**Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association Board & Neighborhood**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 – 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM; **Location**: Pearl Library, 4270 Pearl Ave.

**Board Members**

Mary Bitter (Co-Secretary), Ted Earle (Vice President), Marian Heinkel (Co-Secretary), Sam Ho (President), Abhishek Joshi (Treasurer), Marsey Kahn (Member-At-Large/July 4 Parade Committee Chair)

**Refreshments: 6:30-7:00 p.m.**

**Introductions: 7:06 p.m.**

Sam Ho spoke and introduced the TONA Board and the Guests

Board: Sam Ho (President), Mary Bitter (Co-Secretary), Ted Earle (Vice President),

Marian Heinkel (Co-Secretary), Abhishek Joshi (Treasurer), Marsey Kahn

(Member-At-Large/July 4 Parade Committee Chair)

Guests: Pam Foley, Scott and Intern

Guests Speakers:

Rob Tidmore & Torie O’Reilly from PRNS

Will Spangler from HT Harvey & Associates (Environmental Group)

**Adoption of the Agenda: N/A**

1. **7:12 p.m. Updates (membership, roles and responsibilities, meetings)**
2. **D9 Councilmember Pam Foley**

* Thank you for including me in your General Meeting.
* Announcement for Pastries with Pam



* Announcement for San Jose’s Camera Rebate Program

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=6444>

The Camera Rebate Program, coordinated by the Office of Councilmember Pam Foley (City Council District 9) and administered by the Parks Foundation,

creates a rebate for residents, businesses, nonprofits, and religious institutions, located in San Jose City Council District 9, to purchase and install security camera systems on their property and register them with the San José Police Department (SJPD). The program provides a rebate of up to $100 per address based on the actual cost of the camera), if the camera is less than $100, the rebate will cover the cost of the camera. The rebate is exclusively for the cost of the camera(s) including any applicable tax. The rebate does not include installation, additional storage, accessories, or any cameras that are purchased, but not installed on the exterior of the property. Rebates will be given only for the cameras that are installed on the exterior of the property (i.e., if you purchase four cameras for $500 but install only three on outside, you are eligible to receive $100 (1 rebate per address). If you have purchased your camera system on an installment plan, submit your application when it is paid in full.

This program is intended to help deter crime and assist law enforcement with investigations. Please review the following information and if you have additional questions, please contact the program at http://www.sjpd.org/\_forms/cameraregistrationfaqs.asp or if you have any questions, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at (408) 277-4133.

* Please visit my website for up to date information about what we are doing for and with the District 9 Community.

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/district9>

* Sam Ho thanked Pam and Scott for all their support.

1. **Crime & Safety (Ted Earle)**

Ted got up and said that he had one issue he wanted to highlight:

The Creek Area behind Wellington Square is becoming an issue and he wanted to bring attention to an effort underway to obtain authorization to work with the Water District to monitor conditions along the creek.

Marsey Kahn and Jerry Strangis hope to present, for Board consideration, a request for a permit to access Water District land, along the creek. The permit would authorize volunteers to walk along the creek to monitor unsafe/unsanitary conditions so they can report their findings to the Water District/San Jose Police for their awareness.

This permit process is pending the election of our new TONA Board and consideration by the same.

1. **Park Preservation & Development (Marsey Kahn)**

Report Deferred to introduction of tonight’s Guest Speaker

1. **Community Events (Marian Heinkel)**

There are three established annual TONA events.

Picnic in the Park- June

National Night Out- August

Help the Homeless Drive- December

We have few more ideas of event that we would like to incorporate but need additional volunteers to help us get them off the ground.

Christmas Caroling

Easter Egg Hunt

We are hoping to refresh our committee volunteer list. We have a lot of names on the list that do not participate. So we want to revisit our list to determine what type of volunteering each committee member wants to do.

We have clipboards being passed around to allow anyone to sign up for specific committees (Crime and Safety, Parade, etc..) So please sign up and help us offer these community events.

1. **4th of July Parade (Marsey Kahn)**

We had a huge turn out this year.

Thank you to Paul and Karen Iott for, each year, allowing us to set up our Sound Systems and the Band in their Drive way!

Big Mike and the Hart Beats make such a nice difference in our 4th of July event

We love having them and really want to thank Paul and Karen for allowing us to use their house to set up each year.

We had such a great response this year to our push to get more floats in the parade. We got 8 fantastic ones. We hope to top that in 2020. This next year is our 30th anniversary so we are hoping for a lot of enthusiasm. We have some special things already in the planning stages so we hope to see you then.

1. **Housing Development (Abhishek Joshi)**

No Report at this time

1. **7:25 P.M Election of Board Members for Two-Year Term (October 2019 – October 2021) - (President, Vice President, Secretary (ies), Treasurer, and Member(s) At-Large).**

* Sam emphasized the importance of the Board.
* Sam thanked the Board for their service over the past two years and surprised them by presenting them with Certificates of Recognition for their service. Photos were taken with Pam Foley and Sam Ho TONA President.
* Sam Described the TONA By-Laws that dictate the rules associated with electing a new Board.
* Opened up to the audience the opportunity to volunteer to be on the candidate slate for Board nominations. Five minutes were given to allow opportunity for anyone to volunteer.
* At closure of Open opportunity, Sam asked the candidates to introduce themselves and state why they wanted to be on the Board.
* Each Candidate introduced themselves and stated why they wanted to either join the Board or continue on for a 2nd term on the Board.

**Slate of Candidates up for consideration/election for the 2020-2021 Term**

Board President:  Dave Guthridge

Vice Presidents:  Sam Ho, Ted Earle

Secretaries:  Marian Heinkel, Sandra Cortez

Treasurer:  Abhishek Joshi

Board Members At-Large: Marsey Kahn, Mary Bitter, Merced Gonzales, Jerry Strangis, Sean Pierce, Jodi Pierce, Nigel Jahn

Upon completion of Candidate Statements, Sam motioned to take the vote on the new proposed TONA Board. Sam asked the audience to verbally respond “Aye” if they approve of the slate of candidates. Those opposed respond with a verbal “Nay” and anyone abstaining from the vote, please raise their hands.

Vote results were as follows: In Favor-All, Against-0, Abstain-0

On behalf of the Board, CONGRATULATIONS to all for being our TONA board members for 2019 - 2021 term

1. **7:40 p.m. PRNS Presentation**

**Topic:** Thousand Oaks Park Oak Woodland, Protection and Preservation of Heritage Trees, and Park Improvements

**Introduction by Marsey Kahn:**

•Marsey thanked Sam for his surprise recognition and thanked him for his two years of service as well.

•Marsey also thanked Eric Meyer for taking care of the sidewalks on the Wellington Square side of the Woodland Area. He keeps that area swept and clear, so thank you for his continued effort to keep that are looking nice.

•Opportunity to act as liaison between TONA and Thousand Oaks Park Conservancy Project

•There are now at least 75 new saplings growing in Woodland Area

•When parkland originally deeded to City in early 70s, it was specifically for the purpose of preservation of the heritage trees

•Our proposal to the City to develop the Woodland Area, included request for an oak management to guide future care of both parks

•We have established a great working relationship with PRNS and we are grateful they recently contracted with H.T. Harvey to create that oak management

•Rob Tidmore & Torie O’Reilly are here from PRNS tonight

•They will introduce reps from H.T. Harvey to tell us about the work they have been doing in our parks

•Later we will ask for suggestions for improvements to the main park – keeping in mind there are things we can and cannot do depending on the potential impact on the health of the trees

•I hope you are as interested as I am in learning what these folks have to tell us this evening

•Please welcome Rob Tidmore.

**Rod Tidmore (PRNS) / Will Spangler Presentation (HT Harvey & Assoc.):**

We had $100,000 to spend on our Woodland effort.

We spent $ 20,000 on the H. T. Harvey Tree management plan

So we have ~$70,000 left to spend on our Heritage Trees.

We want to present the results of our Survey and share with you some options available to you to further the health and wellbeing of your very special, very unique grove of trees.

1. The Importance of the Trees
2. Historical Context
3. Inventory of Trees
   1. 230 Trees (not 1,000) ☺
   2. Multiple types of Trees (Coast Live, Valley), non-native & invasive species
   3. Most are in good health
   4. Urban remnants
4. Tree Plan
   1. Goal is to present approaches to protect and take care of the native resources.
      1. Irrigation issues
      2. Mgmt. of Oak Woodland-
         1. Leave Organic matter,
         2. Limit pruning
         3. Remove non-native plants
         4. Protect Seedlings / Thin Seedlings
      3. Revegetation- potential seeding
      4. Riparian Corridor Connectivity- Creek
      5. Wildlife-Meadow planting, maintenance, Trash covering
5. Opportunity to Educate
   1. Flow and circulate
      1. Enhance user Experience
         1. Signage
         2. Planting
   2. What we can do as a neighborhood
      1. What we can do with our yards to support
         1. Plant milkweed
         2. Bird Food
         3. Window designs
   3. Add Funding
      1. Take advantage of Beautify San Jose Grants
      2. Santa Clara Open Space Grants

**PRNS Presentation (Q&A and Input from Audience)**

**Question 1:** (Marian Heinkel) Can you tell us more about the Bird Nesting Boxes/Owl Boxes?

Answer: There are many shapes and sizes that can be used to encourage different types of birds. You can also look at alternative methods for mounting (posts or tree mounted). The idea would be to pick the right size boxes so that predators would not be able to bother the bird nesting. We do have examples of these boxes being used at Guadalupe Park.

**Question 2:** (Dave Guthridge) During Drought, some Oaks look like they are weakening or getting diseases. Are there treatments available that you would endorse?

Answer: Yes, some are available but it is situational centric. It might be that the problem could be residual in the soil or could be a different cause. We recommend treating the forest not just the individual tree.

**Question 3:** (Dave Guthridge) said he has a Sycamore in his yard but he doesn’t see very many of them around, do you know why? Are they native?

Answer: Sycamores are native and we’ve lost quite a few due to development. They are very appropriate and could be reintroduced to our park and other open areas. YES!!!

**Question 4:** (Eric Meyer) Earlier neighborhood put in native plants- you mentioned a meadow area but I would rather have more trees.

Comment: We are not making recommendations for a meadow area necessarily. There can be both. We want to provide options for you to consider and one idea might be in the short term allow for a meadow area while you foster the growth of your slow growing tree populations.

1. Information/Discussion/Action Items
2. **Treasury**

N/A

1. **Communication**

N/A

1. **D9LG Update**

December 2nd will be Christmas in the park Neighborhood Night. There will be entertainment. Each neighborhood is being asked to provide some form of entertainment for two hours (6-8 pm). So we would like invite TONA to participate and consider this opportunity to represent your neighborhood in the community event.

November 14, from 7-9 p.m. will be the next District 9 meeting and it will be held here at Pearl Library. We will be posting an agenda which can be found on D9LG.org.

1. **BeautifySJ Cycle 3 Grant** (TONA grant application was fully approved for $4,967 (October 1 – September 30, 2020). Last year’s application was fully approved for $4,677.

If you have any Park Concerns, contact Marsey Kahn.

Cycle 3 Funding for the Beautify SJ Grant was fully approved for $4,967.00

Ideas proposed at the time of the Grant Proposal can be made available upon request but all were

1. **Other**

San Jose Public Libraries are sponsoring a Community Conversation event (across all of the branches) to offer a forum for neighborhood to voice their opinions about what is going well in their neighborhoods as well as what is not going so well. Pearl Library will be holding their event on October 22nd in this same community room.

1. **Next General Meeting:** Wed.,March 25, 2020

**Next TONA Meeting:** Officially scheduled for January 2020 but Proposal made to have an adhoc November 2019 meeting for all TONA Board Members to meet and get to know each other BEFORE the 1st official meeting of the new Board-To be scheduled.

1. **Adjourn: 8:52 p.m.**