

San José Neighborhoods Cmsn (NC) monthly meeting  
March 9, 2016

informal notes by L. Ames, w/ updates 3/11/16

Agenda: >[link](#)<

### **Orders of the Day:**

- Clarification: the “Orders of the Day” agenda item is to allow Chair & Cmsn to reorder the items (e.g., to accommodate speakers) or to reschedule for a later date, but NOT to add items to the agenda: such additions would not have been properly notified and so the public would not be able to comment. Also, violates the Brown Act. See [Staff memo](#).
- Item F on the Agenda (“Future Meetings”) is the point at which the Cmsn can discuss the addition of topics for future mtgs. Staff then takes request to Rules Cmte for concurrence.

### **Public Comment:**

Ed Rast: concerns about fire stations not equipped w/ water trucks → loss of homes on Auzerais.

Janice Rombeck ([janice.rombeck@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:janice.rombeck@bos.sccgov.org)): report from County:

- Bus trip June 1st to Sac'to: public sees State Gov't in action
- Children's Health Assessment
- Sup. Cortese gave State of the County address 2/24/16. [Link](#) to video on Co. website.
- Going for countywide “National Heritage Area” status. Comes w/ funding opportunities.
- Co. working on Outreach Strike Team, to be prepared for emergencies.

Rev. Jeff Moore: spoke w/ concerns about reinstatement of Off. White after he was discharged for offensive and threatening communications.

Tanya York: w/ Union, but also concerned about reinstatement of Off. White.

**Liaison Report:** by Andrea Hyde ([Andrea.Hyde@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Andrea.Hyde@sanjoseca.gov)):

- Illegal Dumping discussed at Council's T&E (Transportation & Environment) Cmte 3/7/16. Voted to amend Title 9 to control dumping. (See [report](#).)
- Council voted to place Sales & Use Tax on June ballot. 1/4% sales tax for 15 years, for police, fire, roads, 911, ...; needs 50%+1.
- Business Tax measure to be on Nov. ballot
- Litter Pickup planned for 4/23/16

### **City Budget:**

Review of the process:

- thru Feb: Departments (and public?) suggest items
- March 11th: Mayor releases budget proposal
- April & May: public review of proposal
- June: Council amends and adopts budget.

For Feb. NC mtg, Chair asked Staff to ask Cmsnrs to check w/ their communities and report back, so that NC could submit suggestions to Mayor & Council in Feb. prior to budget message, supplementing our traditional memo in May in response to budget. Thru various snafus, there was only limited Cmsnr response and so NC sent only a short letter about the importance of funding control of illegal dumping (see [NC letter](#)). In addition, Chair (as a D6 rep) sent a “personal letter” to Mayor & Council w/ collected suggestions from D6 (see [LLA letter](#)): NC did not have time to consider and support the items.

Continuing the snafu: now Staff asked Cmsnrs for suggestions for March mtg, and some were collected (mainly from D5). Comments were discussed at mtg., followed by discussion as to whether to submit them now as a NC letter. Pro: good suggestions; con: we’ve already submitted one letter while proposal was being crafted and will submit a 2nd in response to final budget in May -- would a 3rd letter now, days before release of the Mayor’s budget, have any real impact, or would it just be either annoying or lost in the confusion? Cmsn held a long discussion w/ confusing motions, misunderstood instructions, miscast votes and a re-vote, resulting 8:8:1 vote, net result not to send a 3rd letter now (but encouraging the D5 Cmsnrs to submit a “personal letter” of their own.)  
Public comment (Ed Rast): NC shouldn’t waste political capital at times where it’ll have no effect.

Council will arrange for public discussion of budget in each Council District, generally in May, on evenings Mon - Thur. [I’ll forward the schedule when it’s posted.]  
NC will then submit comments to the budget in May.

### **2015-16 Workplan:**

Review of what we’ve done and what remains. Seems like we’re pretty close to being on schedule.

- Didn’t spend as long on Illegal Dumping as I’d expected, but Cmsnrs are content w/ not revisiting.
- Do want to return to Illegal Fireworks: ask that topic be agendized for April: a status update on policy & procedure changes.
- We’d planned for follow-up questions of the City Auditor, but Cmsnrs didn’t have any questions to be reviewed and discussed, so that item can be dropped from the Work Plan.
- Request for review of the “Work Product” memo is reaffirmed: this is basically the “new Cmsnr’s guide” that’d already been scheduled. Staff to meet w/ ad hoc cmte (Nichole, David, Pete & me) to work out details & legalities.
- Discussion as to whether to request a presentation from Police re: policy regarding reinstated officers. Didn’t want to get specific re: Off. White, but were interested in policy re: desk job, carrying arms, etc. Motion to request agendizing the topic for NC consideration failed on split vote.

### **Commission Caucus Process:**

- Staff report on nghbrhd engagement and caucus process; quite similar to that used for odd-numbered districts two years ago.
- A number of Cmsnrs have been Council-appointed to fill vacancies, and so have not experienced a caucus: they are invited to help and learn.
- Even-numbered districts (incl. D6) are up for renewal/replacement. Staff will arrange time & location for caucus, supported by Cmsnrs from odd-numbered districts.

- Staff to resolve discrepancy between City Clerk’s summary and Ordinance language as to whether existing even-numbered Cmsnrs are eligible for reelection or are we termed-out.
- Cmsnrs were asked to suggest caucus locations. For D6, I suggested Rose Garden Library Community Mtg Rm. If not available, there’s also Bascom Lib and WG Lib.
- Staff will take recommendations to Council on 4/5/16 for approval. Caucus will occur sometime between about 4/15 and 6/30/16. Details TBD.

**Community Input Process:**

Discussion on how to communicate w/ nghbrhds.

Varies from district to district. We here in D6 have the D6NLG and the Yahoo group email; other districts use NextDoor, have lost interest in their nghbrhd assoc’s.

Suggestion: include these “best practices” in w/ the “Work Product” / “New Cmsnr Guide”

**Standing Reports:**

Once again, schedule ran long, so no additional reports from Chair or Staff.

**Next meeting’s agenda:**

“Future Meeting” items were pretty well discussed during the Work Plan review:

No “Auditor follow-up”, no more “Illegal Dumping”, no request to discuss Police reinstatement policies.

Yes update on Fireworks policy (but not a repeat of the standard talk).

Add request for Fire Dept. to discuss budget issues, why no water pumping truck at station, etc.

“Work Product” discussion/update, after ad hoc meets w/ Staff & City: “new Cmsnr handbook” &

“Community involvement”

Meeting adjourned in honor of Joe Horwedel – past long-time Director of SJ Planning Dept, recently appointed Nghbrhds Cmsnr for D1, and personal friend. Have a “cheeseburger in paradise” for me!

Next mtg: April 13, 2016.

~Larry Ames, 3/10/16. (rev’sd 3/11/16)