

Neighborhood Improvement Team Meeting

General Meeting, Rancho Medanos Jr. High

October 4, 2014, 10:00am

City Staff Present: Garrett Evans, Kolette Simonton, Dana Ayers, Ron Nevels, Hilario Mata, Laura Wright, Sharon Jackson, Jill Hecht, Officer Sarah Spires, Myla Rivers

Mayor: Sal Evola

Vice Mayor: Pete Longmire

CAC Members: Arthur Fountain, Larry Wirick

Approximately 22 residents attended.

INTRODUCTION – Garrett Evans, Asst. City Manager

- Welcome
- Ongoing meetings for about 12 years – 2 in Spring/2 in Fall
- Please let us know where we can improve, what's working and what is not
- 67,000 citizens, less than 300 employees

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Kolette Simonton

- Four parts to Economic Development
 - Business Creation – how can they bring new businesses into the City that fit
 - Business Attraction
 - Business Retention – how do we keep the businesses that we have
 - Job Creation
- Create different activities to bring patrons to certain areas of the City
 - Culinary Crawl
- New businesses downtown
 - Photography Studio
 - Hall of Fame Sports Bar
 - Café in Library

PLANNING – Dana Ayers, Planning Manager

- Help in the development of long term goals for the community
- Make sure all new plans are meeting guidelines of these goals
- Help in creation of General Plan
- Review new proposals and make sure they comply with long term goals of City
- Housing Element – state mandated component
- New 37 unit single family development coming
- Old Central Junior High – developer wants to build a multi-family unit
- List of projects on website, long range and short term
- Staff available 5 day a week 8:00am-5:00pm to answer all questions

ENGINEERING – Ron Nevels

- Five year Project – five year “look ahead”
 - Allocate funds for projects within this 5 year plan, one year at a time
- Working on Ambrose Pool renovation
 - Rehab pool, pool house, chemical room
 - Barrier installed
 - Will have swimming lessons available there
- Working on plans for Kiss-n-Ride lot – place to drop people off, wait for them for EBART, in the beginning design stage, will support future EBART station
- Using credits from PG&E for underground projects, mainline work to start in January to put wires underground – W. Leland Road and Burton Avenue
- Repave Railroad Avenue – Linscheid Drive to Bliss Avenue
- Non-motorized launch ramp – end of Riverview
- Old Towne Square Park – behind farmers market plaza
- Vista Del Mar Trail
- Water Treatment Plant Project

Garrett Evans

- City Council worked with BART for a station at Railroad Avenue to be called Pittsburg Civic Station
 - Cost estimated at \$15 million
 - We’ve come up with nearly half of the funding
 - BART should be voting on approval in about a week
 - Should be completed in 2017
 - People will walk across an overpass, down elevator or stairs to the platform at the middle of the freeway

- Utilization, mostly, for our community
- Proposal for 3 story office building next to courthouse

PUBLIC WORKS – Hilario Mata

- Works on public infrastructures – parks, sidewalks, city buildings, lights, traffic signals
 - (925) 252-4936 for questions or concerns
 - List of city numbers passed out
- Laura Wright worked on getting street lights updated to LED, now starting on parks
- Work with Engineering on ADA curb ramps
- Repair/replace street signs, some you'll need to go through traffic division of Engineering first

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS – Laura Wright

- Gets to work with every department in the City
- Worked on Plastic Bag Ordinance – noticed a reduction of bags in our creeks
- LEA (Local Enforcement Agency) as a City
- Emergency Operation Plan – get involved in CERT
- MPDS, Storm Water Program – we monitor to make sure it's just rain water
 - Engineering and development
 - Outreach programs
 - Don't want any other discharge into the Delta
 - Changing your behavior is the hardest job
 - Kids for Today program/Partners of the Watershed – Delta water awareness program for 4th graders
 - Creek clean up
 - Adopt-a-Spot
- Energy Conservation/Efficiency
- Safety Programs
 - Works with Public Works Dept. for Life Guards
 - Environmental Compliance inspections
- E-News Blast
- Pay Water online
- GoGov – smart phone application to report to us
- Facebook Pages: Living Green, and Neighborhood Team

HOUSING – Sharon Jackson

- Provide income assistance to 1108 households in this City
 - Sponsored through a Federal grant for rental assistance
 - Clients include – disabled, working households, full time adult students
- 3 Components
 - Section 8 (Housing Choice Voucher Program)
 - Veterans Affairs
 - Renters to Homeowners (monetary assistance for 15 years, then transition them off)

PITTSBURG ARTS & COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – NON-PROFIT FOUNDATION – Jill Hecht

- Railroad Book Depot – independent book store, open 7 days a week
- Arts Building at the Marina – art classes for kids and adults
- Coordinate Car Show and Farmers Market – farmers market every Saturday through October
- Performing Arts – California Theater
 - Series of concerts – next is October 25th
 - Comedy show series
 - www.PittsburgCaliforniaTheater.com

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Officer Sarah Spires

- Budgeted for 74 officers
- Detective Bureau works on everything from residential burglaries to homicides
- Traffic Division – motor units, deal with traffic issues, speed trailers
- K-9 – dogs assist with narcotic searches, article searches, missing persons
- Street Crimes Unit – proactive only, focus on getting guns and drugs off the street
- Code Enforcement is a division of the PD
 - 3 full time Community Service Specialists, 1 part-time admin clerk
 - Deal with issues through Go Cities (GoGov reporting system)
- School Resource Officers – 4 total, Officer Maguire is new SRO here at Rancho Medanos
- CASE officer – works with Department of Justice to recover stolen firearms – great partnership fostered with this officer and other agencies
- DA liaison in house 3 days a week
- Mail theft task force – works with Postal Inspector who comes in once a week
- Overall our crime rates are comparable to Brentwood and Walnut Creek
 - Violent crimes we are 3rd lowest in county
 - Serious crimes are down from last year
- Maya Cares program at Maya Cinemas – free screenings for young people with special needs

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS (answers marked with ** in blue)

- What's going on with Wes Pac?

**Just a proposal right now. Their plan is to reuse the storage tanks, but they have put this on hold for now, looking at environmental document again. If it comes back we'll let the community know and ask for comments.

- How will you let people know the project is back? A lot of people don't go on the website.

**if we have your info we can send out notices through email, etc.

- Why is one house left standing at W. Leland Road/Bailey Road?

**This is County property. They lost their redevelopment money also and have no specific plans for development of this land right now.

- Where is the Arco Station going in the San Marco area?

**if you're going west on W. Leland Road, it will be on the right side once you cross over San Marco Boulevard.

- Why isn't PG&E making an effort to move pipeline from under homes instead of eliminating trees? I don't want the trees gone for lack of privacy/protection. Opposed of the removal of vegetation, but more concerned with movement of the pipeline.

** (Tom Guarino – PG&E representative) These are high pressure gas lines and trees can corrode the pipes, their roots can dig in and puncture the lines. An alternative mitigation plans needs to be in place before doing anything with the gas transmission lines. We look at areal and ground survey twice a month to examine the lines. PG&E wants to collaborate with you for relocation of transmission lines in easements, but the lines can last up to 100 years and the integrity of some of the lines is still good for a lot of years.

- I was told you will just chop trees down to ground level and use chemicals to kill the roots.

**yes, that's how it will be done

- Will there be more officers or extra patrol when the new EBART station opens? What will be done for crime prevention for those that want to walk from their house to the station early morning?

**Crime rate is down, 100 cameras placed throughout the City, that area is very safe and we hope you'll feel safe walking around. I didn't think about crime while walking all around at 11:00pm during the summer baseball games. EBART will have an environmental design with lighting and shrub height being an important factor. BART PD will patrol with Pittsburg assisting in the surrounding areas.

- Will there be bike racks?

**yes

- How come there are no signs for California Avenue when you are coming from Railroad Avenue or coming off the freeway?

**we will drive out and take a look after this meeting and get signage if needed

- Will there be another road other than Bailey to get into Concord?

**W. Leland, on the Pittsburg side, does plan to extend over the hill to Willow Pass Road. It's being timed up to the San Marco construction which will be about 15 years out. Ideally, with EBART coming, there will be fewer cars coming out this way from the east and that should be done in 2-3 years.

- Can the City install speed bumps on Sugartree Drive? Cars speed there especially at night.

**There is a process to getting speed humps. Paul Reinders in the traffic division of Engineering handles requests. You'll need to get a petition signed by you and the neighbors and then we'll do a study to see if the speed humps are warranted.

- Will you support a food cottage business?

**Economic Development can get you linked up with different organizations that help with grants/tax credits – talk to Kolette

- Citizen that lives in neighborhood across from courthouse would like No Parking signs on Avon Street and Victory Avenue.
- Building Department needs to enforce residential venting standards.

**Garrett Evans asked citizen (Don Anthony) to forward information to him so he can look it over and see what the concern is

- What's going on with the fire station on Leland?

**we are working with them to get it re-opened, also looking at charging a small fee to the developers with new houses coming in to help cover costs such as this.

- When will we get a dog park?

**there is one open in Highlands Ranch and one slated for San Marco area at San Marco and Leland – going through the design process now and the park should be completed in a year or so.

- There is a drainage problem on Railroad Avenue/Bliss Avenue, in front of Jack in the Box.

**The problem was corrected during the remodel of Jack in the Box.

- Why are we losing so many businesses but continue to spread the resources? What are we doing to keep businesses here?

**50% of restaurants go out of business every 2 years. We provided assistance to both Momo's and Nana's, but unfortunately it didn't work out. We are good about bringing other, new, businesses in right behind them. 3-6 months you should see another restaurant in Nana's. We worked with Target and the property owner to keep Target in our city and renew the lease another 10 years. We are working hard to keep and help businesses succeed in our city.

- Do you review business plans?

**yes, and we offer free resources to help develop business plans as well.

- Will there be a parking lot by EBART?

**yes, but it will mostly be an infill station with limited parking of maybe 500 spaces, you won't see a sea of parking. This will be geared towards this community to walk, bike, car pool, or bus to this station.

- There needs to be more parking at the Bay Point station.

**it takes time and money to get parking structures built. Bay Point is impacted now, but once the line is extended to Hillcrest there will be some stress relief with people catching that train instead of driving into Bay Point.

- Will you have conversations with Tri Delta Transit for better bus schedules to work with EBART system?

**There are challenges with taking bus, but you should see a change in pattern for the transit system with the oncoming of EBART. Tri Delta Transit has a real time phone application so you can check bus times at each stop.