

*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

April 2, 2014

Present: Don Reynolds, Kathy Young, , Larry Hirahara, Wellington Lee, James Barnes, Jill Allen, Katherine Thoeni, Van Gresham, Eugene Bigay, Ruben Cortes, Melissa Cortes, Seth Pollack, Glorietta Rowland,

Guests: Jerry, Barbara, Rita Costa, Joe Gamble, Glenda, Angel, Fatima, Marvin, Julie, Brett, Mark Javier, Jason

**I. The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Ruben Cortes at 4:05pm**

**II. Public Comment**

Jason stayed at the new warming center that moved from Sun Street to the Recreation Center. There are some gaps with services. They need to stand in the rain and eat outside. There is a risk of getting a cold. Eugene has lots of blankets he can donate to the warming center. Eugene can give them to Jill.

**II. Consent Agenda**

A. Glorietta moved to approve the March minutes, seconded by Seth, passed.

**III. Updates/Old Business**

A. Executive Committee

1. Open discussion for tents:

Eugene said tents by Victory Mission need a dumpster. Jill said people need to be sheltered. She would rather see where there is more appropriate sanitation. We need to shelter people. Van said the sweeps are devastating. He agrees with sanitation is needed. Every three months for a sweep. Kathy said it is a sensitive subject. There are drug problems. She should like to see the city become part of the solutions and more development on Bridge Street. Rita said to put the tents by the garden. They need to be more organized and no more tarps. Wellington there is a lot of tents, garbage, and lots of things happening. Chuck said the shelter, back alley has lots of trash. People get trash and bring it to Chinatown. Jason said we should have rules for the people. It is hard for people to carry things all day. We should work with the community. Barbara said they need shelter. Create a tent city. People keep dumping garbage in Chinatown. Glorietta said something needs to happen. The county should partner with the city. The warming shelter is extended. Don has been working hard for resources. Jerry said things will change when Taylor business is created.

Don said the Californian called to discuss why there is an increase in encampments. Larry said there is an increase in tents. Seth presented the encampment document and reviewed the recommendations on page 6. Rita has rules created from a previous tent city that was organized. Fatima read a letter to the Salinas Downtown Community Board. Don recommended that this letter be submitted to the City Hall. Julie said that

Dorothy's is open 3 days a week. It was previous open 7 days a week. She no longer goes to Dorothy's since it is only open 3 days a week. Guest said that she has been homeless since 2000. She needs 3 times the rent and has been declined for housing. Guest said that she has a learning disability and can't find a job. Glenda can't go to the store because she is from Chinatown. Jason said the trash comes from the outside and is not always from Chinatown. Jim Barnes said we need a plan. The Economy is not the same and we have fewer jobs since 2007. We should create a list of rules and get the location. Chuck said we don't have a place or can guarantee that this can happen. Larry said a place is important and it should be organized. It should be a partnership and self governed. Seth said create a list of rules. Eugene said we need a Phlush program. Don said there is an ad hoc meeting to recommend and find location for encampment. Focus on 10 Soledad Street. Van said for the SDCB to find a solution. Jason said that someone should go to tents and ask what they would like to see. Ruben said April 24th is the sweep. Seth said that tents should be off the streets and sidewalks.

Ruben said for the next meeting, we will discuss the following:

1. Decide on an organization to lead and organize a tent city.
2. Find a location for the tents.(Some possible places could be the Garden or PG&E, Chevron area)
3. Ask for another dumpster(s).
4. Combat dumping in Chinatown.

**B. Strategic Action Team Reports - No updates due to discussion on tents.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 pm.

Minutes taken by Melissa Cortes