

## **Neighborhoods Commission, Oct. 8, 2014**

>> Informal notes and comments by L. Ames <<

The agenda is posted online at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/35756>

### **Public Comments**

Ed Rast discussed and submitted three letters to the NC:

- \* Request the NC to agendize a discussion of Lincoln Ave. traffic study / road-diet, in anticipation of impacts and possible mitigations for nearby Communications Hill project
- \* His concerns that four SJ fire stations are without water hose & pump engines.
- \* Request the NC to agendize a discussion of “gifts” by the City’s rezoning of properties: he asks us to ask the City to provide quarterly reports of who benefits. (This is basically Q1 from the D6NLG Mayoral Debate of Oct. (see [http://www.wgbackfence.net/NC/Fall\\_2014-annotated.pdf](http://www.wgbackfence.net/NC/Fall_2014-annotated.pdf), p. 17)

Pete Kolstad stepped away from the commission table to ask questions not on the agenda:

- \* Q: can the NC have “informal” and independent website(s) without violating the Brown Act?  
A: yes. Note, however, that City website provides legal coverage that doesn’t extend to private sites. Staff will look into setting up a mechanism w/ City Clerk for convenient uploading of documentation.
- \* Request that the NC agendize a discussion on Blight, and the establishment of ad-hoc cmtes in conjunction w/ district groups (e.g., D6NLG) to work on training, etc.

There followed a discussion on how Cmsnrs can make announcements, and how to get items on the agendas; whether they need to step away from the table, or if there were some place on the agenda for announcements.

[I recall that there used to be such an item towards the end of the agenda, but somehow it had slipped off, and usually there wasn’t time available at the end anyway.

Regarding agendizing: we need to establish a “business rhythm” whereby requests can be sent in to the Chair/VC/Staff a couple weeks in advance of a meeting so that they can be considered for the agenda.]

### **Council Liaison Report: Ann Grabowski**

- \* Medical Marijuana: growers/distributors unhappy w/ restrictions in City’s proposed ordinance; they’ve successfully petitioned to have their looser proposals put before the voters. City can either pay to put item on ballot or can accept their proposal. City will study impact of proposal (last wk of Oct.), and then will probably schedule referendum for July 2016.
- \* Housing Impact Fee on Market Rate Developments: discussion at Council scheduled for Nov. 18th. Details on Housing Dept. website.

### **Fire Dept. Draft Strategic Plan: Ron D’Acchioli, Dept. Director**

presentation given by several FD staff, including Chief Ruben Torres.

- \* First public showing of FD video: ~90 sec long.

chart presentation:

FD handles “all risks”.

~80k incidents/year: 2k fires, 50k medical, 6k haz-mat.

\$180k budget; 679 sworn personnel + 115 civilians.

Mngmnt & Labor held 15 mtgs to work out plan: 20/20 Vision Statement.

2010: low-point for FD: laid off 49 fighters, left w/ 600

2011: rehired 50 w/ \$15M Fed. grant (“SAFER”, funding to go from 3/truck to 4/truck)

2012: up to 679 level.

working on recruitment; standardizing the specifications for the equipment they purchase.

“Revenue Generation”: change rules so FD can do patient transport (“201 Rights”): able to bill insurance companies.

Q: so plan is to continue getting grants?

Q: video made big point about “truck being their toolbox”: what about smaller/nimbler equipment for those 95% of time when not a fire? Motorcycles?

Q: strategic plan didn’t discuss issues like “underserved coverage areas”, discussion of 3 vs 4 per truck, policy on response times (most cities use 6-min rule, SJ aims to respond in 8, and has trouble meeting even that). A: we were shown short-form of presentation, didn’t have time to go into details. [personally, not convinced the longer version would have covered topics...]

City working to reduce fire hazards: no wood roofs; sprinklers in new constructions. [not asked: what about schools?]

Public comment (Ed): what about “cross-staffing”? -- some stations are without water trucks.

**Homelessness in SJ: Status and Response** *Ray Bramson, Homelessness Response Mngr*  
<link> to chartset

~4.8k homeless any given night

32% chronic, 10% vets, 9% families, 18% unaccompanied kids/youth; 73% unsheltered.

257 encampments

City response team has \$8.6M budget:

\* Outreach: first response; community point of contact: >>408/510-7600<<

1k single adults and 900 people in families have accepted services.

\* Encampment Abatement:

monthly cleanup & enhanced enforcement.

tackled Coleman Loop; partnership w/ SCVWD, Co. Park Rangers, CalTrans, Friends of LG & Coyote Crks. Watershed protection.

Next: “the Jungle”. Have housed 200, but there’s a lack of available housing – folks can have subsidy but still can’t find room.

Interim solutions: hotels, tiny homes, safe car parking.

Priority for youth and the sick: get them in housing first.

County has cold-weather shelters after T’giving. Had been using armory; need to find alternative.

Shortage of Section-8 housing. Sharing of spare rooms?

Public comment (Ed): need temporary place to provide services; need temp. housing.  
City paid attention to Jungle only now that it's been on national news.  
Don't put mentally impaired into assisted housing.

Public comment (Chris Dulen(?), D6): encampment in College Park at I-880. Clean-ups are a waste of money: whack-a-mole; just moves the move around, back soon: a safety issue for nghbrhds.

Should spend \$ on long-term solutions. Coordinate services: have SJPD & CalTrans there at same time.

Q: does city do outreach at night, when homeless are there? A: no.

LLA Q: what efforts to reclaim St. James Park? Impact of Feed-the-poor programs? What about adjacent cities: if we solve problem, we'll attract homeless from elsewhere: we can't house the homeless of the world.

Invitation to return in 6 months w/ follow-up.

### **Bylaws**

NC had some from beginning (2009); awkward.

Motion to use template from draft Policy 0-4, w/ adaptations as noted in NC [letter](#) of 9/23/14; passed and adopted.

### **Announcements**

*Desiree Barragan:*

\* Urban Village workshops Nov.12th, 6 PM, at Roosevelt; Nov.13th, 6 PM, at MLK Library.

\* Desiree was honored at top-11 nationally by NextDoor.com

### **Staff Report**

*Ernest Guzman:*

City preparing to amend zoning code to deal w/ AirBnB and other short-term leases, to collect hotel transit tax.

Next meeting: Nov. 12, 6:30

[should be "interesting": Police discussion of camera surveillance: home cameras, park cameras, uniform-mounted cameras, perhaps taping into traffic cameras?, maybe SJPD drone cameras. More later!]

L. Ames, 10/14/14