

**BAYWOOD ELEMENTARY PTA
GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, March 19, 2008**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by President Vicki Marchenko.

In attendance: Doug Jenison, Rose de Haro, Tiffany Edmonds, Christi Peters, Camille Silva, Bea Jansen, Kelly Gang, Danna Stratton, Bill Henry, Claudia Ferriday, Vicki Marchenko, Denise Boddeker, Janet Farrell, Sally Unks, Erin Fay, Tina Lucas, Debra Lay, Michael Britton (County Dept. of Works), Al Barrows (community member)

A Quorum was present.

I. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Minutes from the February 20 meeting were distributed. MOTION: Danna moved to approve the February 20 meeting minutes. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

II. President's Report: (Vicki)

Procedure Binders:

Vicki thanked those officers who handed in their procedure binders. She will update them and try to get them back to everyone next month. Updates will reflect the new positions and by-law revisions.

Bylaw Revisions:

Vicki distributed copies of the proposed Baywood Bylaw changes to be implemented in 2008-2009. Major changes were creating a 2nd VP who shall serve as VP of Fundraising and eliminating the Historian as an Officer. MOTION: Danna moved to approve the Bylaw changes. The motion carried and the Bylaw changes were approved. Teresa will send these changes to the district for approval and the state should approve and return in approximately 2 months time.

III. Treasurer's Report (Rose):

Balance on Hand as of 02-01-08:	\$38,731.59
Receipts totaling:	1,880.72
Disbursements totaling:	1,868.52

Balance on Hand as of 03-01-08: \$38,743.79

Additionally, approximately \$8,500 was raised in the Friendship Walk.

MOTION: Bea moved to approve the March 2008 Treasurer Report. The motion carried and was approved.

IV. Chairman Reports/Nominating Committee Update:

Officer nominees for 2008/2009:

President: Vacant. New board will appoint someone in the fall.
VP Fundraising: Christi Peters
Secretary: Kitty Francis
Treasurer: Bea Jansen
Auditor: Robin Morris
VP Membership: Camille Silva (currently held)
Parliamentarian: Teresa Edmonds (currently held)

MOTION: Janet moved to approve the new officer nominees. The motion carried and the officer nominees were approved. These officers will be voted in at a general meeting. Vicki stated that there will be a workshop for all new officers and they will have a chance to run a future meeting this year.

Other positions:

Book Fair:	Open
Silent Auction:	Open
Yearbook:	Renee Delk?
Spanish Liason:	Rose de Haro?
Historian Chair:	Danna Stratton
6th Grade Art Legacy:	Ted Emerick

Science Fair Update: Janet congratulated Denise and all involved for a great job. Denise was concerned about not having enough help, but said it worked out in the end (George Marchenko and the 5th grade parents were especially helpful with cleaning).

Garden Committee Update: Danna reported that she, Doug, Anita Schwebel and Donna Dysart have met to discuss various issues with the garden project. There are a lot of things to consider. Several ideas have been presented and discussed, but nothing is set for now. Both lower and upper gardens are being considered. Issues are:

- 1). Watering: Having no sprinkler system installed makes things difficult. Even native plants need regular watering their first year. Donna Dysart is seeking other Master Gardeners to volunteer regular time to Baywood for this task. Need to plan for a hardscape area to reduce the amount of water needed.
- 2). What to plant: A \$2,000 grant has been received. Possible idea is a Chumash educational garden. There are other possible plant choices. Once hardscape area is decided, plants can be determined.
- 3). Regular maintenance and upkeep: Sally suggested the Native Plant Society might help. They recently assisted parents at LOMS in planting native plants and have agreed to water them. Other ideas might be to form a student garden club after school.

To move along the Agenda, Vicki suggested we table this topic for next meeting.

V. Guest Speaker/Safe Routes to School:

Michael Britton, Project Manager for the County Department of Works was introduced. Jamie Hill, Bicycle Programs Coordinator for Rideshare, could not be present. Michael explained that Al Barrows had approached him about pedestrian safety concerns at our school. Recently, Michael and Jamie met with Doug Jenison, Janet Farrell, and Vicki Marchenko to walk the perimeter of the school and point out several areas where safety could be improved. Michael agrees that improvements need to be made. These would be achieved through a combination of County maintenance, increasing safety awareness and education, and Federal grant money. He added that growing community support would be crucial to getting grant funding.

Writing/Applying for Grant: Timing is right to apply for Federal grant (State grants have recently been awarded). A Federal grant would fund 100% of the project. It is unknown at this time whether the applicant should be the County or the School. Whichever entity applies, the other would support and back the writer. Writer might be Michael himself, but if the school writes it, he thinks it might carry more weight. Amount of grant could be anywhere from \$50-\$60,000, up to \$1 million. If we get \$1 million, we would try for an "asphalt curb with gravel behind" all the way down El Morro to the Bay, on the school side of the street. Curb would make a clear separation from road. Would be 6" high, at least 6 feet wide. Needs to be compliant with ADA rules.

Before applying for grant, we need to determine what improvements are needed, and ensure there is a focus on education (fixing bad habits, easing morning traffic problems, increasing exercise, healthier kids, etc.). Jamie Hill can help with education aspect re: traffic pattern changes, bike rodeos, etc. The competition for grant money is very high, so we will need to do a really good job of stating our case and proving our need. Timing: Michael says there are at least a few months ahead, there has been no call to get applications in yet.

A discussion of the problems and questions ensued:

Ted, a resident of El Morro St., has witnessed a problem with iceplant overgrowth between 5th and 6th Streets, which forces pedestrians and bikes into the road. Michael responded that the County would look at this, and would be responsible for removing any growth on county property (vs. homeowner property). He added, however, that in some cases, such removal has been impeded when the iceplant is shown to be protected snail habitat. Hopefully, this won't be the case on El Morro. Ted added that his neighbors are ready to sign a petition for improving pedestrian safety that would identify the iceplant and other problem areas. Michael said this would be helpful.

Sally asked who makes decisions regarding Stop sign installation. There are no Stop signs on El Morro between 7th and 11th Streets, allowing drivers to build up speed as they pass the school. There is also no Crosswalk at Santa Maria and 9th. Michael answered that speeders are locals and safety education is needed. Stop signs alone won't solve the problem. As to who installs Stop signs: the County must first recognize a problem, and then perform a "warrant analysis". County has to prove need before installing. County can send out traffic staffers to observe action when kids are coming and going. Michael will check to see when the area was last observed, and possibly take another look. Bright neon green signs may also solve the problem, and don't need lengthy warrant process.

Michael showed an aerial map of the school and surrounding streets. He reported that the first area of concern is the bus loading area on El Morro. County can enforce speeding and parking tickets and freshen red paint on curb. It also may be possible to move the bus loading area to Santa Maria Street, but this could be more problematic. The school might be able to get flashing lights installed at bus area if a certain number of speeders can be identified. Vicki asked if we could present Michael with a "wish list" of improvements, Michael said this was a good idea.

Al said the County Board of Supervisors are concerned and have said that it would be very helpful if they had a letter of support from the PTA and School Administration for a "Safe Route to School". (Michael said that ultimately, this would depend on who applies for the grant, the school or county. If the county applies, our letter of support will help. If the school applies, the county will write a letter in support of us). Doug volunteered to write Baywood's support letter. MOTION: Janet moved that Baywood (Doug) write and send a letter to the County Board of Supervisors in support of a Safe Route to School. The motion carried and was approved.

Solution Scheme:

- 1). Education: Jamie Hill to work with parents, students, neighbors to increase safety and education. She has small pots of grant money, will help with planning. She can help identify some of the problems: i.e. Not enough people walking/biking to school, develop ways to get more people to do it, then educate about safety, health benefits. Jamie has worked with Hawthorne School to develop a "Walking School Bus" where kids join along in a group walk to school. She will come back at a later date and share more about this.
- 2). County will look at and solve regular maintenance issues over the next few months (Stop sign observation/warrant, neon green signs, iceplant removal, red paint at bus loading area, ticketing speeders, etc.) Baywood will present Michael/County with Improvement Wish List. Ted will present Michael/County with neighborhood petition to help spur county into action.
- 3). School and County to work together to make a plan for future construction/improvement. Need to determine a) What is a legitimate route to and from school? (El Morro is easy to define, doesn't need "official declaration") b) What kind of improvements would best serve students? ("an asphalt curb with gravel behind it" would allow separation from road and save money for extension all the way down El Morro). Michael's phone number at County Works Dept. is 781-5252.
4. County or school applies for grant.

Janet passed out Safe Route to School surveys and asked that we complete and return them to her asap.

VI. **Principal's Report** (Doug):

Teacher Introductions and Thanks:

Doug introduced Kindergarten teachers Erin Fay and Tina Lucas. They gave PTA a big "Yahoo" for staff meals during conference week. Erin thanked PTA for fieldtrips to the pumpkin patch, and Rancho El Chorro, and said they hope to visit the new Children's Museum at the end of May, when a bus will be needed.

Camp Ocean Pines/6th Grade Fundraising for Next Year's Camp:

Bake and Pizza sale at the Art/Science Expo went well. (Rose pointed out that any donations received this year for Camp Ocean Pines be double-checked to see if they are meant for this year or next year's camp). 3 additional fundraisers are planned by 5th grade parents for next year's camp:

April 12 - Rummage Sale

Mid-April - Candy sale (not See's)

Mid-May - BBQ

MOTION: Janet moved to approve the 3 Camp Ocean Pines fundraisers for next year's camp fund. The motion carried and was approved.

New Playground:

3 different designs by 3 different companies are being considered. Kindergarten playground is included in plans. Next meeting of Playground Committee is set for April 8. Parent input at this meeting is welcome. There are 2 basic concepts:

1). ADA compliant, with wheelchair access 2). Universal Access to allow more involvement, parallel play, ramps, wider pathways. Space and costs are considerations for this design. One company, GameTime, is offering a 40% discount if we choose them - we are also considering contracting with a Santa Maria company. **Fundraising:** \$100,000 is needed for both playgrounds. We will get \$60k from District, and \$10k from PTA, so we need to raise \$30,000. One idea is to incorporate a brick wall and/or path in the playground design with donor names inscribed on the bricks for \$50 each. Students of Jeff Jacobs' Recreation class at Cal Poly have taken on our playground as a class project. They are excited to be involved in the fundraising and have set up a deal with Jamba Juice where they will donate 20% of all Baywood sales on a future date. MOTION: Danna moved to approve the Jamba Juice fundraiser. The motion carried and was approved.

Old Business:

Bill Henry reported that the Friendship Walk went well. He thanked everyone for the help. The two tracks were a good idea.

We have not heard anything further from Stuart McElhinney about the Kites in the Classroom /Morro Bay Kite Fest presented at November's meeting. As the kite kits were to be ordered at the end of March for this to happen, it appears this program is no longer possible.

New Business:

Ted Emerick has agreed to lead the 6th Grade Art Legacy project for next year. Theme will relate to the idea of a "zero carbon footprint", and creating a consciousness about future energy use.

Calendar:

April 25: Assembly: Hampstead Players: "The Legend of King Arthur"

Future Meetings in Brief:

April: Nominating Committee announces new Officers

May: Officers share what was learned at the PTA Convention

June: New Officers run the meeting with assistance from outgoing Officers

Next meeting: General Meeting April 16 at 6:30 in the Library

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted by: Claudia Ferriday, Secretary