

Approved MINUTES  
ESPARTO CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, May 16, 2017  
7:00 p.m.  
Esparto Regional Library  
17065 Yolo Avenue, Esparto, CA

Attending: George Pennebaker, Cynthia Havstad, Pat Harrison, Lisa Wyatt, Sandie Reed,  
Randy Jacobs, John Hulsman Jr, Colleen Fescenmeyer

Absent: Giacomo Moris

#### MEETING ADMINISTRATION

1. CALL TO ORDER at 7:01 by Chairman G. Pennebaker

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There was a motion by J Hulsman to approve the agenda, seconded by L. Wyatt. Vote: all in favor, none opposed.

3. APPROVAL OF APRIL 18, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

a) Draft 4.18.17 minutes: Edits were provided by P. Harrison re typos. There was a motion by J Hulsman to approve, seconded by P. Harrison. Vote: all in favor, none opposed. C. Fescenmeyer abstained.

4. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PUBLIC FORUM

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

This agenda item provides the opportunity for members of the public to address the Advisory Committee on any subject not related to items on the agenda. The Chair reserves the right to impose a reasonable limit on the time afforded to any individual speaker.

Resident: mentioned concern about traffic and not particularly impressed with the new crosswalk flashing lights.

Resident: brought up concern about burn day. Neighbor was burning oleander leaves because of their toxicity. Would like to see education on what is acceptable to burn. Another concern is about noise.

## 6. COUNTY UPDATE

Painting in front of the schools has been completed.

C. Fescenmeyer commented that many of the potholes in town have been filled, and she wanted to express her appreciation.

## 7. ACTION ITEMS

a. Development Agreement Extension request for three subdivisions: Taro Echiburu indicated that the development agreements would go away if we don't approve the extension. The development agreement is not the same as the conditions of approval although there could be some overlap. T. Echiburu believes that letting them expire would be a mistake. All three developments have agreed to contribute to the building of a bridge. One includes the development of a gas station and convenience store. Extending them allows them to re-open and reconsider some of the elements of the development agreements. All changes will be brought back to this committee for our recommendation. The agreements are public documents and anyone can view them and make comments. T. Echiburu is not sure if they are available on the county website but anyone can contact the planning department for a copy.

C. Fescenmeyer made a motion that we approve the extension of three Esparto Development Agreements as described in the Memorandum dated May 9, 2017, seconded by L. Wyatt. Vote: All in favor, none opposed.

## 8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Traffic safety: Taro Echiburu, Director of Community Services started the discussion with a short history of the issue of traffic and speeding in town, on Grafton and other areas. His staff has been looking at options. Two things can happen: enforcement (which is why the CHP is here) and lowering the speed limit or providing a physical barrier such as a speed bump etc. T. Echiburu feels that these need to be weighed carefully, particularly for unintended consequences. Traffic may be slowed down, but so will 1<sup>st</sup> responders. Raised bumps are no longer allowed. Rumble strips are another possibility. These also have pros and cons. They are very loud. When they were put in recently, the pavement needed to be prepared and within a week the neighbors were complaining about the noise, and a week later they were removed. Babs has researched them and is of the opinion that they don't work.

Speed table is another option. T. Echiburu has one in front of his house and he has observed that they don't work. People don't slow down. Another issue is cost.

Babs reported that she did an online survey. 117 wanted speed undulations, 30 did not. She reports that residents were told to call 911 and she has found that is also not working.

D. Boydston asked about portable radar that takes a picture and then issues a ticket.

Rodney Fitzhugh, California Highway Patrol talked about enforcement. The CHP is short staffed. There are only three cars/officers for the entire Yolo County. With anything major, they are going to have a 30-40 minute response time to get to Esparto. He prefers solutions that

address the issue when the CHP is not here. He also suggests that the community knows who is speeding. Attendees disagreed and feel that they haven't been able to get the license plate numbers for speeders. If the community is able to identify those who are speeding Officer Fitzhugh could knock on their doors and let the speeders know that they have been identified as breaking the law. He will step up enforcement but he wants people to know that everyone will be fair game for speeding tickets. G. Pennebaker is concerned about the lack of visibility of the CHP. R. Fitzhugh: the law dictates that the sheriff handles criminal matters and CHP handles traffic. Sheriff can issue a traffic citation. B. Burns indicated that Sheriff Prieto made the decision to divide the responsibilities. If the Sheriff sees an infraction, they will pull over the offender. The CHP was under the impression that the new striping and flashing lights were working. C. Fescenmeyer indicated that the students did receive some instruction and feels they are working. Others disagreed. A dummy police car was also discussed. R. Fitzhugh indicated that the CHP doesn't have the funding for decoy cars and portable radar. L. Wyatt is training as a volunteer and when she finishes she can bring Oscar (the dummy sheriff car) to the community. It was questioned about whether or not they can authorize more stop signs. R. Fitzhugh will talk to the County and Cal Trans. R. Fitzhugh can be reached at 916-718-7175, and he encourages people to call with their concerns.

R. Fitzhugh asked the community to identify the trouble areas. The following were identified: Grafton Street, Capay Street, Madison Street, Plainfield, in front of the High School, as well as Woodland Ave, right off of Highway 16. Basically all are west of Hwy 16. Also Highway 16 in front of Dollar General. Cal Trans is responsible for changing speed there.

People estimate they've seen speeds of 60 mph in a 25 mph zone. Early morning and after 9 pm are the time periods during which speeding has been observed and/or heard.

b. Discuss timing of action items brought to ECAC for review

G. Pennebaker summarized why this issue is on the agenda. As an example, he described how the Williamson Act Guidelines were brought to us shortly before our monthly meeting, without the time to evaluate and make comments to the Planning Commission before that body was scheduled to vote on the amendments. C. Fescenmeyer commented that the County does it best to get items to us with enough time to make comments. T. Echiburu explained that the county defines the protocol. He indicated that items shouldn't be scheduled for the planning commission before it is weighed by the ECAC. C. Havstad commented that three action items were placed on the agenda for the March 2017 ECAC meeting (the Williamson Act Guidelines, the Flood Control Amendment and the Commercial Ag Zoning Amendment), and given that the materials were made available for review by the ECAC only shortly ahead of our meeting, with the items already scheduled for a Planning Commission meeting in the following week, we did not feel we had time to prepare to discuss and act on two out of the three action items. And although the ECAC did act on the Commercial Ag Zoning Amendment, the ECAC's recommendation does not appear to have been shared with the Planning Commission (as per a review of the Commission agenda packet, and a personal conversation between a Commissioner and C. Havstad). T. Echiburu indicated that the protocol is meant to give the ECAC time to comment and feels the protocol should be reviewed and perhaps revised if it is

not working to allow for ECAC input. Not all items are urgent and there may be opportunities to slow the process to give us greater opportunity.

c. Finalize letter to Supervisors re: Esparto Area Plan update. C. Havstad thought it was fine as did others. It was T. Echiburu's recommendation that we send the letter to ask for support for updating the Esparto General Plan to Supervisor Chamberlain. C. Fescenmeyer suggested that it be signed by G. Pennebaker, and that we add it to the agenda for our next meeting, as an action item.

d. Pool update

Supervisor Chamberlain announced that the Supervisors voted to move forward on the purchase of the pool with a (5-0) vote. The Yocha DeHe Wintun Nation has added \$1.5 million to the pool fund to help cover the wish list of items that are currently not funded by the grant from the State.

There was a request for this information to be included in the Valley Voice. Supervisor Chamberlain would like input on how the \$1.5 million is going to be spent. The pool planning group is organized by Jill Cook. Members of this committee may ask to be invited by emailing A. Hirson, who suggested that some of the extra funds may need to be spent on additional costs for the construction since the budget is so tight. The county indicated that donors may want naming rights in exchange for their donation

Additional background was provided by Supervisor Chamberlain: The BOS just approved the expansion of the Cache Creek Hotel. The new agreement between the County and the Yocha DeHe Wintun Nation includes funding of 2 Sheriff Deputies, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Tribe also provided \$.5 million for impacts on Hwy 16 such as double pane windows, sound barriers, and \$.5 million for rural initiatives, plus matching funds up to another \$.5 million. Sup. Chamberlain would like input on the use of these funds. The BOS will be required to vote to approve the spending of these funds. The agreement with the Yocha DeHe Wintun Tribe is a public document.

A short discussion followed about the expanded Hotel and potential for increased traffic. The concept is to offer lodging to people who are already going to the Casino, keeping them onsite instead of people heading back towards Woodland to look for lodging. Therefore, traffic is not expected to increase.

e. Alley workday scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup>: A flyer with details is available. Volunteers are needed to do the work from 8 am – 1 pm, meeting at the Countryside Community Church.

T. Echiburu indicated that the Planning Department has received an application for a gas station in Esparto. The owner is considering a fast food restaurant in association with the gas station. Cal Trans will be implementing a traffic improvement plan at the corner of Hwy 16 and 21A, the location of the project.

## 9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Action item: Letter to the Supervisor Chamberlain on the need for updating the Esparto Area Plan.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

There was a motion to adjourn by P. Harrison, seconded by L. Wyatt. Vote: all in favor, none opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

11. COMMUNITY FORUM was led by G. Pennebaker after the ECAC meeting was adjourned.