



GERSTLE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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Minutes

GPNA 2024 Annual Neighborhood Meeting

February 7, 2024 | 6-9 PM

Elks Lodge – 1312 Mission Ave., San Rafael, CA 94901

(Meeting also Broadcast via ZOOM)

- Introduction of Current GPNA Board and Board Candidates
- Voting for Board Candidates (7): **Alicia diVittorio** (renewing), **Katie Fleet** (new), **Brenda Goeden** (new), **Lawrence Grodeska** (new), **Sandra Luna** (renewing), **Marlo Schrader** (new), and **Gina Silvestri** (renewing)
- Board Members Retiring as of 2/7/24 (3): **Thomas Heinz** (Treasurer), **Denise Van Horn** (Recording Secretary), **Josselyn Robertson** (Member)
- Voting results: All members were elected.
- 2024 GPNA Board of Directions effective 2/7/24 (9): **Michael Bruel**, **Alicia diVittorio**, **Katie Fleet**, **Brenda Goeden**, **Lawrence Grodeska**, **Sandra Luna**, **Kim McGinnis**, **Marlo Schafer**, **Gina Silvestri**
- 2023 Annual meeting notes approval: Amy Likover moved, Tom Oblatz seconded, approved by a voice vote.
- Budget review: Members encouraged to renew their memberships. Joe Likover moved, Stacy Laumann seconded, approved by a voice vote.
- Treasurer’s Report (submitted by 2023 GPNA Treasurer Tom Heinz)

Treasurer’s Report

2023 Beginning Balances:

Core GPNA Account \$18,943.00

Non-profit Marin Link Account* \$15,850.00

TOTAL \$34,793.01

2023 Expenses:

Administrative Costs 358.07

GPNA Events \$ 1,489.55

Total 2023 Expenses \$ 1,847.62

Treasurer’s Report

2023 Income:

2022 Membership Dues \$ 628.49*

Donations \$ 21.00

Garage Sale \$ 1,078.31

Total 2023 Income \$1,727.49

2022 Ending Balances

Core GPNA Account \$18,823.19

Non-profit, MarinLink Account* \$15,850.00

TOTAL \$34,673.19

- Neighborhood Updates:

- Short School update: Short School To Become an Early Childhood Education Center in 2024-25. In partnership with Community Action Marin, Serving 3-4 Year Olds. TK for Laurel Dell Elementary School, Early Intervention Preschool Program, Long-term location for 4 preschool classes, Campus is being transformed for young learners – to be completed in August 2024.
- PorchFest 2023: 22 porches, 71 bands, 45+ sponsors, 70 volunteers. Event budget was \$18,682.70. In kind donations \$5,590. Kim McGinnis was essential to this event. The city was a great partner also. PorchFest 2024 will be Sept 15th.

PorchFest 2023 Expenses

Category Expenses	Cost
Food & Waste	\$3,946.45
Logistics	\$4,362.20
Merch	\$4,101.30
Printing + marketing	\$406.00
Volunteer support	\$276.75
<i>Value of In-Kind Donations</i>	<i>\$5,590.00</i>
EVENT BUDGET	\$18,682.70



- 2024 Event Calendar. March annual board goal setting, Spring Fling – 3/23, Earth Day Mushroom Hunt – 4/20, Garage Sale Day – 6/15, National Night Out/Annual Picnic 8/6, Halloween 10/31, Santa Drive Dec. 9.
- Neighbor Initiatives: Amy Likover (Federation of San Rafael Neighborhoods). San Rafael Tree Group has been formed, for preserving, protecting. planting and policy. Lidor survey is being done. Amy asked for volunteers to join. A resident (Zany Rumon) spoke about the deterioration of the park. She urged residents to use See, Click, Fix app. The city has been responsive to some but not all reports. She urged limiting the number of events in the park at the same time. Pilates in the park (tennis court) Saturdays @ 9am.
- Reporting an Issue to City: Unpleasant behavior in and around the park, was discussed at a meeting with San Rafael City Council Member Eli Hill (12/29/23) with GPNA Vice President Alicia diVittorio and GPNA member Katie Fleet.
- City & County Guest Speakers:
 - **Mayor Kate Colin:** Spoke of good resident engagement in Gerstle Park Neighborhood. SR now has districts rather than all at-large, and they are learning to work together. Four main buckets: Economic development (would like to capture PF traffic for downtown restaurants). Racial Justice, Homelessness/housing, Climate Change with Wildfire Prevention and Sea Level Rise (Canal Zone is the first to experience sea level rise). Public Works Capital Improvement Process: Needs are greater than resources so prioritize all city projects as follows: Health/Safety/Liability 35% Priority initiatives 20%, Time sensitive funds 25%, Maintain/Enhance Functionality 20%. Park & Rec Master Plan is online. For 2025, Gerstle Park playground identified as a near term (5 years) initiative to replace play structures near end of lifecycle, replace sand

with fibar at school-age play area. Approx cost \$300k. The community will be engaged in this.

- **Asst. City Manager John Stefanski:** Homeless encampments. If not enough shelter beds, people are permitted to camp. City has been sued 5 times over encampments. This complicates what the city can do to help people. SAFE team to respond to people in crisis. Mental health professional embedded with SRPD. Ongoing collaboration with service providers to get homeless individuals into case management and permanent supportive housing.
- **Gary Naja-Riese, Director, Homelessness, County of Marin:** Main risk factor is paying more than 30% income in rent or mortgage, Homelessness does not result from bad decisions. 78% of our homeless previously lived in Marin, so they are not coming from outside Marin. Homelessness is down 8 percent in last 5 years due to Continuum of Care + Outreach, Coordinated Care Initiative, Housing-Focused Shelter, Emergency Shelter, Rad Rehousing, Homeless Med Svcs, Housing based Case Mgmt, Permanent Supportive Housing, Behavioral Health Housing & Services. Since 2017, 1890 people have been connected to housing. 94% of those are still housed. 2364 clients are served by shelter system. 728 are chronically homeless, 110 are veterans, 201 are families. He reviewed permanent supportive housing, 431 units. Use of vouchers has increased greatly. Ongoing programs: High utilization of city services, encampment resolution, State/County matching funds, 50/50 match program, Richardson Bay Regional Authority, Marin Housing Authority. Call 415-473 HOME if you see someone homeless (non-emergency). 911 if there is threat to people or property.
- **Steven Torrance Director of Marin County Mgt. Emergency Services:** Recent storm with power outage points out the new normal with climate change, ie being ready for the next event. Working with utilities, neighbors. Urged residents to keep in contact with your neighbors, and try to get more residents involved with GPNA. Check on your neighbors. His dept has written materials to help you be prepared for emergencies. Sign up for Alert Marin.

Musical Slideshow | 2023: A Year in the Neighborhood

Q&A:

The following questions were written on cards and posed to the speakers from the City of San Rafael and County of Marin by audience members at the Elks Lodge:

1. [ASKED TO MAYOR] What is happening to the homeless people along Mahon Creek? Very bad for Davidson Middle School students?
2. [ASKED TO MAYOR] What developments are happening in downtown San Rafael (What happened to Market Hall (old Macy's)? Also, former WestAmerica Bank location – really 9 stories?
3. [ASKED TO MAYOR] What budget line item a.) concerns you the most, and b.) delights you the most?
4. [ASKED TO MARIN COUNTY HOMELESSNESS DIR] What percent of homeless in Marin is based in San Rafael?
5. [ASKED TO MARIN COUNTY HOMELESSNESS DIR] At what rate is homelessness declining or increasing?

6. [ASKED TO MARIN COUNTY HOMELESSNESS DIR] Section 8 Housing: What to do if people in your apartment building or neighborhood are not following rules?

Meeting notes submitted by Denise Van Horn, Recording Secretary