

“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

June 4, 2014

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

Guests: Chuck Creswell, Rita Acosta

I. The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Ruben Cortes.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Rowland moved to approve the May minutes as written, seconded by Thoeni, passed.

B. Barnes stated we have approximately \$900 in the bank and have received donations from board members today.

IV. Updates/Old Business

A. Executive Committee

1. City response to our letters – Cortes scheduled a meeting yesterday with Councilmember Gloria de la Rosa but she did not keep the appointment. Cortes has a call in for the Mayor and expects to hear back from him. Reynolds reported that he has been told that the Mayor and the City Manager have stated that the City does not condone tent cities. Cortes will recall the Mayor and De la Rosa if he does not hear back from them in a few days.
2. Grant application to the Community Foundation – Pollack was not present and has not provided a draft of the proposal as expected. Reynolds reported that they will be meeting next week to work on the proposal. A draft of the proposal is expected for the June Executive Committee. Ann Houle from Behavioral Health feels her department will provide a letter of support for the proposal. A template for the support letters will need to be drafted.
3. Porta potty donor – Hirahara moved we accept the sponsorship of the porta potty by Eric Petersen contingent on the maintenance/management of the unit be arranged at the existing location, seconded by Rowland, passed. Maintenance could possibly be handled by the C4 crew who meet on Tuesday mornings to clean up the neighborhood. They are invited to a Saturday movie night at the Learning Center to encourage them to participate. Others in the neighborhood who are not on the crew can also attend movie nights if they collect trash in the neighborhood. C-4 has done this three times and the neighborhood is cleaner. Reynolds will provide Eric’s contact information to Cortes. The cost for the porta potty which the Franciscan Workers are currently paying for includes maintenance and cleaning of the unit three times per week. Additional cleaning/maintenance is required between those times.
4. Board discussed whether a complaint should be filed with Environment Health regarding the lack of sanitation in Chinatown. Allen contacted them and was told

there is no way to throw away human waste. Waste Management says that human waste can be bagged up and put in the garbage, however, Republic refuses to take it. There is a formal recommendation in the works from Environment Health on this topic and they do not feel that porta potties are an acceptable solution. Action on this topic around the country has been spurred by environmental impact.

B. Strategic Action Team Reports

1. Community Relations Report – Rowland reported the committee has not met.
2. CHAT – The next barbecue will be held on July 1. Dorothy's Place will provide the food. Recovery Programs will be present to provide service, which has not happened in the past. Thoeni is working on getting the College of Law involved some time in the future. Their goal is to get 100 surveys from the homeless population and eight case managers will be on hand to survey the homeless.
3. ACE – The photo boards and other items are temporarily stored at the Filipino Hall. ACE is working on cataloguing the items. They will have a fundraiser in October a tri-tip barbecue. Otherwise they are working on their three grants which include scanning historical documents and drafting a web site for the walking tours. Wellington is on the Historical Review Board which is currently looking at ways to reuse the Old County Jail, the ADA walkway at the Armory has been controversial, and the Steinbeck Center may soon be sold to the CSUMB Foundation, if so, the Center will be 40% of the space.
4. Safety, Security, and Sanitation – They met with CHAT to discuss the tent community and public toilets. Cortes provided the Marc/April crime information. Police were not in attendance at the meeting as there was other action taking their focus at the time of the meeting. In Florida Catholic Charities is the fiscal agent for a large encampment which has more than 300 business supporters.

There is currently a concern that fires may break out in Chinatown due to the structures that are being built. Recently there was an explosion at Wally's building, the combined committee had no solution for safeguard the building. However, having a program or business in the building would help as it would not be vacant. A local resident reported that people were taking wiring out of the building to sell it.

5. RAT – no report

V. New Business

- A. The board discussed whether or not we should hold a study session on safety and conditions for the homeless so that we would be well versed in the issues and so we would be better prepared to get action at the City level. The Homeless Coalition will be having a study session on encampments and Thoeni will report the information to us. CHAT and SSS will discuss this at their next meeting which is scheduled for June 26 at 5 pm at the Buddhist Temple.
- B. The board was asked if anyone had concerns about having their contact information posted at the Learning Center, no one did.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes were taken by Marilyn Dorman, Secretary.