

Neighborhoods Commission (NC) February 10, 2016
informal meeting notes by L. Ames

>[link](#)< to website w/ links to supporting documents

>[link](#)< to agenda

Staff Ernest Guzman returned from leave.

Staff liaison absent: no report.

Public Comment:

Janice Rombeck: State of the County address Wed Feb 24, 5:30 PM, at 70 W. Hedding.

Annual City Auditor Report, by Sharon Erickson.

- Auditor is one of only 5 people directly reporting to Council, along w/ City Manager, Clerk, Legal, and Independent Police Auditor.
- Informational -- an interesting, nearly hour-long discussion.
Full report is online at www.SanJoseCA.gov/ServicesReport
- Q from public: how about next year also including a review of money not collected for Park In-lieu fee waivers for downtown mid-rises, reduced transit fees in N. SJ, etc.?

Illegal Dumping, by Kerrie Romanov, Dir., Environmental Services Dept.

- several categories: Multi-unit housing (especially on “moving day” -- end of month or semester); Single-family; Homeless; and illegal “trash hauling services”
- Since Oct. 1st, SJ now has free large-item pickup, once/year, for up to three items. Info: >[link](#)<
- physical controls at common dump sites: bollards to block access; cameras
- free mattress drop-off sites: >[link](#)<. In SJ: 1080 N 7th St. -- Goodwill
- to report illegal dumping, call city main number at 408/535-3500, and they will route to dispatch.
- Discussion on how NC can support: A: (1) share this info; (2) support in budget process.

Commission Caucus Process:

- For even-numbered districts (incl. D6). Similar to process for odd-numbered districts two years ago.
- Staff will take proposed procedure to Council for approval
- Staff will arrange outreach, candidate solicitation, site & date selection, and the actual caucus, including getting an impartial moderator
- Staff to resolve discrepancy as to whether pilot program and transition counts as zero, one, or two terms towards the max: 2 term limit.

Community Input Process:

- Matt Wahlin (D8) will coordinate w/ ad hoc cmte to revise “best practices” document.

Homelessness

- review of draft letter (see >[link](#)<) reporting out on Homelessness ad hoc cmte efforts.
- Q as to whether within NC charter (A: no, but it impacts us, and we can discuss what we can do)
- Q: is it strong enough? Change “can” to “will”? Compromise: “are willing to”
- Add info on Homeless Hotline 408/510-7600, Outreach@HomeFirstSCC.org

- Can't "offset" NIMBYism, but can work to "reduce" it...
- motion to send letter approved 11 to 2. ([Letter](#) approved, signed, and sent 2/12/16)

Budget Discussion

- Request had been sent out that Commissioners collect suggestions to give to Mayor in Feb., while budget is being crafted. Would be in addition to formal NC response in May to final budget.
- Only a few Commissioners responded: Q as to whether truly representative of Cmsn.
- Agenda was not properly phrased as posted: Q as to whether Brown Act would allow NC to write letter.
- Motion passed that NC would take existing collection of comments (>[link](#)<) back to community, get feedback, and then the NC would consider writing a budget letter in March. Individuals are free to write personal letters earlier if they will. LLA to submit comments received from D6NLG as a personal letter. ([Letter](#) sent 2/12/16.)
- Since formal NC budget letter not being sent in Feb., the request for letter on Illegal Dumping was brought back. Motion passed for NC to send short letter in Feb. on just that single topic. [Letter](#) written, approved, and sent 2/12/16)

Chair's Report

Despite best efforts, meeting ran quite long. 9:30 PM: quick note by Chair that Agenda Item F, "Future Meetings", is intended to be the method by which Commission can "set the stage" for future discussions; set up "study sessions" and craft "white papers" or "blue memos" for consideration at next meeting. Also, date on Work Plan does not mean all conversation on an item has to end then -- it can be continued at subsequent commission meetings.

Staff Report:

Too late, too tired.
Meeting Adjourned.

~Larry Ames, D6
2/12/16