

Notes from the April 8th, 2015 Neighborhoods Commission (NC) meeting.
(Informal notes by L. Ames (“LLA”). Additions/corrections/comments are welcome!)

Agenda: <[link](#)>

New Commissioner:

Joe Horwedel (former Dir. of Planning) appointed to fill vacancy to represent D1.

Public Comment

Janice Rombeck, aide to Co. Sup. Cortese, announced a free bus to Sacramento May 20th, to discuss education w/ State legislators

Liaison Report (<[link](#)>)

by Jacklyn Joanino, aide to Councilmember Rocha

- Mar 24: SJPD Officer Michael Johnson died in the line of duty. (I and another Cmsnr noted that we each had attended the memorial to help show community support.)
- City’s homeless response: cleared Story/Senter: more than simply clear, worked w/ residents.
- Working on Levitt Pavilion at St. James Park. (LLA Q: is it compatible w/ Historic park?)
- City renewed contract for SJ Family Camp (up in Sierras near Yosemite)
- Mayor’s Budget message is out for public comment/review

Vendors / Peddlers

- Mar 28th public meeting cancelled at last moment: “improper Sunshine notification”.
- At Rules Cmte 4/1/15, Councilmember Carrasco (D5) raised concerns about County Health Inspectors interfering w/ vendors. To be discussed at April 21st Council Meeting: “Suspend enforcement of ‘Peddler Permit Ordinance’... until such time as ordinances revising the Peddler Permit Ordinance... go into effect...”
- NC is asked to co-host several public hearings: 4/14 in D5 (Mayfair Com. Cntr), 4/18 at City Hall, and sometime in late April in D6.
- Topic is very hot in D5: social awareness; important employment opportunity for community: big discussion on CM Carasco’s Facebook page.
- Topic is very fluid: discussion at City shifting from considering only changes to those permit regulations for only Fruit & Veggies on Private property, and expanding to possibly include all vendors allowed on Public and/or Private property.
- Discussion: what is the purpose of the NC hearings? Only Fruit & Veggies (as originally announced) or all vendors (as flyer seems to indicate)? Only those allowed on Private property, or Public/Private? Is NC to make recommendations on policy to Council? Who will be our co-hosts, and will they be listening to the public? What’s the point of having meetings if the output is not yet defined? Purpose of NC is (1) to disseminate info from city to community, (2) collect community info as input for city, (3) act as “sounding board”/“focus group” for city, and (4) as catalyst for community discussion; it is not for “window dressing” to give the public a false appearance of participation.

- Motion: NC >won't< co-host meetings on vendors until the purpose of those meetings is defined. Discussion: the delay won't create a hardship on the vendors since the City is moving to suspend permit enforcement. Motion passed 13-1. Public meetings to be rescheduled.

Report on Unmanned Aerial System (UAS, aka "Drone")

- Minor changes to report from last month, based on input from NC. Cover letter amended per request of Legal to highlight differences between NC reco's and those of SJP. (NC goes further in spelling out prohibitions against surveillance, and adds that use of drone in "Exigent Situations" is to be reported to both Council >and< the Independent Police Auditor (IPA).)
- Public comment: speaker wants drones delayed, more public discussion, concerned about surveillance.
- NC quickly formally approves updated [report](#) and [cover letter](#).
- Discussion on process: "[lessons learned](#)" on the use of Ad Hoc cmtes to draft letters; coordination w/ City Manager's Office and Legal; timing of inputs; etc.

PG&E Pipeline Safety

Presentation by Darin Cline (Darin.Cline@PGE.com), supported by Anil.Babbar@PGE.com and Lizz.Williams@PGE.com).

[presentation will be posted on www.WGBackfence.net/NC when available.]

Types of pipes: Transmission and Distribution.

Transmission lines are steel, 2-42" in dia, pressure 60 - 900 PSI, 30 - 80" underground.

Distribution lines are often plastic; <60 PSI.

Testing of Transmission lines:

- hydrostatic
- pipe inspection robots ("pigs" -- because of the squealing sound)
- "sniffer cars"
- Also: adding automatic shutoff valves; controlled from San Ramon headquarters.

Tree roots can hurt pipelines: damage the anticorrosion coatings.

PG&E is removing trees from pipeline route; will replant nearby. Trees need to be >5' from pipeline.

Spending \$3B on effort (\$500M on first phase)

Q: What's the biggest risk? A: folks digging into the pipes. Please: call 811 to locate underground utilities before digging!

PG&E wants to reach out to Nghbrhd Assoc.s to spread the message.

Budget

NC should write a letter to Mayor and Council by the May NC meeting.

Q: what to write?

Issues:

- D8: Crime; too much retail invading Evergreen College area
- D1 (Joe H): consider the Capital Improvement Budget (CIP)
- Staff: read the Mayor's campaign book; discussion on Zero Budgeting.
- LLA: in D6, we discussed sustainable budgeting by preserving employment and commercial lands -- protect from conversion to housing.
- need to make SJ more business-friendly: Permitting is slow, in part due to antiquated computer equipment.
- LLA: include \$ for codification of Envision 2040 (e.g., Riparian, ...). \$ for s/w and h/w upgrades to Plan.Dept to improve efficiency; enforce the restriction on conversion of commercial/employment lands to residential.

Ad hoc Budget Cmte volunteered: Matt Wahlin (D8), Robert Sandoval (D7), Kathleen McEvers (D5), Joe Horwedel (D1) and I (LLA: D6). We will meet at City Hall Thur April 23, 6:30 to discuss, w/ intent to draft letter by Apr 30 to share w/ Cmsn, aiming for final vote May 13th.

There will be a budget discussion in each Council District in May. Timing is such that they will be too late to fold into NC thoughts -- we will need to write based on what we know now. (1st district budget meeting: D4 on May 4, 6-8 PM, at Orchard School Dist meeting, 921 Fox Lane; last meeting D1, May 26, 6-8, Harker School, 3800 Blackford Ave; D6 meeting Wed May 20, 6-8 PM, location TBD.)

Staff Report

Staff is preparing an annual report to Council on the NC. LLA: I feel we've been a very productive Cmsn: quite effective this year -- many accomplishments!

Adjourned

(Afterwards, folks remembered that we were also going to mention the planned "oil trains" rumbling thru SJ (including on old tracks thru North Willow Glen). To be added to the May NC agenda.)

~Larry, 4/9/15