

Almaden Valley Community Association
Meeting Location
Almaden Community Center, 6445 Camden Avenue
7:00 PM -- Monday, April 14, 2008

President Art Boudreault called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Because of our speaker schedules, the AVCA Board Meeting was held first followed by the speakers. Art welcomed reporter Nate from the San Jose State Spartan Daily. All Board Members were present:

President Art Boudreault	Vice President Ron Blake	Secretary Ray Strong	Treasurer Gari Soulé
Directors: Kitty Monahan	Teddy Morse	Pat McMahan	Steve Levin

President's Report: Art Boudreault

Web Site Report: [appended to end of minutes]

Almaden Crime Report [13 reported crimes in March], Megan's Law Report: [Seven listed – down one]

Neighborhood Commission Update (Caucus scheduled for June 8, 10:00 AM)

Candidates for office of Neighborhood Commissioner:

Bob Boydston, past president of AVCA

Russ Petrazelli, a member of the TJ Martin Park Association

Up to three candidates will be elected at the June 8 Caucus.

The AVCA delegate will be Lee Dimmitt. The AVCA Alternate will be Steve Levin.

Dedication of Historic Photos at Almaden Library/Community Center (took place on April 5, 2008)

Secretary's Report: Ray Strong reported that the only corrections received for the minutes of January, February, and March, had been from Ron Blake. The Board approved without objection the minutes of January, February, and March, 2008, as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Gari Soulé reported a current AVCA balance of \$8,458.67 as of 3/31/2008. It was agreed that the report will be attached to or placed with the minutes on the AVCA website.

Communications Report: Lee Dimmitt reported an e-loop (AVCA emailing list) size at 485 with 233 of the possible 485 emails opened in the most recent mailing.

Committee Reports:

Membership:

Lee Dimmitt reported 92 paid members as of April.

Teddy Morse gave a brief self-introduction: she retired four years ago, after 25 years with the SCC Water District, much of the time spent as public information officer.

Community Liaison and delegate to caucus – Lee Dimmitt (no further report)

Planning and Zoning:

Ron Blake reported that the event tent deliberations by the city are now on hold and that granny units (small additional housing units) now have high cost permits. There was some discussion about the permits discouraging anyone from going through the permit process for any of the many illegal granny units in San Jose. Apparently, there is one legal granny unit in the Almaden Valley.

Bob Boydston reported that no revised environmental impact report for Coyote Valley Development will be forthcoming.

Transportation:

Steve Levin reported that Dave Fadness (a previous AVCA speaker and member of the VEP community association) has been appointed to the County Roads Commission. He joins Steve Levin as a member of this commission.

Parks and Recreation:

Kitty Monahan reported more progress on trails.

Tom Morse reported that the soccer league wants to play elsewhere and is limiting time at TJ Martin Park. He also reported that, according to Nancy Pyle, there will be no change in the Master Plan (with respect to TJ Martin) at this time.

New Business: Position concerning naming the Almaden Post Office for Charles Gubser

Art Boudreault moved an item of new business ahead on the agenda based on urgency. He had been contacted by Zoe Lofgren's office to ask if there were any objection to naming the Almaden Post office for Charles Gubser, a former Representative in Congress from this general area. A motion by Steve Levin was approved without objection by the board and passed a straw poll of those present at the meeting:

Whereas the AVCA has previously indicated a policy of preferring not to name buildings for people and not to remove the name “Almaden” from buildings, and whereas it appears that Gilroy would be a more appropriate location for such action, be it resolved that the AVCA objects to the renaming of the Almaden Post Office.

Old Business: (Topics limited to 10 minutes each)

Bob Boydston spoke in opposition to the Tree Ordinance, expressing his outrage at the San Jose “policy of confiscating private trees.” He referred to his article in the Almaden Times. Art pointed out that the AVCA had taken a position in favor of trees. Bob suggested the AVCA position was not relevant to his topic, which was the effective confiscation of trees planted on private property by making it either impossible or extremely costly to remove trees after they have reached a specified size. Ray Strong moved that the AVCA oppose and call for the repeal of the San Jose City ordinance that creates a size limit after which a private (non-street) tree may not be altered or removed without City permission. The motion was seconded by Steve Levin. Art ruled that there was not sufficient time to vote on the motion and the motion was tabled.

Bob Boydston spoke on the City's Structural Budget Problem, which includes a \$50M deficit in the health plan. There was some discussion of the extremely large pensions received by retired city workers. Bob said that the benefits of these workers were much better than those received by retired IBM workers. Gerry suggested that the solution for the City would be to move from the current defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan. Steve added that such a conversion might be arranged in exchange for a raise for current workers. This topic was cut short by the arrival of the speakers.

Announcements: (from the agenda)

Next Meetings: Monday May 12, 7:00 PM, Almaden Community Center.

Future Speakers – Zoe Lofgren, Pat Dando

Guest Speakers: Nancy Pyle, City Councilor, Don Gage, County Supervisor

Agenda subjects: SAVUR, Graystone traffic, Event Tent Permit

South Almaden Valley Urban Reserve

Don Gage asserted that no change is envisioned in the County General Plan with respect to the SAVUR (reiterating Bob’s report earlier in the evening that no revised draft EIR for Coyote Valley development is expected). Don explained that the proponents of Coyote Valley development have given up. Don also indicated that we could expect the same kinds of growth (typically one rural housing unit on a twenty acre parcel) that have been approved in the past. He elaborated on the restrictions on such development, including a requirement that water must be generated on the site and must not flow into a neighboring property.

Nancy Pyle reminded us that she had vetoed development in the SAVUR in December 2006. Nancy has requested a study. She wants to know how many structures currently occupy the SAVUR and how many of the estimated 2000 potential units the SAVUR could still accommodate today. In response to a question, she indicated that no surveying of slope levels or other measures for redefining the boundaries of the SAVUR had been initiated. Nancy also reported that Dave Fadness (mentioned above in the Board Meeting) has been appointed to a General Plan Task Force.

Graystone Lane traffic

Nancy Pyle reviewed the recent very bad accident on Graystone Lane. She pointed out that the Lane has both City and County parts and that City and County must work together for any solution. A task force on racing is studying the problem. Nancy said that Graystone Lane has a reputation for high speed and reckless driving. One potential solution has been a focus on educating students at Leland High School. She mentioned a planned program built around “Maxwell’s Pledge.” This program will attempt to apply peer pressure to teen age drivers. Nancy also mentioned Almaden Valley Counseling Services for parents.

Nancy Pyle read a list of actions taken by the City of San Jose Department of Transportation in the Graystone neighborhood:

- Installed a “Stop Ahead” warning sign on Graystone Lane approaching the intersection of Pfeifer Ranch Road to alert drivers about the upcoming stop sign at the intersection

- Installed additional speed limit sign south of Pfeiffer Ranch Road on Graystone Lane
- Installed advance intersection signs on Graystone approaching Paramukh's Way and Vista Del Roble
- Initiated all-way stop study for the intersection of Graystone and Vista Del Roble
- Replaced a burned-out bulb for the street light close to Graystone / Camden bridge
- Trimmed the trees at the intersection of Graystone and Pfeiffer Ranch Road to improve visibility of the stop sign
- Installed a double yellow center line with raised round markers on Graystone Lane
- Installed directional sign for northbound traffic at the curve portion of Graystone Lane
- Installed an edge line on the West side of the Graystone starting 50 feet south of Briana Court to the bend area of Graystone Lane to encourage drivers to drive closer to the center line

Don Gage agreed that it was a bad accident. He talked about discussions between members of the neighborhood and the County Roads Department. He listed some alternative potential solutions that could be implemented by the County. He said the County is constrained by California law in what it can do. For example, stop signs require the observation of sufficient traffic in both relevant directions. Speed bumps and roundabouts are expensive and cannot be removed, once put in place.

In further discussion on Graystone Lane traffic, Bob Boydston pointed out that speed bumps impede fire and ambulance vehicles. Don Gage suggested that it might even be a mistake to survey driving speeds on the straight part of Graystone Lane because State law would require that the speed limit be revised to reflect the average observed speed, whether it was higher or lower than the current limit.

A member of the Graystone Lane Association noted that students at Leland were taking the issue seriously.

Boulder Ridge Event Tent

Don Gage reported that he has, for a long time, acted as mediator between the Boulder Ridge property owner [Rocke Garcia] and the neighborhood. Rocke is requesting permission to construct an event tent on the Boulder Ridge property. He has to "go through Architecture and Site" commission hearing on May 8. The results of this hearing will likely be appealed. The next steps involve the Santa Clara County Planning Commission and, finally, the Board of Supervisors. Don said that he did not believe Rocke had the authority to erect the tent; but he insisted that "we have to follow process."

Don introduced two members of his staff: Rachel Gibson (land use) and Colleen Valles (traffic).

Art Boudreault commented on the apparent secretiveness and lack of notification of neighbors in the process and asked if the County could give notification of such requests for permits to the AVCA.

Don indicated that they would look into that possibility. He also talked about constraints on the County budget that made it hard to enforce County use permits; but he said that the County had recently hired a third inspector.

In response to an audience member comment about use permit violations at Boulder Ridge, Rachel Gibson said that the "inspectors are there."

There was further discussion about notification including comments on the County web site's missing the last two meetings of the Architecture and Site Commission. Don made further comments on some County problems that included a planning director on administrative leave. Referring again to the need to follow process actively, Don said, "the squeaky wheel gets the grease."

At the end of his remarks on the three specific issues, Don Gage commented on his current good working relationship with the City of San Jose and gave an endorsement for Nancy Pyle and her current campaign for another term as District 10 representative to the City Council.

General Q&A

One audience member asked, "Why is Reed-Hillview [airport] threatened again?" Don Gage replied, "Blanca doesn't want Reed-Hillview," [apparently in reference to past City Council member Blanca Alvarado]. There was discussion

including the predictable impact on the San Jose airport if Reed-Hillview were closed and mention of an FAA loan that would have to be paid off if the airport were sold for development. Don Gage indicated that the City and County want a best use for the land, which would either be housing or the current private aviation use. He said that the neighborhood's wishes for a park were unrealistic and also commented on mistakes made by the City of San Jose in allowing development so near the airport. Nancy Pyle said that Reed-Hillview would continue as an airport, for various economic reasons.

AVCA Board member Pat McMahon brought up two issues: automobile burglaries and damage in VTA parking lots and the process for obtaining appointment to various commissions. On the issue of appointments, Don and Nancy both indicated that the most effective way was to seek appointment through the Council Person (for City positions) or the Supervisor (for County positions). Pat said that such a process should be documented instead of the current application process, which doesn't suggest any need to contact a council person or supervisor.

There was further discussion about traffic, risks, teen age drivers, and driving and racing in parks. Nancy Pyle suggested that it was appropriate to call 911 to report driving and racing in public parks. Audience members said they had been told to use 311 for this purpose and that 311 was not responsive.

In response to more discussion on crime, Nancy Pyle mentioned new technology including scanners that can quickly read large numbers of license plates. She also talked about a "bait-mobile" that could be used to trap would-be auto thieves. Commenting on automobile burglaries, she said, "auto thefts are through the roof."

The meeting ended at 9:00 pm

Draft Minutes submitted April 27, 2008

Ray Strong, Secretary

The following is the e-mail I received from Zoe Lofgren's office concerning the possibility of naming the Almaden Valley Post Office for former Congressman Charles Gubser.

Zoe wanted me [Sandra Soto] to check with your association [AVCA] on the possibility of naming a post office in Almaden Valley, and if you had any concerns regarding this person - Charlie Gubser - I am also checking with the office of Nancy Pyle just to check in. Let me know as soon as possible, Charlie is in his 90's and very ill. Zoe would like to move on this as soon as possible so he would know how grateful San Jose is for his years of dedication in office and for the public good.

These are the 2 post offices that are options for being named for Congressman Charlie Gubser.

Blossom Hill
5706 Calahan Ave.
95123

Alamadan Valley
6525 Crown Blvd.
95120

Charles Samuel Gubser (born [February 1, 1916](#)) is a [U.S. Representative](#) from [California](#).

Born in [Gilroy, California](#), Gubser attended the public schools. He graduated from [San Jose State Junior College](#) in 1934, the [University of California](#) in 1937, and then took two years of graduate work. [He taught in Gilroy Union High School 1939-1943](#). He engaged in farming since 1940. He served as member of the State assembly in 1951 and 1952.

Gubser was elected to the Eighty-third Congress. He was reelected to the ten succeeding Congresses and served from [January 3, 1953](#), until his resignation [December 31, 1974](#). He was not a candidate for reelection in 1974 to the Ninety-fourth Congress. He is a resident of [Monument, Colorado](#).

Sandra Soto, COS, Congresswoman Lofgren, 408-271-8700

Almaden Valley Community Association Web Site Statistics

For those interested in reading a highly technical article that describes how little one can determine from these statistics, I recommend that you go to this web site. <http://www.mrunix.net/webalizer/simpleton.html>

For more AVCA statistics, please go to this web page. <http://www.avca-sj.org/stats/>

Almaden Valley Community Association Web Statistics March 2008, collected 4/9/2008

<i>Summary by Month</i>										
<i>Month</i>	<i>Daily Avg</i>				<i>Monthly Totals</i>					
	<i>Hits</i>	<i>Files</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Visits</i>	<i>Sites</i>	<i>KBytes</i>	<i>Visits</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Files</i>	<i>Hits</i>
<i>Apr 2008</i>	605	404	231	130	796	67165	1042	1849	3237	4827
<i>Mar 2008</i>	504	364	197	119	1996	190196	3695	6124	11301	15634
<i>Feb 2008</i>	544	401	186	108	1685	246052	3136	5418	11638	15801
<i>Jan 2008</i>	528	383	183	104	1648	247598	3247	5691	11895	16381
<i>Dec 2007</i>	418	312	161	99	1383	216689	3076	4991	9693	12958
<i>Nov 2007</i>	465	346	152	97	1634	212646	2935	4572	10380	13978
<i>Oct 2007</i>	495	385	142	101	1749	250605	3160	4432	11942	15352
<i>Sep 2007</i>	493	370	127	93	1635	214403	2803	3835	11103	14790
<i>Aug 2007</i>	573	427	171	133	2010	312550	4132	5316	13246	17784
<i>Jul 2007</i>	652	475	238	193	2272	379487	6008	7395	14734	20233
<i>Jun 2007</i>	663	449	230	191	2343	343946	5741	6907	13489	19912
<i>May 2007</i>	653	471	196	143	2077	331902	4433	6099	14628	20253
Totals						3013219	43410	62629	137286	187903