

“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
February 5, 2014

Present: Gloria de la Rosa, Don Reynolds, Ann Houle, Richard Villegas, Kathy Young, Marilyn Dorman, Larry Hirahara, Wellington Lee, James Barnes, Jill Allen, Katherine Thoeni,

Guests: David Sorenson (Kimley Horn Consultant), Thomas R Patton

I. The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair James Barnes. There was no quorum present.

II. Consent Agenda

Financial report – We currently have \$1,200 in the bank. Some pledges from board members have not been paid. Dorman will send pledge cards after Barnes lets her know who made a pledge.

III. Updates/Old Business

A. Executive Committee

1. Grant writing – we may be able to get some help from CSUMB students with grant writing.

A. Strategic Action Team Reports

1. Community Relations Report – No report was made. The committee has not met.
2. CHAT – A written report was submitted. The winter warming shelter is serving 18 – 20 individuals per night. Capacity at the shelter is 33. Fewer women are using the shelter than had been expected. The shelter opened on January 1st, on Mondays and Tuesdays it opens between 9 – 10 pm and the rest of the week it opens at 7 pm.

The Porta potty located on Dorothy’s property is experiencing problems with liability insurance concerns. It has a high volume of use and the cost to service the unit is \$250 for three times per week. The unit is only opens a few hours per week.

Discussions are currently taking place to relocate encampments to Bridge Street possibly on the Chevron property.

CHAT is looking at ways to improve results from the barbecues.

3. ACE – An electrician went into the café to do a cost estimate. Service at 400 amps would cost between \$7 – \$15,000 depending on the numbers of boxes installed and plugs. PG&E will charge \$500 - \$5,000 to connect the service. ACE needs to raise the funds to do this or find volunteers to do the electrical (and plumbing) work with ACE raising funds for the needed materials. A new lease needs to be done with the Ahtye family prior to making any of these improvements. The lease would need to include ownership options. Putting improvements into a rental property is of concern to the board.

Two CSUMB students would like to use the café for their capstone project to interview the homeless. The university provides insurance for students.

An 18 page report has been done on the results of their retreat.

They will begin pop-up museums on March 7th at 5 pm at the Steinbeck Center.

ACE members will speak at the National Council of Public History on the history of Chinatown.

The Asian Festival will take place on April 26th and will include a short parade, Asian food trucks, dancing lions, and walking tours. Ads are needed for the booklet.

Don Reynolds had a meeting on protecting the façade of 45 Soledad Street, he will connect that person with ACE.

4. Safety, Security, and Sanitation – They met on January 16 at the Temple. There are significant litter and sanitation concerns and the problem is getting much worse. The dumpster may have become a public one for people outside the Chinatown area. The video camera needs to be monitored on the illegal dumping that is occurring. It is cleaner around the Victory Mission. Are there enough garbage receptacles on the street? CHAT and Safety need to have a joint discussion on these issues. Porta pottys are being clogged by adult diapers and soiled clothing.

The plan is currently to submit a grant request to the Community Foundation in August for a maintenance plan for basic safety, sanitation, and stipends.

Kathy Young sent a letter to the city regarding her concerns on the increased level of drug dealing on the street. She has had no response to date. All safety/sanitation concerns need to be discussed with the Ad hoc committee which will be meeting the first week in March

5. RAT – The city is pursuing acquiring 10 Soledad Street. An EPA application is being submitted. Dave Sorenson was present to talk about the progress of the downtown vibrancy plan group especially in regards to re-connecting Chinatown to downtown. Board members were encouraged to attend their meetings on March 7 (4 – 7 pm) and 8 (Charette process at the Steinbeck Center from 8 am – 2 pm). Reynolds will send a survey link to Dorman so she can forward it to the board. The Economic Element is recommending a freeway exit change from N Main to Sherwood Drive.
6. Mid-Peninsula Housing – Some of our membership participated in a tour with them. They expect to build a 4 story complex for residents at 30% of AMI. The group was impressed with the quality and maintenance of their properties, as well as, their management. Case management would be challenging in Chinatown. They normally have a 6 month waiting list.

The meeting was adjourned

Minutes taken by Marilyn Dorman, Secretary.