and Andy Horne, Laura Wilde, Recie Kraemer, Lynne Tomlinson, Kay Sandor

Meeting Notes by: Allison Buchtien

Approval of Minutes from February Meeting: Tom Schwenk makes motion to approve minutes, Fred Huddleston seconded. No discussion. All voted in favor to approve minutes.

Galveston Police Department- Sgt. Sanderson

Sgt. Sanderson was introduced by Richard Batie, who will be the SJNA contact with GPD. The sergeant said that a GPD representative could attend each of our neighborhood association meetings. He was gathering information on what we would like to hear from GPD. Neighbors mentioned we would like to know about any crime information for the neighborhood. Also, the Citizens Police Academy was brought up. A presentation about this program could be scheduled for one of our meetings. (Link to info: <http://www.galvestonpolice.net/official/?p=938>)

Treasurer Report:

Tom reported that our bank account balance is \$1952.94. The CD balance is \$6416.70. (see attachment for full check register)

Also during a previous month in 2013, the board approved for SJNA to split the fees with Tom to pay for the Constant Contact account that he uses personally and was using to send the Eblasts for SJNA. Tom has not sought reimbursed for these fees and continues to donate the account usage for the email correspondence for SJNA.

Guest Speaker:

Alice Ann O'Donell (Houston Audubon Board of Directors) A Birder's perspective of feral cats
Galveston is famous as a migration point.

There are two times when a bird is at risk for predators:

1. When they have their young
2. Spring Migration

Peak spring migration is the third and fourth week of April. It's necessary to watch outdoor cats at this time of the year. Cats are predators and it's a natural instinct for them to go for birds. Thousands of birds each year are lost to being preyed on by cats.

Alice Ann believes the proposed Feral Cat Ordinance has good things for homeowners and birders. However, a trap, neuter, and release program won't control cats. Responsible ownership is a better solution.

The proposed ordinance has 4 components:

1. Cats cannot be released into nature preserves
2. Active feeding of feral cats is prohibited
3. Property owners can trap cats that come onto their property
4. Property owners who trap cats can request that the cat be treated humanely

Report from City Councilman Craig Brown: (feral cats)

Feral cats: CM Brown was contacted by District 2 residents complaining about the feral cat problem. According to the Animal Services Board on the island, the number of cats on the island increase 20% per year. Brown and the Board developed the ordinance. He took it to environmental groups, birders, etc. for input. The ordinance will be presented at the March 26 city council meeting. The ordinance addresses public education, being a good pet owner, fines for indiscriminately feeding cats, a euthanasia system, and allows for a trap/neuter/release program for certain situations.

The plan is to have ordinance approved and then seek funds for additional traps.

Board Members Reports:

a. Karen Geary (Bryan Museum): Neighbors met with Mr. Bryan and his staff regarding the potential parking issues with cars and buses. The crisis center that he purchased and is adjacent to the museum will be demolished and the property will become the parking lot. Also, no additional buildings will be brought onsite, as was previously drawn on a site plan. Neighbors were told that no buses will park on the street as they have an agreement with O'Connell High School to use their bus lot after hours and on weekends. Mr. Bryan changed his proposal with the planning commission in regards to the parking issues and this was approved.

b. Richard Batie (Picnic and Police Reports): The picnic date is TBD, but will be sometime in April or May. Watch the Eblasts for updates!

c. Julie Ann Brown (Membership and Signs): There are 45 paid members this year and 15 new members. Dues are due once a year, usually in January. Please pay if you have not done so yet.

d. Joanne Griffin (Lost Bayou): not present

e. Kay Sandor (Garden): The garden will be part of the Chicken Shack Strut again this year on Saturday April 4th. This event benefits Project S.I.T. which is the Seawall Interpretive Trail. (<http://www.artistboat.org/project-s-i-t.html>) ***Kay is looking for volunteers to help with the visitors. Please contact her at 409-599-5609 or kay.sandor@gmail.com***

f. Brenda Lee (GAIN): Tom Schwenk is the new GAIN president. At the meeting they discussed the new neighborhood associations that are being formed on the island and how to assist them. The yearly goals were also discussed.

g. Sylvia Horner (South Beach): If anyone is interested in serving on the committee or attending a meeting, contact Sylvia at sylviahorne@yahoo.com

Councilman Brown's Report cont:

Thanks were given to the SJNA subcommittee who provided comments to the Land Development Regulations (LDR). All of the suggestions were incorporated in the LDR.

There were two issues that were modified during council's approval of the LDR that were different from what the SJNA LDR subcommittee requested. These issues were dealing with permitting of parking lots and parking structures that are not adjacent to a business and permitting places of public/private assembly. Residents present at the meeting on 3/11/15 voted to not allow parking lots and parking structures in the neighborhood. There were questions regarding what exactly would be allowed for places of public/private assembly. This issue was tabled. CM Brown would be bringing up the parking lots/structures issue at the council meeting on 3/12/15 to have them not allowed within San Jac.

To change any part of the LDR at future dates would require the neighborhood to go to the zoning board for approval.

Announcements:

A **Pot Luck** is going to be held at Nancy Neil's home at 2025 Ave M from 5-7 pm on Saturday March 14th. Please bring a dish to share. Nancy is also heading up the task to gather recruits to hold future get togethers. Contact Nancy if you wish to hold a Pot Luck! (nneil31@gmail.com)

San Jac neighbor, Rachel Stokes will be part of an art show benefitting the Galveston Island Humane Society and Access Care of Coastal Texas, Inc. A preview party will be held at Affaire d'Art (23rd & Postoffice) on Friday April 17th from 5-8 pm. There will also be door prizes!

Featherfest is happening April 9th - 12th and early morning volunteers are needed. Contact Julie Ann Brown if you'd like to help. (julieannbrown@cs.com)

Councilman Craig Brown

Craig Brown contact info: craigbrown@cityofgalveston.org or 409-692-3638

District 2 Updates: www.craigbrownfordistrict2.com

CONTINUING EFFORTS:



San Jacinto Clean up Team: Look for our next Saturday work date followed by breakfast at ShyKatz soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 11: The East End Historical District will be putting on the play The Odd Couple. SNJA resident Andy Horne will be performing! (18th and Church)

**April 18: McGuire-Dent Recreation Center Healthy Living Event
Adopt a Beach event- sign in at 27th and Seawall 9am**

Helpful information

Street Sweeping Schedule: 2nd Tuesday of the Month - North & East Side of Streets (Even Address)
4th Tuesday of the Month - South & West Side of Streets (Odd Address)



Large Debris/Trash Removal:

If you notice a large amount of trash contact City of Galveston Public Works and they will remove it ASAP. Make sure to have location/address of debris.

Contact info: 409-797-3630 or publicworks@cityofgalveston.org

Recycling Options:

The City of Galveston offers **FREE** home collection to residents who are elderly or disabled. To sign up for this service please call **409-741-1446** or email

publicworks@cityofgalveston.org

Crews will collect materials the second Friday and Saturday of the month, excluding holidays. *Note: items must be separated.*



Galveston Urban Ministries offers a home collection service for \$30/month and they provide a bin. The items do not need to be separated. Items will be picked up once a week. To sign up for this, contact lewis@galvestonurbanministries.org or call 409-497-2460.



Nextdoor San Jac Community:

There is an online community for San Jac/Lost Bayou residents. If you would like to join go to <https://nextdoor.com/invite/hbndnvwvyxeuehxjsary> Here residents talk about activities in the neighborhood/city, crime, missing pets, etc. Other neighborhoods in Galveston are also active on the website and it is possible to communicate with them as well. There is also an app for your Smartphone!