

Attachment 2

West Downtown Neighborhood Community Meeting #1 Notes November 13, 2002

Community Attendees:

Elly Bajor
George Bahor
Mayor Marty Blum
Lita Brunstein
Joe Jasinski
Joan Livingston
Gary Mosel
Nikolay Nikdov (& twins)
Jean Pare'
Craig Porter
Thomas Regalado
Mike Safina
Mark Sheridan
Mario Silva

Aaron Specht
Richard Vaughn
Teresa Vaughn
Grace Wilde
Woody Wilde

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 answered questions 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 the Westside Community Group at their meeting on October 7, 2002 and by the Westside Community Advisory Committee meeting on October 10, 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 Agency's Long Range Capital Improvement Program beginning with development of the 2004 Redevelopment Agency budget.

Highest Priority Projects

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

- Sidewalks – Provide where necessary and improve existing (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Provide common design for parkways and maintain (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Provide trash cans & regular pick up (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Preserve existing unique homes, e.g., Victorians (Residential neighborhoods & character)
- Provide pedestrian-oriented street lighting, e.g., historic gas lamp district like along Loma Alta (Residential neighborhoods & character)
- Provide "affordable housing" (possibly in conjunction with Mission Creek project?) (Residential neighborhoods & character)

Medium Priority Projects

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

- Provide bikepath as part of Mission Creek Project (Parks & Recreation Facilities)
- Provide noise attenuation (i.e., sound walls) along 101 (Residential neighborhoods & character)
- Underground utilities (Residential neighborhoods & character)

Low Priority Projects

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

- Provide traffic calming throughout West Downtown neighborhood (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Develop non-traditional parks, e.g., vegetable gardens (Parks & Recreation Facilities)
- Provide a large park (possibly in conjunction with Mission Creek project?) (Parks & Recreation Facilities)
- Provide pocket parks – include a soccer field with lighting (Parks & Recreation Facilities)
- Provide multi-use paths (for bicyclists, peds, etc.) (Parks & Recreation Facilities)
- Improve the Westside Center, esp. the play area (Schools & Other Public Buildings)
- Provide public restrooms (Schools & Other Public Buildings)
- Provide more painted crosswalks (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Expand West Downtown trolley or shuttle (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Improve drainage and “better design” (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Imprint street names on curbs (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Concern about compatibility of auto shops with residential – relocate? (Residential neighborhoods & character)
- Provide lower interest Home Rehab loans (now 3%) (Residential Neighborhoods and Character)
- Improve appearance of businesses, esp. grocery stores (Commercial & Retail)

Lowest Priority Projects

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

- Enhance Mission Creek (Parks & Recreation Facilities)
- Provide a satellite library (Schools & Other Public Buildings)
- Work with School District to provide another school site (Schools & Other Public Buildings)
- Assist with rehab of multi-family units (Residential neighborhoods & character)
- Provide signs about dog use (leashes and mutt mitts) in parks (Parks & Recreation Facilities)
- Provide curb cuts at every street corner (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Improve cul-de-sacs and use as community gathering spots (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Improve appearance of foot bridges (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Increase on-street handicap parking (Streets & Sidewalks)
- Preserve “charming” small businesses along Chapala Street (Commercial & Retail)
- Acquire Caltrans parcel on Bath near US 101 (Miscellaneous)
- Provide for a neighborhood mechanics area (Miscellaneous)

Additional ideas

These ideas were suggested by participants and were incorporated into the suggestions considered at the second community meeting on November 23rd.

- Provide a Farmers Market in the West Downtown area
- Provide dog waste dispensers (mutt mitts) like at Hendry's Beach & signs that remind about courtesy to others
- Paint 'T's to indicate parking spaces along street (to provide more efficient use of on-street parking)

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.

- Tree trimming – Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Street sweeping – Public Works Dept.
- Carts at Vons – Public Works and Zoning Enforcement
- Slum lord issues – Rental Housing Mediation Task Force
- Parkways and maintenance (or lack thereof) – Public Works
- Next day graffiti removal – Public Works