



**Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association**

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association (SONA) general meetings are open to all interested parties. General meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Bascom Community Center, 1000 S. Bascom Ave beginning at 6:30pm. SONA board meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at the Sherman Oaks Community Center at 6:30pm. Newsletter is partially funded with a Community Action and Pride (CAP) Grant from the City of San Jose.

*Issue 169 of Your Neighborhood Newsletter*

***Notes from the President***

Greetings to you all!

This newsletter brings you news, in accordance with our bylaws, of our upcoming election of the Board of Directors. Although the election process has in the past been one of the “fastest” items at our General Meetings, its importance cannot be underestimated. You will find the slate of candidates on page 2 of this newsletter. You will also see that not all of the positions on the Board have been filled.

We need more people who are willing to donate a couple of hours each month to step forward and help SONA and your neighbors. Here are a couple of positions that could really use your assistance:

**Administrative Vice-President**

1. Perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President, or as assigned or requested by the Board of Directors.
2. Assist the President in every way possible, and act as Presidential Representative when requested.
3. Perform duties of the Master-at-arms, and ensure that meeting rules are followed.
4. Authorized to sign on all disbursements of funds.

**Secretary**

1. Record all minutes.
2. Have a copy of the Bylaws available at all meetings.
3. Prepare ballots for all elections and retain all ballots for thirty days after they are cast.
4. Preparation of association correspondence at the direction of the President or the Board.
5. Perform such other duties as may be requested by the President or the Board.

Think about how you might be a more active SONA member.

***See you at the meeting! Bring a neighbor with you! - LK***

**SONA General Meeting**

**Thursday, April 9, 2015**  
**Bascom Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**Community Room**  
**1000 S. Bascom Ave**

- ❖ **6:30pm Coffee and Conversation**  
Come meet your neighbors and chat before the meeting.
- ❖ **7:00pm Meeting Starts**
  - Welcome
  - Reports from offices of elected officials
  - Reports from staff
- ❖ **7:15pm San Jose City College Update**
  - Andrew Spiller, Gilbane Project Manager will present the latest plans for the new gym and the proposed routes for construction.
- ❖ **7:45pm Elections**
  - See page 2 for a slate of candidates. Nominations can be made from the floor at the meeting.
- ❖ **8:00pm Wrap Up**
  - Drawing
  - Announcements
  - Get home safely

## Notes and News

### *Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association...the voice of your neighborhood*

**Get up to date SONA news online.** SONA is online via a Yahoo group, NextDoor and Facebook. You don't need an invitation to join any of these groups. When information comes in we post to all three groups at the same time. You can join the Yahoo group anonymously by just going to the link. NextDoor is run by a third party and you simply "like" our Facebook page to get our feed on your page. Traffic alerts, West Nile fogging, school news are all things that happen quickly. Choose your platform and stay on top of the latest.

**Thank you to new and renewing members: Carol Worley, Dolores Montano, Geraldine Stewart, Clara and Paul Carney, Mary Ann Roa, Saffett Brackmann, Jussi Rajna, Diane Clark, Rich and Sharon Hobbs, James Rowe, John and Beth Costa, Cynthia and Jon Freeman, Woody Wilson and Brenda Brown, Angelo and Carmen Arredondo, Elizabeth and James Harris.**

**Monthly Drawing Winners for March were: Bill Todd and Maryann Roa.**

**April 25 is the Great American Litter Pick Up.** This year the starting point for our area is the Bascom Library beginning at 8am. You can help clean up your neighborhood.

**SONA Board Elections will be held at our April meeting.** The proposed slate of officers for the next two years is

President: Layne Kulwin

Immediate Past President: Randi Kinman

Treasurer: Lisa Steingart

At Large Board Members: Marlene Bird, Sheila Cvitanich, Michael LaRocca, Jussi Rajna, Ted Santos

Administrative VP: Open

Secretary: Open

At Large: Open (1 position)

### **SONA Contact List**

President, Layne Kulwin	408.995.0991	LayneKulwin.SONA@gmail.com
Administrative VP, Vacant		
Secretary, Lisa Steingart	408.666.3287	
Treasurer, Michael LaRocca	408.564.2374	mlrool@sbcglobal.net
Past President, Randi Kinman	408.835.2881	randikinman@yahoo.com
Member at Large, Marlene Bird	408.288.9727	marlenebird@att.net
Member at Large, Sheila Cvitanich	408.292.2690	
Member at Large, Steve Kline	408.768.4154	slkesq@me.com
Member at Large, Jussi Rajna	408.291.0202	jussirajna@att.net
Website Administrator, Patrick Solomon		patrick.solomon.2008@gmail.com
Del Mar High School Liaison, VACANT		

**SONA Chat Group:** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/talk2sona/>

**Facebook:** Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association (San Jose)

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sherman-Oaks-Neighborhood-Association-San-Jose/151383304945052?fref=ts>

**Nextdoor Neighborhood:** [www.Nextdoor.com](http://www.Nextdoor.com)

**Website** [www.sona-sj.com](http://www.sona-sj.com)

SONA's newsletter is published monthly and distributed to 1000 residences. All ad copy is due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Newsletter editor is Randi Kinman. Our all-volunteer group welcomes your participation. Feel free to contact any of us with ideas or questions.

**Responsible Landlord Engagement  
(RLEI) Initiative Update**

The SONA board voted with reluctance to withdraw from the RLEI process in the Richmond/Menker area. RLEI staff had recently advised that they were stalled with the project for a variety of reasons, including the lack of tenant participation. While working with the landlords had made some progress in the initial phases, there were continual delays in bringing the landlords and SONA reps together or in getting landlords as a group to meet.

Compounding this was the ongoing conflicts within our community. Instead of all parties working together, as originally agreed to, we were faced with multiple uncoordinated approaches from different areas; RLEI had no overall coordination as promised. SONA was unaware of organizing outside our purview, we were not consulted or updated by other parties, there was conflict with the RLEI steering committee and we spent a lot of time defending ourselves from false accusations and statements. We were not advised by RLEI of many things because they wanted to avoid additional neighborhood conflict; an action they have now stated was a mistake because that allowed false information to be transmitted. The bottom line is SONA and RLEI were often dealing with different information and there was no way to resolve this.

Our board has other options and we do not need to rely on a third party. We can work with the landlords who are interested in working in a positive manner. Because the properties are tied together with a joint easement agreement, landlords who want to take positive steps can help us pressure other landlords.

In a recent conversation with RLEI staff, we were advised that while the Richmond/Menker area was a learning experience for them, they didn't feel they were equipped to handle multi-owner properties like this. Their ongoing focus in the future will be in training residents and tenants as to how they can approach negligent landlords rather than as a third party mediation group. RLEI will not be involved in code enforcement issues.

In the meantime, we are still in discussion with RLEI regarding the Deland/Nevin area, the Del Mar/Rexford area and the Stokes area by the creek. There are individual properties that have been targeted by residents as nuisance sites. RLEI is willing to take on these problems.

RLEI wants a neighborhood champion in each area; somebody who is willing to outline problems and attend meetings with RLEI and who has contact with other neighbors and can act as a conduit. SONA's role, as always, in this is to support our residents. SONA as an organization cannot be the complaining party according to RLEI rules. No organization can. But, we can work with residents who are willing to take on a task, support them and use combined resources to make our neighborhood better.

**SONA Dues are Due**

SONA asks for yearly dues of \$15 per person. Dues pay for newsletters, flyers and special events like the upcoming National Night Out Celebration. While we have augmented dues by obtaining grants, those sources have dried up. This year, more than ever, we need your support. You can also pay dues online through PayPal and set up an automatic billing by visiting our website at [www.sona-sj.com](http://www.sona-sj.com). Thanks for your help. Please note that at no time do we share or release your information.

\_\_\_\_\_ **YES! Our Family wants to support SONA with our dues payment.**

**NAMES:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Email/Phone:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Make all checks out to: SONA**

\_\_\_\_\_ **DUES**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **DONATION**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL**

**Mail to: PO Box 59146, San Jose CA  
95159-0146**

## *Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association...the voice of your neighborhood*



**Campbell Union School District** has donated the land on the corner of Leigh Avenue and Fruitdale Avenue for a playground that can be enjoyed by everybody in the neighborhood. With the San Jose Sharks Foundation and the San Jose Parks Foundation we are almost there.

All we need is your help to make this happen! Join us in building a playground on Friday, May 15, 2015!

Follow us on Facebook: Sherman Oaks Playground  
Info: Ramona Snyder [ramonasnyder@aol.com](mailto:ramonasnyder@aol.com)

We are making great progress on our playground! We still need your help in making this happen and everybody can play a part in developing phase one of what will be a community park for our neighborhood.

During our Design Day we had a great group of kids who drew some great pictures of what their ideal playground should have. With San Jose Sharkey's help, they told us what was on their wish list. While we may not be able to provide a swimming pool or missile launcher as requested, we will certainly be able to provide swings, slides and other fun stuff. After the kids portion of the program, the adults sat down with staff and prioritize the components of the playground. Our final wish list was sent to the playground manufacturer, three designs were returned and the option with the most votes is currently being constructed. In addition to the playground, enhancement projects like benches, seating, arbors, art projects, etc. will be constructed and installed on build day.

How can you help? Lots of ways! First of all, we need financial contributions big and small. We are about half way to our goal. You can donate on line at [www.sanjoseparks.org](http://www.sanjoseparks.org) or mail a check to San Jose Parks Foundation, PO Box 53841, San Jose CA 95153. All donations are tax deductible and all donations may have a service fee taken out, but your entire donation is tax deductible. So, while we need to have \$8500 banked to help support the project, we actually need to collect closer to \$10,000 as a community share and as a bank for future maintenance and upgrades. Make sure your donation is flagged for the Sherman Oaks Playground.

To pull off building a playground in just one day we need a lot of volunteers. We need people who are comfortable sitting at the registration/info booth for a couple hours, people who want to work with youth on art projects, food service and, of course, people who want to get their hands on the construction portion of the program. As with finances, we are about half way to our goal for volunteers. We have prep shifts on Wed and Thurs along with the build day on Friday, May 15. Volunteers show up on build day at 8am for breakfast and registration, we rally at 8:30 and by 9am all hands are busy. We are usually done by 3pm. We also need a few more hearty souls who can be build captains and help supervise a small group or early morning food service. All volunteers should contact Randi Kinman at [randikinman@yahoo.com](mailto:randikinman@yahoo.com) or 408.835.2881. If you think you've already signed up but haven't heard from her by now, you need to contact her. With the San Jose Sharks Foundation participating, interest is high and spots are filling up.

