Mary Solis called the meeting to order at 7 pm and asked Amanda Jacobs to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Amanda Jacobs

Mary Solis introduced herself to the attendees as well as Amanda Jacobs, president of the Kendall Hills Neighborhood Association. Mary also introduced Chas Kelley, 5th Ward Councilman, city of San Bernardino, and Jim Penman, city attorney. Mary also introduced Debbie Okagba from the city that is in charge of the Spring Citywide Cleanup, and Dave Rutherford of the SBx line project. Mary finished introductions with Charles ??? of Code Enforcement for the city of San Bernardino.

Mary then turned the floor over to Debbie Okagba. Debbie told the group that the Spring Citywide Cleanup is coming in April. She wanted to let us know that the city is soliciting projects for cleanup day and that submissions must be in by January 31st. Proposed projects can be called into Debbie’s offices at 909.384.5122. Project proposals should consider the number of volunteers required, the scope of the project, equipment that will be needed, and the time it will take to complete the project.

Debbie has interest forms on the back table. When completing the interest form, the applicant only needs to complete it to the first horizontal line across the page. Debbie indicated that there is an Event Board (people, not a chart) that replaces the steering committee and other committees associated with the citywide cleanup. Also on the table are informative booklets and stress balls. Debbie yielded the floor to Mary.

Mary introduced David Rutherford to speak on SBx & Omnitrans plans. David said that the first part of the project will take 24 months and is the ‘E’ Street corridor consisting of 15.7 miles. While the 1st phase will take 24 months to complete, no more than 3 or 4 months will be spent in one particular neighborhood/residential area.

David then said that the northern most terminus of the SBx line will be the Park and Ride near the 7-11, across from the storage facility on Kendall, near Palm. The southern most terminus will be at the Jerry L. Pettis Veteran’s Administration Hospital. There will be a development of parking area, platform, ticket vendor machines, and security cameras. David also said that each station on the SBx line will have glass panels with artwork that is unique to that platform. There will be nine artists creating the community themed artwork. David also described a process whereby local trees and tree limbs will be incorporated into the artwork. There will be an additional pathway for SBx at the entrance of Cal State San Bernardino. David also told us that the construction team will comply with all safety standards. If people would like updates there is a twitter account as well as calling 855 – SBX-NEWS. Members can also sign up for newsletters as updates.

David yielded the floor to Amanda. Amanda reminded everyone that San Bernardino’s Citizen’s Academy will begin in March. The sessions will meet on Wednesdays from 18:00 – 2100 for ten weeks. If you’d like to register go to San Bernardino City.org and click on the Citizen’s Academy link. Amanda yielded the floor to Mary.

Mary introduced Chas Kelley. Chas started by announcing that Kendall Plaza will be across from the mini storage site, on the south side of Kendall. At present, the Gas Company is completing their work to the plaza site. SBx will bring the site up to grade to meet the flood plain and water diversion requirements. There will be 60,000 square feet of retail space. Chas wanted to publicly thanks the city attorney’s office for getting the project moving forward again.

Chas’ second point involved the Regal Theatre in which he said that it should be up and running by Christmas 2012. Some have estimated it would be running by summer, but experience tells us there are always delays.

His third point is the Landscape Maintenance District in which homeowners pay to have the green areas around their homes maintained. As usual, the challenge is the funding to pay for people to main the areas and plants. It used to be done by non-city personnel, however it was determined that the city’s park employees could do the job. The budget crunch is preventing the city personnel from working on the LMD’s and the city is looking at alternatives to maintain the LMD’s.

Point 4 from Chas was the city budget. Chas said, “Plainly, we’re broke.” Now the city is considering how to allocate the resources (taxes and fees) for the best use. One way that city residents can assist is by shopping locally. This will generate local taxes for San Bernardino plus support local businesses. The taxes also continue to support our public safety employees.

Chas yielded he floor to Mary who introduced Jim Penman, city attorney.

Jim indicated that there are 123 lawsuits pending against the city, in 112 the city is the defendant and 11 suits where the city is suing the other party. Id the 112 lawsuits, the majority are suits against our police officers. J9im also said that some cases are so complex that external law firms must be hired to defend them. Jim indicated his budget for lawsuits is $81,000which was spent in two months. Jim also said that the city currently has approximately 2,000 parolees, etc. and that an additional 2,000 ‘non-violent’ probates will be coming to San Bernardino. While they are classified as ‘non-violent’ felons, that doesn’t mean they are non-violent since they may have pleaded down before sentencing, or had a violent crime prior to this conviction.

Jim then reminded the gathering that there are 3 more council meetings before the new council is seated. The new council will be seated on March 5th. Jim then changed to the concern over marijuana clinics in San Bernardino. These clinics are banned in the city itself. He also said that California allows medical marijuana use, the federal government does not. There are lawsuits pending attempting to shut down the clinics. Administrative Warrants were served on Tuesday, January 17th, and then the Supreme Court takes a First District case, which vacated the Administrative Warrants since it also vacated lower court rulings. In the meantime, the federal agents come in and file felony charges and seize the property of the clinics. Jim said that Californians did pass a law allowing the use of marijuana for those who are truly sick and need it to assuage some of the effects of their medications. However, many people are getting ‘prescriptions’ or medical marijuana cards rom black market sources. Finally, if citizens see a medical marijuana clinic within the city, call the city attorney’s office so they can begin monitoring them. Jim said that there is more mileage when the federal agents close the clinics than when it’s done locally.

Member question: How are the clinics receiving approval to operate? People voted to allow medical marijuana for true medical needs. Citizens felt it was humane and never thought that medical marijuana would become ‘big business’.

Jim then sated that the new plaza will have a local businessman with restaurant experience who has committed to creating the best dining establishment in San Bernardino. The restaurant will include a large area for family dining and an area for fine dining. Jim yielded the floor to Mary. Amanda made the announcement that the Kendall Hills Neighborhood Association Easter Egg Hunt will be at the Verdemont Community Center and Library on April 7th at 2 pm. Everyone is invited.

Mary closed the meeting but indicated that Amelia Sanchez Lopez, candidate for the City Clerk Runoff election is available for questions while we enjoy the refreshments. Charles, from city Code enforcement was recognized by Mary. Charles then indicated that the gas station at Palm and the freeway onramp is under an Order for Hearing. The owners must respond by May to repair or demolish the site, or the city will. He thanked everyone for their patience and understanding as this has been a long time problem but we’re closer to having it completed.

Meeting adjourned.