

Attachment 3

West Downtown Neighborhood Community Meeting #2 Notes November 23, 2002

Community Attendees:

Marck Aguilar
T. Cary Chow
Krista Ehrenclo
Barbara Faulkner
Andrew Hankin
Judy Hawkins
Josiah Jenkins
Kathy Kefauver
Elizabeth Marchant
Roxanne McGregor
Cathy Murrillo
Rafael Perez-Torres
Barry Polley

David Pritchett
Maria E. Raya
Rita Solinas
Socorro Torres
Raquel Vele

Staff and consultants:

Marck Aguilar, RDA Specialist
Brian Bosse, RDA Supervisor
Dave Gustafson, Housing & Redev. Mgr
Pat Saley, Facilitator
Silvia Uribe, Spanish translator

Introduction and Background

Dave Gustafson welcomed the participants and explained the reason for the two community meetings which is to gather input on possible future improvement projects in the West Downtown neighborhood. He explained about the sources of the Redevelopment Agency funds and how they can be spent. Pat Saley explained that these meetings are intended as brainstorming sessions to come up with a list of possible improvements and then establish priorities. The group began with a review of suggestions developed by:

- Westside Community Group at their meeting on October 7, 2002
- Westside Community Advisory Committee meeting on October 10, 2002
- Suggestions received at the first community meeting held on November 13, 2002

The participants reviewed these suggestions and modified or added to them, then everyone was given four dots to “vote” for their four highest priority improvements. At the conclusion of the meeting, the participants’ highest priority projects were summarized. The upcoming process to present this information to the Redevelopment Agency Board in early 2003 was described. This information will be considered as part of the development of the Agency’s Long Range Capital Improvement Program beginning with 2004 Redevelopment Agency budget.

Highest Priority Projects

The projects that received five or more “votes” were as follows, grouped by category:

- Provide pedestrian-oriented street lighting, e.g., historic gas lamp district like along Loma Alta (Residential neighborhoods & character) – Note: Highest # of votes (10)
- Provide trash cans (especially next to creek bridges) & regular pick up (Streets & Sidewalks)

Continued....

Highest Priority Projects (continued)

- Develop parks, e.g., pocket parks, soccer field (with lighting) and/or community gardens (Parks & Recreation Facilities)
- Provide additional street lighting, especially near Mission Creek (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Enhance Mission Creek, Canon Perdido to Victoria Street (Parks & Rec. Facilities/Creeks Div.)
- Provide after school programs for kids (Parks & Recreation Facilities)

Medium Priority Projects

The projects that received 3 or 4 “votes” were:

- Underground utilities (Residential neighborhoods & character)
- Imprint street names on curbs (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Provide more painted crosswalks (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Provide traffic calming throughout West Downtown neighborhood (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Provide aesthetic improvement projects, e.g., a mural project done by kids (Parks & Recreation Facilities/Streets)
- Provide dog waste “stations” (near trash cans & creeks) (Parks & Recreation Facilities/Streets)

Low Priority Projects

The projects that received 1 or 2 “votes” were:

- Preserve existing unique homes, e.g., Victorians (Residential neighborhoods & character)
- Provide “affordable” housing (possibly in conjunction with Mission Creek project?) (Residential neighborhoods & character)
- Provide multi-use paths (for bicyclists, peds, etc.) (Parks & Recreation Facilities)
- Provide a satellite library (Schools & Other Public Buildings)
- Improve appearance of businesses, esp. grocery stores (Commercial & Retail)
- Sidewalks – Provide where necessary and improve existing (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Parking – be innovative to increase public parking (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Improve the Westside Center, esp. the play area (Schools & Other Public Buildings)

Projects Not Selected as a Priority

Suggested projects that did not receive any “votes” were:

- Concern about compatibility of auto shops with residential – relocate? (Residential neighborhoods & character)
- Provide lower interest Home Rehab loans (now 3%) (Residential Neighborhoods and Character)
- Provide noise attenuation (i.e., sound walls) along 101 (Residential neighborhoods & character)
- Provide bikepath as part of Mission Creek Project (Parks & Recreation Facilities)
- Expand West Downtown trolley or shuttle (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Improve drainage (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Provide common design for parkways and maintain (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Provide public restrooms (Schools & Other Public Buildings)

Additional ideas

These ideas were suggested by participants separate from the “voting” process outlined above.

- Sound walls – Should be of absorptive (e.g., wood) material and not concrete which reflects noise.
- Bike paths – Need segregated bike paths & pedestrian paths like at UCSB to reduce chances of collisions.
- Bike lanes – Need bike lanes on de la Vina and Chapala Streets.

Other departments

Several ideas were suggested that are not within the Redevelopment Agency’s control. These ideas will be forwarded to the appropriate City department or organization.

- Creeks – Pick up trash in creeks – Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Creeks – Trim creek vegetation and haul away – Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Creeks – Paint “this drains to the ocean” on drain at Bath & Ortega Streets – Parks & Recreation Dept. and/or Streets/Public Works
- Westside Center – Easy Lift vans use all the parking – Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Better speed enforcement – Police Dept.
- Curbs and handicapped ramps needed on Euclid Street – Public Works Dept.
- Parking – Expand Resident Permit Parking - Public Works Dept.
- Parking – Restrict on-street parking by Ralph’s employees - Public Works Dept./Community Development Dept.
- Street lights – Need more overall and need to add lights at Bath Street off ramp. Street lights need to project downwards for maximum effectiveness, not out as on Chapala St. - Public Works Dept.
- Need more promotion of alternative energy sources, e.g., traffic lights, street lights and at community center sites – Public Works Dept.
- Continue/expand street sweeping – Public Works Dept./Parks & Rec., Creeks Div.
- Traffic calming – Speed bumps don’t work (e.g., Ontare Road) but speed limits and stop sign enforcement do work. De la Vina really needs to have speeds reduced. – Public Works Dept.
- Pedestrian safety – Intersection of Figueroa and de la Vina has a lot of pedestrians and needs improved pedestrian safety – Public Works Dept.