

“To create a safe, welcoming, revitalized and accessible neighborhood that embraces its cultural history, richness and diversity, offering housing, economic opportunities and community services.”

Salinas Downtown Community Board

Board Meeting

January 8, 2014

Present: Don Reynolds, Seth Pollack, Ruben Cortes, Kathy Young, Larry Hirahara, Eugene Bigay, Wellington Lee, Ann Houle, James Barnes, Marilyn Dorman, Katherine Thoeni, Glorietta Rowland, Van Gresham, Deborah Silguero

Guests: Cathy Chavez Miller, Melissa Cortes, Terrie Goins, Jason Pineda, Elizabeth Castro

- I. The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Ruben Cortes.
- II. Public Comments – Bigay reported there is going to be a trip to San Francisco to participate in a demonstration on homeless issues, including the reintroduction of the Homeless Bill of Rights, sponsored by Assemblyman Alejo.

Young reported that garbage in the area is horrible and there are rats. The City has been called and is responsive to cleaning things up. This is the worst situation of this kind in over twenty years.

Terrie Goins – agrees about the garbage situation and feels much of the trash is from the people selling drugs.

Wayne Ross is the new Executive Director of the Victory Mission and will become active in the SDCB.

Elizabeth Castro feels that 6:30 is too early to leave the shelter.

The collaborative between the City and County for a warming shelter has begun and is going smoothly. The shelter is at 37 Central Avenue and accommodates 15 – 20 each night.

On Fridays between 9 and 10 there is a radio show on the homeless on 93.9 am.

There will be a tour offered by Mid-Peninsula Housing on January 24th.

III. Consent Agenda

Pollack moved to approve the December minutes and financial report, seconded by Young, passed, Thoeni and Gresham abstained.

IV. Updates/Old Business

A. Executive Committee

1. Old Republic Café insurance and lease – The lease needs to be reviewed legally now that it is not for the construction period and needs to be rewritten to fit the current situation. The insurance is still in process of being transferred over.
2. Ad hoc Chinatown committee meeting – Members of the SDCB reported to three council members at that meeting in preparation for the Council meeting.
3. City Council report – The report was well received by the Council. Five goals were presented and received positive support from the Council. In the future quarterly reports will be presented to them.

4. 2014 Priorities – Dorman moved to adopt the highlights and priorities for 2013- 2014 but have a separate discussion on the mission/purpose statement, seconded by Rowland, passed.
5. Mission/purpose statement – a committee was established to work on the mission/purpose statement to include Thoeni, Pollack, Dorman, Allen, Hirahara, Bigay, Young, and Reynolds. They will make a recommendation to the board at a future meeting.
6. CFMCO grant writing and report – Pollack will work on the report. Hirahara and Thoeni will do a work plan for the grant proposal. Pollack will call the foundation and discuss which grant cycle is best for us to submit a proposal.

B. Strategic Action Team Reports

1. Community Relations Report – Rowland reported that the committee has not had a meeting. Policies and procedures for the web site need to be established and more web site training in needed.
2. CHAT – They had a Dec. 30th meeting and reviewed the report to the council. Sanitation and Porta Potties were discussed.
3. ACE – They thanked Barnes for the tables and chairs for the Old Republic Café (ORC). Meetings and tours will now be held at the ORC. A film has been done featuring Ahtye and his wife. Obtaining water and electricity is a priority for ORC. They need to obtain a ball park bid for this work so they will know how much money needs to be raised to do the work. At their next meeting they will be discussing pop-up museums, fundraising, and the community task force. In March they will be participating in a presentation to the National Council of Public History. They now have seven board members. They are beginning to seek ad for the Asian Festival booklet.
4. Safety, Security, and Sanitation – They met on Dec 19th at the Temple. Their discussions included the tents by ORC, drug usage in the tent city and alleyway, drug dealing in happening in the alleyways to avoid the view of the cameras. There is currently a sense of lawlessness in the community.
5. RAT – There will be a design charette in mid-February to talk about Chinatown and downtown connections.

V. New Business

Membership – The board discussed the recommendations from the Executive Committee. Don Reynolds should be listed as the alternate with Gloria de la Rosa as the board member. The Confucius Church should be listed as the Chinese Association of Salinas. Eugene Bigay should be listed as a Soledad Street resident. Wayne Ross will represent the Victory Mission and CHAS will be represented by Kim Keefer. Letters will be sent to other groups/individuals to encourage better participation or different representatives.

The meeting was adjourned

Minutes taken by Marilyn Dorman, Secretary.