

Neighborhoods Commission (NC), May 13, 2015 meeting

informal notes by L. Ames, 5/23/15

>[agenda](#)<

Public Comment

Ed Rast: SJ Rules Cmte was to discuss renewal of SAP Arena contract. Concern: contract of that size is supposed to be given 28 days' notice to allow public review.

Deb Kramer: spoke about Santa Clara County Creek Coalition (<http://sccreeks.org/>); discussed the recent "Coyote Howl" Conference at San José State Univ.

"The Jungle" homeless encampment on the Coyote Creek is cleaned up, and the area has been renamed "Coyote Commons"

and check out the San José Clean app for the iPhone and Android. (Not available for Windows phones)

Liaison Report

by Jackie, aide to Liaison Councilmember Don Rocha:

- City Manager's Budget is now available
- Council heard discussion at Rules Cmte on Rental & Affordable Housing, Rent Control, Mobile Home Conversion
- Levitt Pavilion for St. James Park. (Q: is it compatible w/ Historic District? Can send questions to Martina Davis, staff to Historic Landmarks Com'sn)
- look for Drought Restrictions soon
- City has stopped enforcement of the Peddler Permits until Council has considered/revised the process. [Note: the NC did not participate in the community discussions since it was unclear what the purpose or desired output would be -- see [April's LLA NC notes](#).
- City working on "Vision Zero" -- traffic safety, with a goal of being so safe that there are zero injuries
- Q: Has the Council received the NC [Drone Report](#) (and [Cover Letter](#)) yet? A: No: it first has to go to the Public Safety Cmte, scheduled for the June mtg.

Homelessness

presentation by Ray Branson, City of San José

- working on Abatement and Rapid Rehousing
- Feb: Council endorsed Destination Home, to construct 6,000 units
- preparing a report to Council for June 2nd.
- considering Sanctioned Encampments; very small units
- Costs the city ~\$350 - \$400k per unit to make housing.

Q: what about Innvision? A: just a bed for the night. It's a non-profit, recently merged w/ Shelter Network of San Mateo Co.

Q: what about the County Fairgrounds? Seek private donors?

Homeless fall in three categories:

- Chronically ill: get them services.
- Transitional -- previously employed but fell on hard times. Short-term housing support helps.
- Group that doesn't want any services: get enforcement

[Note: I have been attending the County's Homeless Task Force. Informal LLA notes and links to presentation charts are [online](#).]

San José Budget

The budget ad-hoc cmte -- Matt Wahlin (D8), Robert Sandoval (D7), Kathleen McEvers (D5), Joe Horwedel (D1) and I (LLA: D6) -- met at City Hall Thur April 23, 6:30. We reviewed the Mayor's budget proposal, using the [chartset](#) I'd made for the D6NLG. Comments were collected at the mtg. and later by email, and a draft budget letter was reviewed by the ad-hoc cmte and then shared with the Commissioners prior to the NC mtg.

[On May 12, the before Com'sn review and final approval, I read a portion of the draft at the City Council mtg regarding conversion of employment lands and its impact on city finances. It was effective and successful.]

At our May 13th NC mtg, the Commissioners reviewed the draft and recommended some minor additions. The draft has been amended and now is under final review by the ad-hoc cmte. A copy will be posted on the [WGBackfence.net/NC](#) webpage when complete.

The NC is generally supportive of Mayor's proposals, but we want to emphasis some points:

- **Public Safety** ranks as one of the neighborhoods' most important issues: support for more officers; expanded Community Service Officer (CSO) Program; Gang Prevention; and program against Illegal Dumping to fight community blight.
- **Revenue**: resist Employment Land Conversion; recommendation for an annual City Auditor report listing rezonings, the names those who received the benefits, and the public purpose; and recommendation to keep the Envision 2040 goal of 1.3 jobs per employed resident,
- **Quality of Life**: support for Libraries; maintaining Streets and Roadways; Traffic Calming; fighting Homelessness (incl. helping Vets); Parks citywide, incl. w/ sponsorship & partnerships (Knight Foundation, SJ Parks Foundation, ...); and we're glad fireworks are back.
- **Innovations**: cautious support for Participatory Budgets; suggestions on how the City can be more innovative in its Procurement of Software; and urging more Data Analysis.
- **Community Involvement**: support for the concept of a Neighborhood Dashboard app; expand the Capital Improvement Programs (CIP), encouraging community involvement; and budget should include resources for the Implementation of the General Plan Update (e.g., Riparian Policy).

Work Plan

- Fireworks preparedness in June
- Drought & Graywater
- Gaps in Services
- Economic Impacts of Rezonings
- Community Concerns (e.g., implementation of permit parking)
- Review last year's Work Plan

- Prepare a year-end summary of NC activities. Ad-hoc cmte: Linda Locke– D4, Desiree Barragan– D3, Terry Martin– D9 and I (LLA, D6).
- Recommendation: at the various DxNLGs, the NC Commissioners should make a point of inviting and involving the District representatives from the other City Commissions. For example, I should be sure to invite the D6 appointee on the Parks Com’sn, the Library Com’sn, etc. to our D6NLG meetings.

Next NC Meeting – Wednesday June 10, 2015