

**Santa Cruz Neighbors General Meeting Minutes**  
**January 16, 2008**  
**7pm – 9pm**  
**Police Community Room**  
**155 Center Street, Santa Cruz**

**Welcome and Introductions:** Deborah Elston opened meeting. About 33 people attended.

Introduction of **Bonnie Lipscomb, Assistant Director, Economic**

**Development/Redevelopment Agency (Agency)**

**Presentation:**

**Ethanol Fueling Station:** There is a proposal for an ethanol fueling station to be located on Soquel Ave, near the Fire Station. The grant process is complete and the grant was given by the International Institute of Ecological Agriculture (IIEA) (<http://www.permaculture.com>) to help offset some of the costs involved with placing an ethanol fueling station on the site. The Public Hearing will be held in the near future and the Agency is requiring significant community outreach. The Agency is considering requirements such as parking lot maintenance, security and cameras, and signage restrictions. There has been no design or plan submitted to date. The Global Action Compact asked government agencies to work with individuals and private companies to help reduce green house gas emissions.

**Ocean Street:** The Ocean Street development is being handled by Michelle King, SC Planning. There has been one large community meeting and a second is planned for April regarding the planned development that was recently highlighted in the paper. Public comments, thus far, have included concerns regarding parking issues, both residential and commercial. It must still be approved by City Council, with an expected final approval by October, 2008.

**Deborah**

**Santa Cruz Neighbors, Inc.** is now a registered Non-Profit Corporation thanks to the efforts of Mary Miller on our behalf. Your donations are greatly appreciated. We will have our tax ID number soon for your tax write-off. Please make donations at the meetings via our donation basket or by mail: **Santa Cruz Neighbors, Inc., 849 Almar Ave., Suite C-452, Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

**New Website:** [www.santacruzneighbors.com](http://www.santacruzneighbors.com) The website has been updated and is now online thanks to all the hard work by Deborah Elston. Please take a few minutes to explore all the information provided there for your use. We invite your comments and suggestions to help make the site user friendly.

**Beach Flats Cleanup:** Sat Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, 8am-12, Lunch will be provided. Bring Gloves.

### **Neighborhood Reports**

*Drew:* New neighborhood "BOSS" (?) Broadway, Ocean, Soquel, Seabright. Pine Street Issues: Drugs & speeding on Pine St.

*Al:* Another New Neighborhood: North end of Pacific Ave.: Issues: vandalism, tagging, loitering.

*Brian:* Co-op on Main

*Jane:* Fair Avenue: Issues: New Leaf Market passed planning and will probably be open in about a year. 2120 Delaware project is going through the process.

*Elena:* Morrissey-Eastside: trying to form, contact via emails: Issues: drug activity, vandalism, meth.

*Katherine:* Neary Lagoon: Issues: Tagging and gangs in park.

*Barbara:* East Morrissey: [www.eastmorrissety.org](http://www.eastmorrissety.org), CRUZIO may provide a free website for your neighborhood, as it has for ours. I would be happy to be a contact for you.

*Jody:* Pennsylvania Ave: Issue: Drug house nearby.

*Debra:* Central Park Neighbors: Issues: 1 block from Ocean area near B-40 creek. Homeless camping, drug use, prostitution, vandalism, loitering, tagging.

*Nihl:* Circles: Issues: Happy to report things are calming down!

*Liz:* Upper Westside (UCSC community outreach): Good Neighbor Initiative.

*Kathryn:* 2<sup>nd</sup> year student UCSC; Intern for neighborhood outreach. Spring workshops are coming up for students to educate them and introduce students to off-campus living and the Good Neighbor

Policy. This policy has been a joint effort between UCSC, the City of Santa Cruz, and Santa Cruz Neighbors.

*Diane:* Lower West Side: Issues: PCS, busses, homeless, watch public notices for awareness of upcoming issues.

*Frank:* Highland: Lower High St. Issues: Development on edge of cliff; 18 3-story townhouses; concerns about increased traffic, safety.

*Sharon:* North of B-40: Issues: Whole foods proposed area. They will be taking over entire project. Generally things are quieter. We want to be sure people are aware of the proposed new fueling station and the proposed 24-hour operating schedule.

*Larry:* Escalona: Issues: Ongoing concern with traffic, speeding, safety issues for walkers, cyclists, pets. Ongoing problem with people running stop sign.

*Holly:* East Morrissey: Issue: Near Post Office. Problem: P.O. trucks use of the neighborhood for cut through and turn around. We have been working with another neighborhood regarding traffic calming.

*Steve Clark:* SCPD: Speed limits in neighborhoods are based on statute and are not determined at the local level. The safe speed in a neighborhood has been determined to be 25. This may seem too fast for some neighborhoods, and likely it is, however, to change this speed limit is very difficult. It might be a better use of time and more effective to initiate traffic calming measures.

**June is Your Neighborhood Month:** There will *not* be a Santa Cruz Neighbors meeting in June this year. We would like to encourage you to have a neighborhood event such as a block party, a yard sale, a picnic, or other social event to bring you and your neighbors together. Please plan an event in your neighborhood during the month of June. If you would like one of our board members to attend, be sure to forward your date and time to us as soon as possible. We will try to attend as many events as possible.

**Meth:** Drugs continue to be a problem in our community. A direct impact of this phenomenon are car break-ins. Please remove all valuable items from your car such as cell phone, wallet, purse, keys, ipod, money, palm, etc.. These items invite a break in. The newest method employed by these thieves is to use a small hand held torch very close to the window during cold nights. This will cause the glass to shatter silently enabling the thief to reach in through the window and steal whatever is within reach without being heard and without setting off the car alarm. Do not count on your alarm to protect your vehicle or the valuables you leave there.

Mary has obtained a confirmed date so please mark your calendars for March 26<sup>th</sup> when we will host our “**Judges Forum.**” We have been trying to arrange this special meeting for some time. Questions should be submitted in advance via our Santa Cruz Neighbors email: [email@santacruzneighbors.com](mailto:email@santacruzneighbors.com). Questions will not be taken at the forum because past meetings have shown us that several people often have similar questions. In an effort to field as many different issues as possible we will only be accepting questions submitted in advance.

Next Meetings:

February 20. Speaker TBA.

March 26: Judges Forum

April 16: Speaker TBA

May 21: Speaker TBA

June: No SCN Meeting

July 16: Speaker TBA

Please check the new website for updates and information:

[www.santacruzneighbors.com](http://www.santacruzneighbors.com)

Please email us with questions, comments and suggestions:

[email@santacruzneighbors.com](mailto:email@santacruzneighbors.com)