



Willow Glen Neighborhood Association
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WGNA Report May 8, 2012 WGBA Meeting

SUCCESS COMES TO SOUTH LINCOLN AVENUE MERCHANTS

I was on the Avenue Saturday evening and experienced a very exciting vibrant Downtown WG especially in the southern portion of our downtown. There were people everywhere. Grapevine, Elaine's Bistro, Opa, Vin Santo, Pizza My Heart and even Starbucks was jumping with excitement. All of these merchants were busy. Congratulations to all.

MAY 16th WGNA Meeting – BUILDING A CITY OF GREAT PLACES

This month's guest speaker will be Laurel Prevetti, Assistant Director of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement City of San Jose. The presentation will be all about "Planning & Land Use", and yes in Willow Glen too. Laurel is one of San Jose's leading experts on how to build a city of great places. GREAT CITIES HAVE GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS and they connect to the City Urban Center.

The last time Laurel Prevetti addressed Willow Glen and our issues of concern was in November 2010 and there was standing room only. If you are concerned about developments on North Lincoln Avenue, especially in the area North of Broadway to Auzerais Avenue, issues of SAFETY on the Avenue, future developments in South Lincoln Ave near Curtner and Lincoln where car counts have reached 37,000 and give Lincoln Avenue a spill over rate of 27,000 cars and the possibility of traffic calming in our downtown Willow Glen, then you will want to get Laurel's ear.

She will share a have a PowerPoint presentation (approx. 45 mins) and then there will be a 20-minute Q & A period. Please do not miss this opportunity. She is a strong influencer at City Hall.

ELECTION TIME FOR WILLOW GLEN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The WGNA nominating committee consists of five WGNA members who are chosen the previous year in the spring election. The nominating committee's charge is to interview the slate of new applicants to serve on our board for 2012 – 2013. The list of candidates for the new year beginning June 2012 are; Richard Zappelli, President, Carlos Babcock, First Vice President. Scott Knies, Second Vice President, Nancy Rice, Secretary, David Dearborn, Treasurer. Other board members include Holly Barr, Archie Moore, David Machado, Ruben Rosso, and San Jose Youth Commission voting board member Brendon Yu.

Nominating committee members are Jeff Senigaglia, Sarah Nunley, Ruben Rosso, Tom Rossi and David Dearborn.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS and the WGNA – Support of the CBID

Carlos Babcock is a long time member of the WGNA and is active in public safety and transportation issues. Carlos was a member of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, is a member of the CalTrain Bicycle advisory committee, the newly nominated chair of the City of San Jose Pedestrian and Bicycle advisory committee, and is also chair of Bike

Party. Carlos was recently chair of the committee that brought the Mayor of Dublin, Ireland to San Jose and led the bike tour of San Jose.

David Machado, has been a long time supporter of the Willow Glen community and is a community activist. David has raised his family in Willow Glen and has been very active with our local schools, the Kiwanis and the WGBA. David has also been a big supporter for three years of the "SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL program".

Holly Barr is the creator and owner of the very popular "WILLOW GLEN CHARM" with a subscriber list of over 2,400. Holly is also a partner in the Willow Glen office of the Sereno Group. We will be looking to Holly to guide us in the residential community of homeowners and what she perceives are issues important to this group, items of Planning and Land Use and Public Safety.

THE CBID and why as a community leader the WGNA has supported this important item.

It is no secret that the way business districts and Main Street Concepts are evaluated is simply in two areas, (1) is the district SAFE? and (2) is it CLEAN?

Evaluating our Willow Glen business district and the efforts of its all important "Our Avenue" committee, it is very apparent that the WGBA is well on its way to achieving its goals that WGNA chose to support.

As a representative of WGNA, I attend a number of City of San Jose committee meetings and often the comment I hear from other neighborhoods is "We want to be like Willow Glen". This gives me a great deal of pride being a Willow Glen native. We do have an area that still needs improvement. As we judge ourselves the question that constantly comes up is, "how can we make Lincoln Avenue safe to CFO SMS during the commute hours, and how can we get the bicycles off the sidewalks"?

FOUNDERS DAY PARADE 2013 and a FOUNDERS DAY PROMOTION & EVENT 2012

Action Item request: WGNA would like to have a booth at the DOTA event to promote Founders Day. We need your approval. During previous DOTA events, the WGNA booth has been located at the entry of the event on Lincoln Avenue near Willow Street.

WGNA has not cancelled it's plans for a 2013 Founders Day Parade, and has enlisted a number of other WG organizations and neighborhoods that wish to participate, including; North & South Willow Glen, Palm Haven and the historical Goosetown residents past and present.

WGNA has divided the Founders Day 2013 event into three committees or action groups. (1) Parade Committee, (2) Events after the Parade Committee, (3) Marketing Committee, (4) Fund Raising/financing committee – goal \$20,000.

Founders Day 2013, from the beginning when WGNA led planning of the event, September 2012 activities were to be focused on fundraising for the 2013 major event. We are still looking for ideas to begin fundraising early. Also September 2012 was planned to be the kick-off of a yearlong campaign including monthly promotions designed to excite and reinvigorate the community interest in the return of Founders Day on the Avenue. The last Founders Day Parade was in 2009. The 2013 parade would follow a four-year absence of any parade or event celebrating Founders Day.

WGNA & WGBA WORKING TOGETHER TO BRING BACK FOUNDERS DAY 2013

We welcome the WGBA's change in position about Founders Day and see this as a Golden Opportunity for the two organizations to work together "As One".

Richard Zappelli, Vice President
Willow Glen Neighborhood Association