

Beresford Hillsdale Neighborhood Association
General Meeting September 17, 2013

Treasurer Ellen Wang called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. There were 19 members attending.

Announcements:

At the Oct 15th meeting the candidates for San Mateo City Council in the November election will be on a panel and answer questions from the members. Candidates for the San Mateo Foster City Elementary School District board will be present and make brief comments.

Saturday Sept 21st will be Bayfront Cleanup Day at Ryder Park 8 AM to noon with a barbecue afterwards.

Nov 12th the SM Planning Commission meeting will review the draft EIR for the Hillsdale Mall Renovation.

BHNA is looking for volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors for 2014. There are several openings and the election will be held at the January 21st general meeting.

SMPD:

Lt. Dave Peruzzaro from the SMPD gave a crime report. While overall crime is down in San Mateo there have been break-ins to cars parked at Bridgepoint and Hillsdale Malls and the downtown parking garages. There have been burglaries at two residences in Shoreview. The McDonalds at Laurelwood was robbed recently. There have been some burglaries of stores on 25th Avenue. Three men attempted to rob a homeowner in the east side of San Mateo. The homeowner drew a gun and in a shoot-out wounded one of the robbers. The robbers fled. Other than McDonalds there have been no crime reports in the BHNA area.

Speaker:

Casey Fromson with the public affairs staff of Caltrain spoke about the Caltrain Modernization Program. Caltrain (and Southern Pacific) has been providing train service on the Peninsula for 150 years. Caltrans has needed to upgrade to electrification for many years but has lacked the needed funding. California High Speed Rail has funding but needed a right of way on the Peninsula. So the two organizations formed a beneficial partnership. At first they planned a 4-track system with Caltrain on two tracks and HSR on the other two. This plan would require additional right of way width which met a lot of opposition from adjacent property owners. So they switched to a blended system with both Caltrain and HSR on the same two (current) tracks. During peak commute hours Caltrain will have up to six trains and HSR will have up to four trains per hour in each direction. South of San Jose HSR will travel at 220 mph but it will be limited to 110 mph on the Peninsula. With electrification Caltrain will be able to run trains closer together and thus provide better service. Electrification will allow Caltrain to operate more economically. Currently there are 40 at-grade crossings on Caltrain. The crossing at San Bruno

avenue is currently being grade separated. There are plans to grade separate other crossings but funding is lacking. Caltrain will not be electrified south of San Jose because that right of way is owned by Union Pacific. Gilroy passengers will have to switch trains at the Tamien Station. The new Trans Bay Terminal is under construction in San Francisco. However funding for the tunnel connection from the current San Francisco station to the Trans Bay Terminal is currently lacking. Caltrain electrification is planned to be completed with new electric trains running by 2019. HSR is planned to be running on the Peninsula by 2029, if additional funding is found. Members that want to receive the CalMod E-Newsletter can contact Casey at 650-506-6493 or fromsonc@samtrans.com.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Submitted by Stan Shogren.