



# The Willard Neighborhood Association

**Steering Committee:** John Anderson • George Beier (Secretary) • Doug Buckwald • John Caner • Vincent Casalaina • (President) • Dione Cota • David Cottle • Joe Halperin • Lynn Halperin • Marcia Levenson • Greg Murphy • Michelle Pellegrin • Ernest Scosseria • Tim Ruckle (acting) • Greg Wineger

## **Minutes of the WNA 9-20-2007**

Discussion re: **Utility Undergrounding**. Bottom line: when it was all as good as could be, undergrounding didn't work. Now, with the high cost, high proportion of tenants, etc. it will look like this will not happen in our neighborhood.

Old Business: Doug's issue put off as he is not here.

Public Safety/Crime:

**PCEI:** A week from Saturday at 10 AM at the North Berkeley Senior Center. Until 1 PM. **Casalaina:** We've been working on this for months, this is another opportunity to tell them there are things they can do in this city to improve our quality of life.

**Organizational Issues:** The WNA has in its bylaws the ability to have dues. We needed a bank account and a tax ID number. Suggested donation of \$10 per year. We are not a 501C3 – we are a “community organization”. Returns to not need to be filed. We will start a small form in the newsletter. **Caner:** What are the benefits? What if you don't pay? **Casalaina:** You are still a member. It is strictly voluntary. Halperin/Wineger M/S/P: Motion to have a suggested \$10.

**Discussion:** When you start collecting dues, people are going to need to see an accounting. Friendly amendment: Internal procedure to have a treasurer that could also be the president, track in quicken, and report twice a year. Passed unanimously.

**Wineger:** We need to let people know what we are spending the money on. **Casalaina:** We will start doing some marketing. The public works projects are particularly expensive. **Beier/Caner :** A paper newsletter would be great.

**Termination of non-participating steering committee members.** George Beier will ask Ernie if he still wants to be on the board...does he still want to participate.

**Street Fair:** Tremendous financial success. We brought in \$350 and had virtually no expenses. UC and the City coughed up all of the money that we needed to make the event happen. Greg M sent around an e-mail of what worked and what didn't work. Irene Hegarty also sent around a tip that we should do more outreach to the students on the day of the event itself. What is the WNA? Why is this important? Another idea is that we need more neighborhood reps as roving ambassadors. It was a big success for the people that were there. The turnout was maybe not as big as last year. But everyone that was there had some connection to the neighborhood. **Wineger:** What about the location? **Casalaina:** Mixed reviews here. The big apartment buildings are concerned. A ton of cars were still on the street, a number of people were adamant that they were taking their car in or out of their garage. The park location is a better location for that. **Caner:** It seemed a little long time-wise. **Casalaina:** Mario was very happy to provide the food and will want to do it next year. Jim Hynes stepped up and took care of the drinks and the food.

**Noise and Party Group:** No report

**BRT sub committee:** George gave a presentation re: BBTOP. **Levinson:** What about the transit survey? **Casalaina:** They are spending the money they got as a grant. We should have done input a year ago.

**Elmwood Neighborhood Association:** Wright's Garage. Quite a bit has happened on Wright's Garage. Judith Epstein (**Ep**): From our point of view, we think the whole project will overwhelm the neighborhood.

If you would like to get involved in the WNA, please contact Joe Halperin at 981-1993 or [joelynn@comcast.net](mailto:joelynn@comcast.net)

The 5,000 SF, bar, and restaurant will overwhelm the neighborhood. There will be 5 other shops and an exercise studio in the back. What is going on here is not legal for a number of reasons: breaking the restaurant quota (which requires neighborhood/merchant support). They cited Kitchen Democracy's numbers. For merchants, they're not opposing it, so that's seen as support. There is no on-site parking...and there will be 200 seats. They've talked about valet parking, and other parking plans. **L. Halperin:** Valet parking can work—I'm not sure I'd start there. **P. Tuleja:** The City came up with a net impact of 32 cars – this seems light given the size of the restaurant. **Ep:** A suit has been filed under CEQUA and violation of the zoning ordinance. Settlement talks should be the second week of October. In Alameda County superior court. There is not a temporary restraining order at this time. A parking plan is required before a use permit will be issued. Tom Bates sent a form letter acknowledging that parking was a problem. **L. Halperin** limited parking will be absorbed by the huge restaurant. **J. Halperin:** Has Elmwood ever considered joint valet parking? **Ep:** They did talk about a shuttle service, but this wouldn't really work for small businesses. It would take a few people off the street, but not enough people. **Levinson:** Which businesses are supporting you? **Ep:** Rather not say. **P. Tuleja:** If you have deliveries on Ashby Ave – are they going to take out more parking spaces for a yellow zone? Deliveries come throughout the day—you cannot limit the time that deliveries come. **Ep:** Delivery trucks will make the neighborhood more dangerous. Money would help. But at this juncture, council and ZAB are off the table – it's already passed through them.

**2525 Telegraph. J. Halperin:** He was disappointed with the responses at the last meeting. **M. Levinson:** Here's the Daily Planet article said that this would kill the project. This indicates that this is not really an Arts Café. It's fine by me if the project is killed. If he is bona fide about the art house, then I don't feel guilty about it at all. It's the bare minimum. These two hours should not be required.

**Add SC member: Tim:** Wants to be a member. **V. Casalaina:** No procedure for doing that. **T. Ruckle.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Year PhD in the history department. Undergrad physics – went into software. And is now being a professor. Came back as an undergrad. Applied to a whole slew of grad schools, now living at Hillegass/Parker, one of the founding members. Blake is the house manager. And Tim is the community liaison – and he is earning hours to do this. Nominated and elected by the house. **Anderson:** There's a problem that students are temporary / it's hard to get on the board. **Caner:** We could change the meeting time. **Beier:** We could make it permanent. **Casalaina:** We should just make it easy to replace members.

**Beier/Anderson:** Make Tim an acting member, all privileges short of voting. **M. Levinson:**