

Report from the WGNA 2010-11 Nominating Committee

Dear President Dearborn, WGNA Boardmembers,
and Members of the Willow Glen Neighborhood Association,

We, the undersigned elected members of the WGNA Nominating Committee, respectfully submit the following report to the Board and Membership.

We are directed by the Bylaws to recommend a slate of candidates for the Officers and Boardmembers for the coming year, and a slate of candidates for next year's Nominating Committee.

We are proud to recommend a slate for the upcoming Nominating Committee comprised of five former WGNA Presidents: Larry Ames, Nancy Ianni, Tiralisa Kaplow, Suzy Phillips, and Becky Worsham. Two of the group are returning Nominating Committee members as required by the Bylaws, another co-founded United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County, one is a former San José Councilmember, and the fifth is one of the original founders of this Association. (Short biographies are attached below.) We entrust to them the responsibility of developing a slate of Officer and Board candidates for the Membership to vote upon at the General Meeting in May, 2012.

Regretfully, we are unable to recommend a slate of candidates for the Officers and Board.

This is an unusual action, and there are a number of compelling reasons for it:

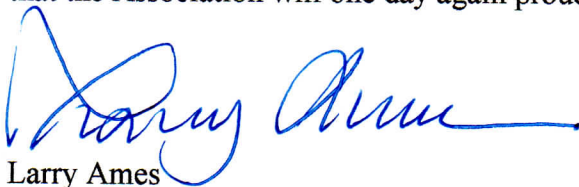
- Last spring, the WGNA Membership elected five members of the Nominating Committee, as prescribed by the Bylaws. Since then, one member moved out-of-town and two others resigned.
- The Bylaws stipulate that the Board is to appoint replacements to fill the vacancies. By tradition, members of the Nominating Committee are former WGNA Officers, independent of the current Board, who have served the community for years and are now willing to nominate others to continue WGNA's long and honored tradition of integrity and community involvement.
- Towards the end of the previous Board's contentious session there were attempts to change WGNA's Bylaws to make the Nominating Committee subservient to the Board, but the amendment was withdrawn in the face of strong community opposition. Thus we, the elected Nominating Committee members, were quite concerned to see the current Board appoint three of their own to the Nominating Committee, only one of whom had even been on the WGNA Board for more than a single year. Furthermore, contrary to WGNA tradition of "sunshine" and transparency, the Board's selection of replacements was not undertaken in open session, although it is unclear as to whether they were selected by the Board in a closed session, appointed by fiat by the President, or self-appointed.
- We repeatedly attempted to function as a full committee of five to fulfill our responsibilities as the WGNA Nominating Committee. We used an on-line survey tool to find the most convenient time for our weekly meetings. After selecting a date acceptable to all respondents, one of the appointed members said that he would be too busy with personal matters to meet for several weeks; a second appointed member abruptly backed out the night before the first meeting and never participated; and the third member didn't show and has refused any and all contact by phone and email.
- The Nominating Committee met weekly as scheduled, with meeting notices sent to all five members, even though only the two elected members were participating.

- As a Committee, we have identified a number of well-qualified and willing candidates for a number of the Board and Officer positions.
- The Committee repeatedly contacted the President to ask for WGNA financial reports and meeting minutes so that we could gauge current Boardmembers' involvement and the Board's fiscal record. This information has not been provided, either to the Membership at public Board meetings or by newsletter or website, or to the Nominating Committee in response to our requests. It is unclear what business the Board has transacted over the past year.
- The Committee tried to contact each of the current Officers and Boardmembers to ascertain their interests and capabilities. One Officer was forthcoming but uninterested in serving for another year; another agreed to a conversation, only to cancel almost immediately. All the other Officers and Boardmembers refused our repeated invitations by email and by phone to communicate. Thus, while we believe that perhaps a number of the current Board may well be well qualified, we are unable to recommend anyone who is unwilling to make him/herself available to an elected Nominating Committee member for even a short 15-minute phone conversation.
- In response to the Nominating Committee's inquiry, the President gave us a deadline of "between April 22 and 27th" to present our report, so as to be in time for inclusion in the upcoming Newsletter. Thus, we found it incredibly disturbing to see the President circulate on April 13 a list of candidates (identified as "returning Board members") for the upcoming year, two weeks prior to the deadline he had given us to present our recommended slate. In his email, the President also said "As for sorting our Board Officer positions, that is being discussed."
- This remarkable usurpation of the Nominating Committee's charge was followed on April 19th with a publicly-distributed Board meeting agenda which included "Introduction of Board Candidates" as an agenda item. Apparently a slate had been developed by process that excluded the elected Nominating Committee and was ready to be publicly unveiled.

Even though the elected Nominating Committee has identified a number of well-qualified and willing candidates for the next Board, we are choosing to withhold those nominations until they can be vetted by a newly-elected, five member Nominating Committee, one which will follow established WGNA tradition and will not instead nominate themselves to Officer or Board positions.

Accordingly, we, the undersigned elected Nominating Committee members, reluctantly withhold our recommendations for the Officers and Board, and recommend instead only a slate for the Nominating Committee.

The Willow Glen Neighborhood Association has a 38-year-long history of working hard to be a well-run organization dedicated "to represent its members on issues of neighborhood enhancement and preservation." We hope, through a transparent process fully engaging the membership, that the Association will one day again proudly represent the Willow Glen community.



Larry Ames



Suzy Phillips

4/24/2011

2010-2011 elected Nominating Committee members

Short Biographies of the Nominees:

Larry Ames

- served on the WGNA Board for twenty years, including 4 terms as President;
- participated in numerous local planning committees and task-forces affecting Willow Glen, including the Los Gatos Creek Trail, the Lincoln Avenue Study (I helped organize the first "Founders' Day Festival"), the Three Creeks Trail, the SJ Parks Strategic Plan ("the Greenprint"), the General Plan update ("Envision 2040"), High Speed Rail, and more;
- was Project Manager for WGNA's "Urban Stream Restoration Project" along the Los Gatos Creek, and am actively involved in various Riparian ("streamside") habitat protection projects;
- served 9 years as Santa Clara County Parks & Rec. Commissioner, and am now a Commissioner on San José's newest commission, "the Neighborhoods Commission"; and
- founded "the eList" in Willow Glen, and have been its Moderator since its beginning over a dozen years ago.

I enjoy living in my neighborhood in Willow Glen and regularly walking to our downtown, and my goal is for everybody to be able to have it as good.

Nancy Ianni

As a 45-year resident of Willow Glen, I respect the outstanding contribution WGNA has made to the continuing vitality of our community, and I will appreciate the honor of recommendation to the Nominating Committee for the upcoming year.

My qualifications include the following experience: President of WGNA, 1978-79; San Jose City Council Member, 1981-1993; Executive Board, Association of Bay Area Governments; Chair, Santa Clara County Intergovernmental Council; and Chair, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Integrated Environmental Project. I have also served the community as President of the San Jose Public Library Foundation; and as a Board member, San Jose-Santa Clara League of Women Voters and Vice President of the Bay Area League. I currently serve on the City of San Jose Envision 2040 General Plan Task Force.

Tiralisa Kaplow

I first moved to Willow Glen in 1967 and returned for good in 1985.

I served on WGNA's board from the late 80s and through the mid 90s with two terms as President. During my time on the Board, we doubled WGNA's dues paying membership by enhancing the land-use focus and broadening it to include greater volunteerism, community education and outreach, and proactive communication between neighbors, business, and government. Endeavors include:

- organizing our Graffiti Paint-out and adopt-a-magnet programs, which became the model on which the City based its program;
- serving on Mayor Hammer's New Realities Task Force, worked on Planning policies including the development of the Rotating Shelter Program and 24 hour Policy Working Group.

- serving on the Midtown Study (a groundbreaking study in how to accommodate infill development while preserving the quality of life for the neighborhood); and
- coordinating WGNA's participation in the Los Gatos Creek Urban Stream Restoration Project through a grant from the California State Dept. of Water Resources.

I trained with the Community Foundation and the Non-Profit Development Center and worked to host the first Neighborhood Conference at SJSU. As Co-founder of United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County, we strove to educate, train, and provide an independent support network for neighborhoods from all across the valley.

Suzy Phillips

Suzy Phillips moved to a Willow Glen which terminated at acres of cherry orchards at Meridian and Dry Creek Rd in 1958. Returning home after college, she pursued a career in public service, working for the San Jose City Council, County of Santa Clara and Association of Bay Area Governments in a variety of capacities, including policy and budget analyst, planner, administrative and financial manager, and now capital construction manager. She was recruited into WGNA as an engineering graduate student at Stanford, when she presented her traffic analysis for the proposed Meridian Ave. Post Office expansion at a public meeting. (Thanks to the efforts of a then very effective WGNA organization, the neighborhood prevailed, and the facility was instead constructed on Lundy Ave.) In addition to her years of service on WGNA Boards and stints as newsletter editor, she served two terms as President. She was the founding Project Manager for the S.F. Bay Trail project and represented District 6 on the Horizon 2000 General Plan Task Force. Her volunteer interests and activities over the years have been as varied as her career, and include service on the Board of Governors of the Association of Yale Alumni. Closer to home, she now volunteers with the Willow Glen Lifestyles Home Tour, Town and Country Dog Training Club and Pug Rescue.

Becky L. Worsham

I am a co-founder of WGNA. Our consuming land use in the beginning was preventing the cut through of Cherry Avenue. I served WGNA as president, vice president, and treasurer. I also served on land use and various other committees. I was actively involved with WGNA for at least twenty years. I have served on the general plan revision task force.

I have been involved in many ways in our local schools, as well as the rebuilding of Willow Glen Elementary School.

My family has lived here for 43 years, and we currently have 3 generations residing in Willow Glen.