

Hi, all,

a quick update from the SJ Neighborhoods Commission:
informal notes by L.Ames, 3/12/14.

Feb. 12th meeting:

nearly the entire mtg was spent on a presentation by Sharon Erickson, SJ Auditor, on the “Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) Report”. This was a fascinating overview of the City, and the Cmsn asked a lot of questions, but we consumed nearly the entire time period without accomplishments.

Tonight (March 12th):

Angelique Gaeta, Assist. to City Mngr, lead discussion on Medical Marijuana Enforcement.

- * 80 sites w/in City, all technically illegal (at least by Fed. rules);
- * Can’t force closure of all at once: each will fight the closure, and it’d overwhelm the city’s Code Enforcement.
- * rules to regulate Med.Mj declared illegal, so now no regulations.
- * Collectives are circulating a petition to get voter approval for laxer rules than Council is considering.
- * City is prioritizing code-enforcement efforts:
 - 1st: those 12 that are adjacent to residential units and facing the same way (on same street)
 - 2nd: 16 more next to residential units, “back to back”,
 - 3rd, ---

Of the first dozen served with “Compliance Order”, ~6 were in D6. I asked why such concentration here? A: more are next to residences: just as many Med.Mj elsewhere, but they’re not in residential areas.

- * Of the 12 served w/ notices, 1 closed, 1 moved, and 10 are challenging the orders thru the code enforcement process.
- * match rules of adjacent cities? Can’t: most forbid them. Nearest allowed: Santa Cruz, SF, and Oakland: SJ will become South Bay distribution center.
- * Comments from the Cmsnrs:
 - keep them away from schools and kids
 - general agreement w/ plans for 1000-ft zoning rules.
 - I relayed what I heard from the D6NLG: “why reinvent the wheel: just use liquor-store zoning rules”. (BTW: I’ve also received personal testimony off-list on how Med.Mj helped save a life: pregnant woman almost lost her fetus due to severe nausea, but was able to go to term thnx to Med.Mj. Daughter is now 4 yrs old and doing fine.)

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Public Comment – 2 min on item not on agenda [taken out-of-order]:

- * Dave Truslo, D3NLG, w/ comments on homeless impacts and concerns for public safety; commented that 26% of SJPd academy graduates were immediately enticed away to other cities, noted that there are 71 openings at SJPd, and pointed out problem motel owners are having: finding discarded firearms in rooms and on-site, and not able to properly dispose of them.

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Hans Larson, Dept. of Transportation, discussed Pavement Management.

He was seeking Nghbrhd Cmsn support for budget for maintaining streets. Several of us said streets are important, but public safety has higher priority. I said I recognized that it's better to pay some now for street maintenance than 10x more later for full-blown repair of street, but then reported that we in D6 feel gang prevention, non-sworn police support for crime prevention, libraries and com.cntrs for youth involvement are higher priority.

- * costs ~\$100k/mile to seal pavement, ~\$1Mil/mile to repair.
- need to seal every ~10 years, and overlayment of new pavement every 30 years.
- * backlog of "poor" streets: ~\$400M, nearly all "neighborhood" street (which constitute ~2/3 of all streets in SJ).
- * Major arterials have higher priority for maintenance, and are properly funded: it's the nghbrhd streets in jeopardy.
- * City does give some priority for main network bike routes.
- * City gave up on seeking a bond to repave streets: did not poll well.

We were asked to inform community about cost-savings of "ounce of prevention": consider yourself informed.

Work plan for coming year: Caucus process, Code Enforcement, Budget.

- * concern for "Human Trafficking" – a "public safety" issue. Concern about prostitutes servicing the Super Bowl event in 2016.
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Pete Kolstad, D3NLG, lead a discussion on "Participatory Budgeting". Some number of cities involve the community in prioritizing some part of the budget on local projects. SJ has "budget games", but that's just "Monopoly Money" whereas PB is for real. (SNI was also real money, but only for ~1/3 of city; PB is for all.)

Council unanimously approved plans for Nghbrhd Cmsn caucus process. This year, D1, D3, D5, D7 and D9 are up for election; I and remainder of Cmsn are set for another 2 years.

- * Spread the word: recruitment of candidates for odd-# districts: deadline for application April 4th.
 - * New term begins July 1st.
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I announced the "San José Parks Advocates" Mayoral Candidates Forum, 7 PM April 21st, at SJ State Co. (490 S. 1st St.), moderated by Barbara Marshman (SJ Merc. News). More info: www.SJParksAdvocates.org.

These are not official minutes, just quick notes from memory and scratchings. Corrections and comments are most welcome!

~Larry Ames, D6, 3/12/14

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