



A Message from Board Co-Presidents Rod Hersberger & Steve Forsell

While the definition of a new normal is evolving and sometimes elusive, what a difference a year makes. As we have gotten vaccinated and feel more secure venturing out, there is a renewed energy in Santa Barbara that has replaced the eerie quiet of April and May 2020. Locals and visitors are shopping and dining out and seeing family, friends and acquaintances, cautiously we hope. Many people continue to enjoy walking our lovely streets. Further progress will be gradual and, hopefully, positive.

At this time, the UEA board is tentatively planning to hold an autumn social in one of the local parks as well as an in-person annual meeting. We have contacted the First Presbyterian Church, which will be determining its event scheduling later in the year. Stay tuned for details as plans for both activities develop.

We continue to hear neighbor's complaints about traffic, speeding and truck noise. The city does not seem particularly responsive, but we keep plugging away. Let the board hear from you by mailing board@sbuppereast.org. The board is also monitoring the future of State Street downtown and is working with others to explore historical status for the State Street median strip between Mission and Constance.

The board recently authorized a donation to the Storyteller Children's Center located on State near Padre. You can read more details elsewhere in this issue.

Steve Forsell Rod Hersberger

State Legislation Pending for Additional Housing

Currently the state legislature is pushing through two major bills to address California's housing crisis. Both bills would place further requirements on cities and counties. Senate Bill SB 9 would allow lot splits plus Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) and junior ADUs to be placed on the same lot. This move would essentially do away with single family zoning throughout the entire state. Other provisions would continue to limit the city's ability to review the projects. Senate Bill SB 10 would essentially do away with zoning and architectural review for any construction on parcels that would be created by SB 9.

A minority of our current Santa Barbara City Councilmembers are quite concerned about these two bills, which appear to have majority support in both the state Senate and Assembly. These bills are rapidly moving through committees to a vote on the floor of the legislature. Councilmembers Kristen Sneddon, the Upper East's council representative, Oscar Gutierrez and Alejandra Gutierrez, along with our state Senator Monique Limon and Assemblymember Steve Bennett, and the Montecito Association sponsored a Town Hall webinar May 19, 2021, to discuss this issue. The main issues were continued state mandates, which eliminate local control, and the fact that "affordable housing" by definition was going to continue to be a hurdle in the Santa Barbara area regardless of state targets for our area.

If you are interested and/or concerned about this issue, please contact the city councilmembers or the state legislators. If the local coastal communities do not participate, this debate is likely to be dominated by state legislators from the Bay Area, LA/Orange counties, and San Diego.



Bikes on State Street – Survey Results

Several weeks ago the UEA board conducted a survey of our 250-household membership about pedestrians and bicycles on the State Street Promenade. Here are the responses to the two questions:

- 62.5% in favor of pedestrians only on the State Street Promenade
- 37.5% in favor of bikes and pedestrians on the State Street Promenade

Data Metrics:

- 152 unique responses total
- 95 for ped only (62.5%)
- 57 for ped+bike (37.5%)
- Ratio is $62.5/37.5 = 1.67$

We shared the results with the Mayor and City Council but received no acknowledgement or response.

The UEA board of directors would like to thank all those who took the time to respond to this survey. Should you have any additional comments to share, please email us at board@sbuppereast.org.

UEA Makes Donation to Neighborhood Storyteller Children’s Center

The Upper East Association is pleased to announce we made a \$500.00 donation to Santa Barbara's Storyteller Children's Center, located at 2115 State St. (next door to the First Congregational Church). For those not familiar with it, the center provides a therapeutic preschool for homeless and at-risk children and comprehensive services for their families. This preschool was founded in 1988 and serves over 80 children and families. The board made two similar donations in 2020 to other charities to help ease some of the hardship caused by the pandemic.

Positive Neighbor Response to Proposed State Street Landscape Median Strip Designation

We have had an incredibly positive response to our inquiry of the property owners along each side of State Street between Mission Street and Constance Avenue regarding the UEA’s effort to have the city



State Street at Quinto Street Looking Downtown

consider designating the landscape median strip between Mission and Constance as a "cultural landscape landmark." In the mid-teens of the 20th century that section of State Street was designated as an area for "hobble skirt" parking, i.e., parking at an angle in the center of the street. That was replaced sometime in the 1920s with the landscape islands or "median strip" that we see today on State Street, which at that time ended at Constance Avenue. It was not until the post war years that State Street was extended across Mission Creek to what we refer to as upper State Street. We are continuing to ascertain support for such a designation effort and will keep you informed as we progress.

Renewed Focus on Neighborhood Safety and Preparedness

Debbie Trauntvein is now working on our neighborhood’s Safety and Emergency Preparedness program. This is new leadership for the neighborhood mapping and preparedness that the association began several years ago. She has been in contact with the American Red Cross and will have some more information coming to you soon. Once we can meet safely again, we will try to schedule a presentation by the Red Cross on neighborhood emergency plans.

Some of you were involved with mapping and preparedness earlier. If you are still interested or would like to be involved, please email Debbie at tdr1213@aol.com.