

## **Neighborhoods Commission, Sept. 10, 2014**

>> informal notes and comments by L. Ames <<  
(additions and corrections most welcome!)

The Neighborhoods Commission (NC) agenda is posted on-line at  
<http://sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/34618>

### **Public Comment:**

Mr. Wolfe Roadman Cevorov spoke w/ concerns about bicyclists, scooters, and rollerbladers on sidewalks, especially downtown. (We noted that NC will likely be working w/ Transp. Dir. Hans Larsen and/or Bike Coordinator John Brazil later this year on this topic, and we invited him to keep involved.)

### **Council Liaison Report:**

Councilmember Don Rocha (D9) attended in person and gave rundown on latest Council action:

- \* Council discussed Sales Tax and 2013 Meas. B modification, but neither got the needed votes and so there will not be any measures on the Nov. ballot
- \* declaration of drought
- \* votes on Medical Marijuana (see the next topic)
- \* priority setting (Sept. 9): took Staff Recommendation, added Mobile Home Conversion, and ended up w/ 7 in the Top 10 (see my notes: [www.WGBackfence.net/NC/2014\\_Top-10.docx](http://www.WGBackfence.net/NC/2014_Top-10.docx)). New Mayor and Council may want to add to the list, change it, or do away with it entirely.
- \* Housing Impact Fee is on agenda for future Council meeting.

### **Update on Council-Approved Medical Marijuana Regulations:**

Angelique Gaeta, Assist. to City Mngr, gave report:

- \* approved by Council June 17: sets allowable locations, rules of operation (hours of operation, security, no on-site consumption, ...)
- \* distributors have until Oct. 18 to complete Notice of Registration: City won't prosecute if registered and w/in State Laws
- \* July 17, 2015: need Certificate of Compliance, incl. relocation (if needed) to appropriate site.
- \* info, details, forms, etc. online at <http://sanjoseca.gov/medicalmarijuana>
- \* staff now working on reco's to Council for fines for non-compliance (\$2,500 or \$25k/violation?)
- \* staff working w/ County on regulation of edibles. Base on SF and Berkeley's rules? To SJ Council next year.

Q: how many distributors in city, and where are they? A: 18 of the existing 78 distributors have applied for approval; expect to get final count by week's end.

Q: what's "Security"? A: need certified security service 24/7

Q: where cultivated? A: on-site, w/in SJ, w/in SC Co., or w/in counties adjacent to SC Co.  
Note: SJ PD does not have jurisdiction outside SJ, but they can still inspect sites there, and will have jurisdiction when product is distributed in SJ.

### **Introduction of Commissioners:**

roughly half the Cmsn is newly elected in June/July, but we didn't have introductions at the Aug. mtg, so we went around table this time for intros, and also interests:

Pete Kolstad– D3: downtown

Desiree Barragan– D3: anti-prostitution

Juan Estrada– D5: D5 United; United Nghbrhds of SC Co. (UNSCC)

Richard Giammona– D10: Vista Park

Marie Arnold – D2: on NC from inception

Gary Cunningham– D1: pres. of Westgate Home Owners Assoc.

Matt Whalin – D8: Evergreen NA; NC Vice Chair

Larry Ames – D6: Willow Glen; creeks/trails/parks, historic preservation; NC Chair

Nick Labosky– D10: Almaden Winery NA; safety, Quality of Life (QofL)

David Dearborn – D6: WGNA; train folks how to work w/ City; notes that NC is unique and a treasure.

Dan Keller– D9: new

Terry Martin– D9: Cambrian; how to develop “sense of community”

Norma Callendar– D2: Ash Kalra's leadership group; Judge Cordell's IPAC; fight for fairness & what's right

Linda Locke– D4: Berryessa Citizen's Advisory Council, resident of SJ for 49 years

Moses C. Ramirez – D7: in SJ since 1954; reverend who ministers in prisons

Robert Sandoval – D7: in SJ since 1942; pres. of West Evergreen NA; better QofL & police safety

not present:

Johnson Tran – D4

Kathleen McEvers– D5

Neetu Dhaliwal – D8

there is a vacancy in D1: the new caucus-selected Cmsnr had a conflict-of-interest and withdrew. Councilmember Constant will appoint a replacement for remainder of the 4-yr term, as per rules & guidelines.

### **Discussion on City Clerk's Draft Policy 0-4:**

Format of City Commissions has been looked at by 3 City Clerks, incl. current Clerk, Toni Taber.

\* there are about 30 Boards and Cmsns in city: goal is to standardize bylaws, agendas, etc.

\* all Cmsns & Boards are asked to give comment by 9/23/14.

Discussion:

\* The Nghbrhds Cmsn was formed separately from all the other Board & Cmsn reorganization efforts of the past year, and our structure is different (e.g., 20 members selected by nghbrhd caucuses w/ staggered 4-year terms, rather than 11 members appointed by Mayor and each Councilmember)

\* Much of Policy 0-4 is fine; we just need to note differences of NC.

\* we had discussion on filling of vacancies (regarding D1): some of us were unfamiliar w/ the process that was established

>> ad hoc cmte (Gary C, Matt W, Pete K, Marie A and I) will meet w/ Staff (Ernest Guzman) this Tues. to draft letter.

\* draft to be sent to all NC members for comments back to Staff.

>> I will work w/ Staff on final version and will submit letter on behalf of NC to Clerk by 9/23.

### **Work Plan (WP):**

\* Dave Dearborn lead ad hoc cmte to draft WP proposal. Met w/ Pete K, Desiree B, Nick L, Gary C, and Staff (Ernest Guzman). Reviewed comments received via email (from me, and also from several folks in D6). Ad hoc cmte created a draft WP for discussion.

\* Juan Estrada created an on-line survey that he circulated, and he reported out on his findings: of 8 topics queried, the top concerns public thinks we at NC should be involved w/ are Homelessness, Blight Mitigation, and Community Policing Practices.

### Discussion:

\* WP topics should be of citywide import, not just in one district

\* topic shouldn't duplicate work of others

\* topic should be something where we can make a difference: where letter to Council can guide the decision process

\* topic should be of manageable size: better to do a little well rather than a lot poorly.

\* don't want to completely fill schedule: leave room for topics which come up during the year.

\* Homelessness: discussed elsewhere?

\* Prostitution:

– mainly at downtown;

– SJPD work-in-progress;

– Human Services Cmsn looking at Human Trafficking.

– Concern: big upcoming events: Wrestlemania (2015) & Superbowl (2016)

\* Drones: SJPD has withdrawn request: issue now moot

\* Disaster preparedness?

\* D6 issues?

We took draft WP matrix and added topics:

\* concern about "sideshow" cars doing donuts in parking lots.

– local issue: just add to next month's agenda for quick discussion and letter to SJPD.

\* from survey: add blight mitigation, homelessness, and community policing.

We then went down the list and voted on each topic. Some were combined into single topics. Some from original matrix were dropped. Approx. dates were added so not everything happens at once.

Expectation: discuss topic for period of time (several sessions?), reach consensus, draft letter to City (Mayor and Council, City Mngr, or elsewhere as appropriate), approve final version, and report it out.

Final NC-approved WP:

WP:

- \* Develop, review, submit 2014-15 WP: Aug - Sept 2014 – Done!
- \* Develop, review, submit 2015-16 WP: April 2015

Code Enforcement:

- \* Nghbrhd cleanup / Blight mitigation: Jan/Feb
- \* Illegal fireworks: May

Public Safety:

- \* Nghbrhd Safety: Nghbrhd Watch (signage? live video? networking?). Incl. Homelessness and Community Policing: Feb/Mar.

Transportation:

- \* Bike/ped safety: work w/ DOT. (Topic is at the request of DOT). Oct?

Community Engagement:

- \* promote and share best practices w/in and between nghbrhds and districts (like our D6NLG): on-going effort

Budget:

- \* annual process, similar to past years. Oct/Nov.

Annual Report:

- \* draft & submit report to Council: Apr/May

Following topics were removed from matrix by vote of Cmsn:

- School zone safety
- review/update of NC reco's re: street trees, given drought & budget constraints.

[I did not bring up riparian corridor setbacks: too much on plate already; large learning-curve for the uninitiated; perhaps better handled by another organization (CalSJ?).]

Staff (Ernest Guzman) will run the above WP past Legal & then submit to Council for approval.

**Progress Report on Cmsn Activity to-Date:**

Q: how do we let Council know what we're doing?

A: letter on Policy 0-4 and a report-out on the Work Plan is pretty good for now.

[Plus you in D6 get my informal out-briefs!]

Meeting adjourned just after 9 PM. Next mtg: Oct. 8th.

~Larry Ames, 9/11/14.