

“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

May 7, 2014

Present: Don Reynolds, Kathy Young, Marilyn Dorman, Wellington Lee, James Barnes, Jill Allen, Katherine Thoeni, Kim Keefer, Wayne Ross, Gerald Cheang, Van Gresham, Ruben Cortes, Melissa Cortes, Seth Pollack, Ann Houle

Guests: Chuck Creswell

I. The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Jim Barnes at 4:11 p.m..

II. Public Comment

Wayne Ross stated that he was unhappy with the sweep as things don't change after the sweep. Board members stated that the sweep is for purposes of sanitation. The area is cleaner now.

The comment was made that public comment time is for non board members to make comments.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Young moved to approve the April minutes with the addition of Gerald Cheang being present, seconded by Pollack, passed.
- B. The financial report was included in the packet, Thoeni moved to accept the report, seconded by Keefer, passed. Our liability insurance is paid in full. The federal tax return (990) is being sent tomorrow. Insurance on the Old Republic Café is in the process of being transferred as is the lease. Barnes provided Dorman with information on board member pledges and she will be sending notices out to board members.

III. Updates/Old Business

A. Executive Committee

- 1. Community Foundation for Monterey County application/Structure for managing the porta potty:
SDCB will serve as the fiscal agent. Seth Pollack will draft the proposal and have it ready by the next Executive Committee meeting. Administration of the grant will be handled by CSUMB/Learning Center/Chinatown Community Care Crew. Guidelines will be drafted by CHAT, SSS, and Pollack. All agencies participating in the SDCB will need to provide a letter of support for this proposal.
- 2. Request that City take responsibility for neighborhood sanitation:
Pollack moved we write a letter to the Mayor (cc Petersen) requesting the City take financial responsibility for Chinatown sanitation including toilet facilities and lockable dumpsters, seconded by Barnes, passed. Dorman will draft the letter which will also include information on outsiders dumping in the neighborhood dumpster and police action needed to curtail this. Board members questioned how long the neighborhood camera data is held which is important for police action. SSS will talk to Commander Crabill about this. The City recently received the deed to 10 Soledad

Street where toilets will be housed in the future and there is \$194,000 to refurbish that building.

3. Form based codes:

Form based codes attract private investment, would be a way to put our Chinatown plan into action, city has \$195,000 to create/design codes for this, provide sustainable development. Board agreed to request the City support form based codes for Chinatown as a Capital Improvement Project for the area. Letter will be drafted by Dorman and sent to the Mayor and Council members.

Both letters will be mailed and followed up with a verbal reading of the letters at a council meeting. Responses should be made to the chairs.

4. Ad campaign to stop illegal dumping

The police told us to report illegal dumping in the neighborhood by outsiders, this has been done, however, no action has occurred. We are reporting the date, time, and description of the vehicles and the City police are to view the video footage. Instead of doing an ad campaign through a CSUMB student we could do letters to the editor, radio PSA's, and post signs that it is illegal to dump.

A. Strategic Action Team Reports

1. Community Relations Report – no report
2. CHAT and SSS will be combining efforts for a limited period of time to deal with neighborhood sanitation concerns.

CHAT – They reviewed the success of the last barbecue, set the date for the next barbecue (July 1), and stressed that the purpose of the barbecues are to enroll people in local services.

2. ACE – The festival was held and had good attendance. All the food was sold. Wellington requested people to contact him if they have concerns about the event. Dorman said the cultural activities at all three centers were wonderful this year. The photo board that have been stored at the Steinbeck Center and were moved to the Filipino Hall, however ACE has little access to them. Where can they be stored safely?

4. Safety, Security, and Sanitation – They reviewed crime statistics. There is an increase of registered sex offenders at the Victory Mission, however, these numbers may be due to people being released by Probation to this facility for people who would have previously been counted in other programs. Property management may be needed in the neighborhood to secure properties in the area. Some property owners are beginning to do this. Cyclone fencing may be going up on some properties which will limit the area where people can camp. A large caliber weapon shot a bullet into the Out of the Woods business recently. Violence is increasing in the neighborhood.

3. RAT – no report
4. Vibrancy Plan – There will be a draft report out by the end of June. Business owners positively received information on a property based community improvement district. It would require an election to be implemented and passed by a majority of the property owners.

5. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes taken by Marilyn Dorman, Secretary.