

SJ Neighborhoods Commission, Jan 14, 2015

informal notes by L. Ames, made for the D6 community.

Agenda of Neighborhoods Commission (NC) on-line at [>link<](#)

Changes: item (g)1 (Outdoor peddling/Vending) postponed to Feb. mtg., leaving a short agenda.

Mayor Sam Liccardo & Council reappointed Councilmember (CM) Don Rocha to be liaison to NC. CM Rocha's new aide, Jacky Joanino ("wah-KNEE-no"), introduced herself.

Public Comment:

Speaker 1: Concerns w/ Police Drone program. Urges NC to not be pressured, to wait a year, have public be part of the process. We invited speaker to attend the special NC session on Jan 17th.

Speaker 2: Jeff, from D3: concerns w/ illegal fireworks. Establishing an ad-hoc cmte in D3 to urge public awareness and prioritized police enforcement.

Liaison Report:

- * Council appointed Margie Mathews as interim CM for D4, and CM Rose Herrera as Vice Mayor.
- * Report on make up of Cmtes. Rule Cmte will be Mayor, Magdalena Carroasco (D5), Rose Herrera (D8), Chappie Jones (D1), and Johnny Khamis (D10)
- * Council approved rules for short-term rentals (B&Bs, AirBnB, etc.): up to 180 days/year if host not on-site, 365 days/yr if host lives on-site. City collects 10% TOT Transit Occupancy Tax, but not the additional 4% Convention Center surcharge.
- * Council wrote letter re: spur rail line in San Luis Obispo, raising concerns about oil tank trains passing thru San Jose: this city is not equipped to handle a derailment emergency.
- * Immigrant Services has been agendized for Council discussion this spring
- * Medical marijuana: city is streamlining the process for distributor hearings and the process of shutting down inappropriate sites.
- * Development next to Coleman Soccer is delayed a year due to need to rebid the asbestos abatement.
- * Mayor Sam Liccardo will give the State of the City address Sat., March 14th, 10 AM, at Independence High School.

Q: what's up w/ the Budget?

A: not clear whether new Mayor will go thru Budget Games, or what degree of community outreach.

Discussion: commenting upon the SJ budget is well within scope of NC: perhaps we should host our own outreach process & community meetings. We'll discuss if and how at Feb. mtg.

Transportation Safety:

Dir. Hans Larsen was away; presentation by Dep'ty Dir. Laura Wells.

- * SJ is a safe city. Injury crash rate has dropped three-fold over past 25-years and now is less than half the national average: SJ has only 2.4 injuries/1,000 residents/year.
- * Fatalities averaging ~40/year -- too many. Nearly half are pedestrians; a few each year are cyclists. Average age of pedestrian fatality: 55.
- * Traffic enforcement unit has dropped from 42 to 10 officers.
- * Schools: Operation Safe Passage: 25,000 kids have been trained.
- * Pilot program: 15 mph by schools (if on 2-lane, ≤30 mph street). Program not funded for expansion. (Q: what's the cost -- signs? A: traffic studies!)

Traffic Safety Projects:

- * Enhanced crossings: adding 20 new ones/yr.
 - bulb-outs for safer crossing. (My comment: don't let them impact bike safety.)
- * LED street lights. there are 62k lights in SJ; 23k converted to LED by this year end.
- * Traffic calming: funding is drying up; can only do 3 projects/yr/district.
- * Issue: copper wire theft.

Staff Report:

- * reshuffling at City Manager's Office. Norberto Dueñas is Interim City Manager.
- * Fire Chief announced this week that he's resigning.

Special NC Meeting! Saturday, Jan. 17, West Valley Library on San Tomas Aquino at Saratoga, 1 - 3 PM: 2nd of 3 special sessions to collect comment on Police Unmanned Aerial System (UAS; surveillance; Drones). Same presentation as last time; new audience. 3rd special session in Feb in eastern SJ (TBA), followed by discussion at NC in March.

Other cities: Police are concerned about how to regulate public's use of drones.

[SF Parks and LA Police have issues like ours, and are grappling w/ how to get publicly acceptable rules for official drone use.]

Work Plan:

- * Feb.: Outdoor Peddling/Vendor presentation
- * Also in Feb.: Auditor's Report.
- * And in Feb.: discussion as to whether/how NC should have budget hearings. April: work on Budget; May: finalize and report out.
- * April/May: fireworks
- * Nov: start preparing for Caucus and 2016's Work Plan. [Note: Even-numbered districts will need to select their Commissioner's in 2016: you get to decide whether Dave Dearborn and I will continue to represent D6, if we choose to run.]
- * Plus, as always: emerging issues. (When we made this year's work plan (see >[notes](#)<), there was no thought about a Police Dept. Drone Program!)

Work already done:

- * formally commented upon Policy 0-4, bylaws for Commissions
- * formally commented upon VTA's plans to delete/relocate the Alum Rock BART Station

Plus: listened to presentations on homelessness, medical marijuana, and pedestrian safety, and informally gave feedback during presentations. Additionally, individuals have commented upon various topics.

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It was a short NC mtg: it was nice to get home before 9 PM!

>> Sat, Jan 17th: Drones, at the West Valley Library, 1 PM

>> Thur, Jan 29: the quarterly D6NLG mtg, at the Bascom Library, 6 PM. (All are invited to attend, but discussions are related to District 6 issues: Rose Garden, Willow Glen, Burbank/Del Monte, Cory, Newhall, etc.)

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email me w/ concerns/comments/corrections, etc.: Larry@WGBackfence.net

~Larry Ames

Jan. 17, 2015.