Letter to the Editor of the Willow Glen Resident

sent via email 9/18/13

As mentioned in the Willow Glen Resident (Sept. 9, 2013), the City Council recently formalized the San José Neighborhoods Commission: we will transition from a “pilot program” to a permanent commission at our Oct. 23rd meeting.

The Neighborhoods Commission is unique in the city: rather than being appointed by the individual Councilmembers, we are selected by the community itself; and rather than echoing the opinions of the Councilmembers who make the appointments, we express the ideas and concerns of the community itself. In District 6, Dave Dearborn and I represent all the dozen or more neighborhoods in our District.

The Commissioners on the Neighborhoods Commission are a diverse group, each bringing his or her own personal experiences from across the city, West Valley to Evergreen and Berryessa to Almaden. Having served for decades on various boards and committees in Willow Glen, I bring the experience of working with local business districts and with established residential neighborhoods. (And having put three sons through public schools, local colleges, and a couple nearby universities, I also have some awareness of the local educational system.) I also bring my interest in creeks, trails, parks, habitats, and historic preservation.

The charter of the Neighborhoods Commission is to represent the community’s point of view. We collect input from a wide range of various community forums, and then give the Mayor and Council our thoughts on matters such as the city budget, public safety, and transportation issues. I expect that we may also become involved in matters such as city policies (e.g., “riparian” and “outreach”), “complete streets” (streets that are for everyone and not just cars), and the neighborhood interface to the new “urban villages”.

I’d love to hear from you. In addition to being at any number of local meetings, I can be reached by email at Larry@WGBackfence.net. I post information on upcoming Commission meetings and notes on past meetings on the eList – see www.WGBackfence.net for details.

I look forward to serving the city and the community this coming term!

Dr. Larry Ames,

one of the D6 representatives on the San José Neighborhoods Commission.