

Notes from the 4/9/14 Neighborhoods Commission Meeting
-- Quick and Informal notes by L. Ames, 4/9/14

Great attendance by Cmsn: nearly everyone present.

Open Forum:

Patrick Pizzo complained about how money from a voter-approved ballot measure to fund baseball fields was instead used for some other recreational purpose, w/ City Attorney saying that the ballot summary statement was not legally binding.

My comments:

1. official wording was given in supplemental pamphlet: that is the legal language
2. poor form if “impartial summary” was not correct; should have been challenged before the vote (contact Fair Political Practices at Co. Registrar of Voters to complain); and
- 3: poor form for City to use funds for other purposes than publicly announced (but I’ve seen that done before....)

Council Liaison:

Announcement of “Great American Litter Pick Up” Apr 26, 8:30 – 11:30. For D6, meet at WG Com. Cntr, 2175 Lincoln. Info: www.SJEnvironment.org/stoplitter

Medical Marijuana:

City is coming up w/ revised memo today/tomorrow.

Med.Mj Coops pushing for lax regulations, and are adept at getting good attendance at meetings. If City tries to ban or restrict dispensaries, coops threatening to push for voter initiative to override.

- * Issue goes before Planning Cmsn 4/23 to discuss land-use matters;
- * Public outreach by City Mngr at Com. Mtg. 4/26, 10 AM – noon, City Hall, west wing Rm. 118
- * to City Council 5/13, evening session.

Public is encouraged to attend and speak, and to provide counter-balance to “Big Marijuana”.

I forwarded comments that I heard at our last D6NLG, plus private emails:

- * Not against all dispensaries
- * Should be regulated, in same manner as Liquor or other businesses: not too many in any neighborhood, not close to residences or schools/parks/churches
- * concerned about blight and impact on community -- litter
- * is some need for Med.Mj: I received a heartfelt note from lady who almost lost her unborn child to nausea complications, but pot allowed for a safe delivery. (Daughter is now 4 and doing fine.)

Discussion:

- * air-scrubbers (to avoid odor)
- * no on-site usage

Draft Budget Letter:

Current version of Draft Letter:

- * support Public Safety by maintaining/enhancing community services (libraries, Com. Cntrs): keep kids engaged and out of gangs.
- * more Public Safety: reestablish Burglary Unit, w/ aid of non-sworn staff (Com. Service Officers, CSOs); Crime Prevention; hire more Officers.
- * Pavement Maintenance: do the “ounce of prevention to avoid the pound of cure”.

Discussion:

- * Add comments on Fire Dept.? Could save money w/ 3 per unit vs. current 4?; or should there be more money for fire?
 - * Cmsnr Labosky recommended addition: urge police to network w/ business & residential surveillance cameras for police forensics. I express concerns: we haven’t discussed this in our local groups, and I at least grew up w/ 1984 as a futuristic warning and I may be more protective of privacy than current Facebook share-it-all generation... Motion was withdrawn.
 - * I ask about Fire station 37. Mayor’s proposal discusses reopening the debate from 2008 as to how to finance it:
 - >> it mentions possibility of closing Station 6 (Minnesota at Cherry) and selling the land to pay for Station 37 (on Lincoln near Curtner).
- After discussion, group decides to go w/ original letter, in order to be timely and have an impact on the overall discussion, and then we can write an update next month if desired to include the discussion on the fire station.
- >> Please review the Mayor’s budget statement of 3/6/14, Item “H”, and consider whether to write the Mayor and Council regarding the fate of Fire station 6.

Workplan:

What should the NC work on in the future?

- * Hans Larsen talked about Transportation Safety, including making streets safer for bicyclists and pedestrians. (I said “sounds good!”, and then discussed elimination of some “free-right-turn” ramps at ped-sensitive locations, such as Bird/Willow.)
- * José Salcido from Mayor’s office:
 - says city is requesting ability to leverage business and residential surveillance cameras on an “opt-in” basis for police use -- see discussion above. (Guess we have something to talk about at the next D6NLG...)
 - Police need s/w to assist in allocation of resources: used in other cities.
 - Community Service Officers (CSOs): available to work on cold-cases, burglaries, ...
 - Crime Prevention: outreach to communities: Emergency Preparedness: how to respond, for example, to home-invasions (e.g., who hides in the closet and calls 911?)
 - Police Dept. training: teach officers to understand that they are to serve the community -- “procedural justice” -- learn that power comes from the people, and the police are hired by them to protect them. Tried elsewhere: enlightens and improves the police force.
 - “Night Walks”: tried in Boston: one night/week for a year, walk as group in different areas: reclaim the streets. Often organized by churches. Good Friday in SJ, 7:30 PM.

Neighborhood Commission Caucus Process:

Call for candidates for odd-numbered districts now closed

D1: 11 applicants

D3: 5

D5: 2 (w/ current member Bob Dolce not running)

D7: 3

D9: 10

various Caucus mtgs in May and June; up to 3 voting delegates from each registered neighborhood association. Folks from even-numbered districts to volunteer w/ caucus process: good dress-rehearsal for our time in 2 years.

these are rough stream-of-consciousness notes, not official minutes:
corrections/additions most welcome.

~Larry