



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association # Box 163179, Sacramento 95816 # February 2019

Information Shared and Votes Tallied at BPNA's Annual Membership Meeting

A handful of neighborhood folks braved the cold and the rain to attend the Membership Meeting at the Hart Senior Center on January 8. The agenda included presentations by guest speakers from the City and the annual election of Board officers.

Sacramento police officer Norm Leong, who is captain for the downtown area, reviewed crime statistics for our neighborhood over the past year before taking questions from the audience on a variety of topics. He reported that crime in general had declined but home burglaries have increased. He suggested ways to avoid becoming a victim and also recommended installing alarm systems. Lieutenant Eric Forbeck, who handles community relations, was unable to attend the General Meeting because he works late watch. However, he shared his contact information (eforbeck@sacpd.org).

Next to speak was Vice-Mayor Steve Hanson, who had information and answered questions about topics of local interest, ranging from increased street lighting (depending on funding, improvements may be made in the Marshall Park and Boulevard Park neighborhoods in the new budget cycle) to alternative modes of transportation (bikeshare rules will be updated, JUMP Bikes have been very successful, and electric scooters may be arriving soon). He was enthusiastic about the introduction of electric bus service between downtown and the airport (a more immediate solution than light rail). On the topic of midtown and downtown development, he predicted that additional tall buildings were unlikely to be built soon, given the state of the economy. In the case of the Railyards, residential development cannot be initiated until a sewer system is in place. Homelessness remains one of the toughest situations facing the City. The results from the community survey about possible housing solutions for the homeless in the different council districts have not yet been tallied.

Our third guest, Associate Preservation Planner Sean de Courcy from the Community Development Department, provided an update on the progress that has been made in establishing development guidelines for Sacramento's historic districts. Residents are encouraged to read and comment on the first draft of the historic district plans, available on the City website (<https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Urban-Design/Preservation/Historic-District-Plans>).

The General Meeting concluded with the announcement of the results of the 2019 Board election, capably overseen by BPNA members Ben Hunt and Jennifer Knutson. Four re-elected officers (Ty Dockery, Liz Edmunds, Dave Herbert, and Eric Knutson) will be joined by three new officers (Ellen Hunt, Steve Sander, and Catherine Turrill Lupi). We would like to thank the three departing officers—Bob Flack, Whitney Leeman, and Dylan Wiseman—for their service on the Board. We are especially grateful to Whitney for taking the lead on a number of issues of neighborhood concern.

Sacramento's First Museum Week (February 2-8)

Sacramento's Free Museum Day has been an annual feature on the first Saturday of February for two decades. This year, that special day, with free admission to 24 participating institutions, will be the kick-off event for a whole week of events and opportunities hosted by museums in and outside Sacramento. During Museum Week, members of the community are encouraged to experience an even wider array of cultural and educational experiences in the Sacramento region, from the center city all the way out to Locke, where the Boarding House Museum will be hosting tours and activities. Among other events, there will be story time for children at the California State Railroad Museum, art making for toddlers at the Crocker Art Museum, special guided tours at the California State Library, volunteer gardening tasks at the Historic City Cemetery, and a figure drawing class for adults at Verge Center for the Arts. For more information about Museum Week, go to: <http://sacmuseums.org/news-events/museum-day/>

The Arbor Day Trees of Boulevard Park

In February 1906, just two months before much of San Francisco was destroyed by the devastating earthquake, the Women's Council of Sacramento observed the state's Arbor Day with a tree-planting ceremony in Sacramento's newest neighborhood, Boulevard Park. Unlike the two ceremonies that preceded it in 1904 and 1905, when fan palms were planted along Capitol Avenue and date palms along 28th Street, Boulevard Park's ceremony featured several different varieties of shade trees that had been grown in the National Nursery in Washington, D.C., not far from Mount Vernon. These were the first trees the federal government had ever given to a city for planting along its streets. According to contemporary news reports, the 2,000 seedlings sent from Washington included American elm, ginkgo, Norway maple, sugar maple, pin oak, red oak, and European Sycamore.

Despite the rainy weather, nearly a thousand people attended the event, including the lieutenant governor, the mayor and other city officials, members of the Women's Council and the Board of Education, pupils from Marshall Primary School, and local residents. There were speeches, organ music, choral singing, and other patriotic entertainment. Since Arbor Day was then being observed on February 21, the day before Washington's Birthday, some portions of Sacramento's ceremony honored the first president, whose portrait was prominently displayed on the flag-draped platform erected at 21st and G Streets. Under the watchful eye of their teacher, Mrs. George Lester, the school children performed a hatchet drill that a journalist called "one of the prettiest features of the program." After the completion of the exercises, the tree planting began. Lieutenant Governor Alden Anderson, who later lived at 2101 H Street, planted the first tree in the row. The Women's Council intended to place trees throughout Boulevard Park, in the area bounded by B, H, 21st, and 23rd Streets. However, decades passed before neighborhood residents experienced what 1906 Sacramento could only imagine, the tree canopies that now shade whole streets and the huge tree specimens towering over two-story houses. How lucky we are to have inherited a neighborhood that helped Sacramento earn its classification as a "City of Trees"!



21st and G Streets, looking north, in about 1910

Celebrate the Year of the Boar

The Chinese New Year Culture Association will be holding its 22nd annual celebration at the Hiram Johnson High School on Saturday, **February 9** (879 14th Avenue; free parking). There will be a Chinese culture exhibition from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., a stage program from noon-5:30 p.m. (lion dance, martial arts, music, singing), and children's games from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Chinese food and beverages also will be sold. Admission to the exhibition is free; for the other programs, tickets will cost \$6 for adults and \$1 for children 12 years old and younger. For more information, go to: <http://cnvca.net/php/>

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