

San José Neighborhoods Commission (NC) monthly meeting
April 13, 2016

informal notes by L. Ames, 4/14/16

Agenda: >[link](#)<

Orders of the Day:

Shortened meeting due to schedule conflict: Commission meeting started at 7:30 as City had scheduled the annual Commissioner Appreciation event for 6-7:30 that evening.

Public Comment:

Ron Evans: concerned about abandoned property next door in Alviso. Commissioners offered information about Code Enforcement and also Responsible Landlord Engagement Initiative (RLEI).

Liaison Report: none. Councilmember Don Rocha (liaison) had planned to give the report in person, but then had a schedule conflict.

Chair, with consent of Commission, took agenda item out-of-sequence:

Illegal Fireworks:

Presentation by Interim Assist. Fire Chief Johnny Dellinger -- see [Press Release](#)

Commission was given a report on [Council action 4/12/16](#):

- Authorize additional help with firework citations: Code Enforcement Officers, Park Rangers, Parking Control Officers, Community Service Officers, or any other appropriate staff authorized by the City Manager.
- \$500 fine first offense in 18 month period, \$700 for 2nd, \$1,000 for 3rd. (Fine amount was raised and period lengthened at Council discussion.)
- Enables neighbors to video report use of illegal firework; anonymous reporting if needed.
- Property owners responsible for sale, use, possession or storage on their private property
- Parents responsible for actions by their children
- For period July 1 - 5; one year trial program; to get feedback.

Chair (LLA) reported on comments he'd given at Council meeting:

- Council has the letter sent from Neighborhoods Commission
- Fireworks not only a fire safety hazard, but also affects folks with PTSD and anxious pets.
- While Staff may be overwhelmed by illegal use on the 4th, they should be able to handle the lesser use on the 1st. Make public arrests and report in media on the 2nd; arrest on 2nd and report on the 3rd; have folks complain on social media about being fined.

Budget:

[Mayor's Budget message](#) has been released;

City Manager is to respond soon.

There will be a community outreach in each Council District. Times (probably evenings) & locations are TBD, but save the dates: First meeting is May 2nd for budget discussion in Council District 7; 5/7 in D5; 5/11 in D9; 5/12 in D4; 5/16 in D1; 5/18 in D10; 5/19 in D2; 5/23 in D3; 5/24 in D8; and finally May 26th in D6. You're welcome to attend any and all meetings: you don't have to attend only the one in your district.

Now that these dates have been selected, Staff will select non-conflicting dates for the even-numbered-district Caucuses.

Caucus Process:

Approved by Council 4/12/16.

The [memo](#) included an ambiguous passage on Commission terms.

We have two 4-year terms, and Council had previously approved that Pilot Program would count as one term.

City Manager's Office & Clerk told the Council that the 2yr period between Pilot and Caucus counts as a 2nd Term, and that all original even-numbered Commissioners are termed out.

>> ***Dave Dearborn and I will [leave the Neighborhoods Commission this June.](#)***

>> We need to recruit replacements, or else the Councilmember might have to make appointments to fill the vacancies.

The application deadline for candidates for the Commission: May 3rd

Caucuses will be scheduled to occur between May 9 and June 1st.

Council to certify the selectees by June 28th.

New Commissioners seated for Aug. Commission meeting.

Next meeting: May 11, 2016.

Mayor has asked that we be given a presentation on the Smart City Initiative.

PRNS has asked to discuss Shrines on Public Property.

Plus, Commissioners want to work on our "User's Manual", especially now since we'll be losing our "corporate memory" and we'll wish to pass along our "Lesson's Learned".

~Larry Ames, 4/16/16