

Willowbank County Service Area (WCSA) Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Meeting Held 16 January 2019, 7:00PM

Marguerite Montgomery Elementary School Multipurpose Room

1441 Danbury Street, Davis, CA 95618

1.	<p>Call to Order: Committee Chair Woods called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM and thanked all those present for braving the wind and the rain to attend.</p> <p>Committee Members Present: Bill Corliss, Marcia Kreith, Joanne Roy, Brian Morrissey, Kent Calfee, and Olin Woods</p> <p>Members Absent: Liz McCapes</p> <p>Recording Secretary: Michael Curry</p> <p>Others Present: Pam Eisele, Don Gueffroy, Eileen Gueffroy, Matthew Lange, Tracy De Wit, Marybeth Buechner, Kathleen Rockwell, Michael Rockwell, Gary Mattesen, Cory Gold, and Don Shore.</p>
2.	<p>Introductions: Committee members gave self-introductions</p>
3.	<p>Approval of the minutes: It was moved by Roy and seconded by Corliss that after several small corrections the minutes of the October 17, 2018 meeting be approved. They were unanimously approved. (Approved minutes may be viewed at www.YoloCounty.org/Willowbank-CSA).</p>
4.	<p>Public comments: Tracy De Wit and Matthew Lange described a controversy concerning the Pacifico site, a residential building at 1752 Drew Ave that backs onto the Putah Creek bike path. De Wit's, Gold's, and Lange's homes are on Valdora and Evergreen in the City. Formerly a student co-op, Publico is now a residential building, providing affordable housing and managed by Yolo County Housing Authority. (The Authority is governed by city council members from each city in the County, one County supervisor, and two public members.) De Wit and Lange asserted that the proposed creation of a walk-in mental-health triage office and a sixteen-bed residential mental health facility at that site was inconsistent with the neighborhood. They argued that the county has been remiss in its failure to recognize and respond to various problems at and around the site, including crime and drug use. They want Yolo County Housing to withdraw its application to the City for a Conditional Use Permit in order that the City be able openly to discuss the issues involved. They referred to a long article in the January 16 edition of the <i>Davis Enterprise</i>, which in part reported on a longer discussion at a meeting held at Montgomery School on January 10. Anyone wanting further information may wish to contact De Wit or Lange respectively at tracydewit@gmail.com or mateolan@gmail.com.</p>

5.	Yolo County Report by District 4 Supervisor Jim Provenza: Both Supervisor Provenza and Deputy Rich Reed were unable to attend.
6.	<p>Yard and green waste: Olin Woods presented an update on the ongoing issue of yard/green waste. The results of the survey developed by the Ad Hoc Waste Committee are in the hands of the County. The County is developing an RFP (request for proposals) and it is expected that one or two waste haulers will submit proposals. A neighborhood meeting with Marissa Juhler, from the County, is scheduled to be held on April 3 to discuss the merits of the proposals received.</p> <p>Marcia Kreith asked whether this timing allows for input from the neighborhood on the RFP wording and whether it does not put the decision-making too close to the expiration of the current contract with Recology, at the end of June. She also asked whether a new contract and rates would cover capital improvements or whether they might arise as surprises as occurred with the increase in County tipping fees.</p> <p>There was discussion of the timing of loose yard-waste pickup. Marybeth Buechner noted that in Old Willowbank the issue is less of grass trimmings that can fit within a container and more of larger tree and garden trimmings. It was suggested that that being the case, weekly collection of seasonal loose yard wastes should begin later in the fall and extend later in the winter than has been proposed. Mike Rockwell suggested adding in the deliberations the option of “no claw,” with individuals or their gardeners needing to do the hauling to the landfill. It was noted that use of the claw adds to expenses for those who do not use a gardener as well as to the rates currently charged by homeowners’ gardeners who now leave piles in the street</p> <p>Bill Corliss offered to convey the following issues at the upcoming Ad Hoc Waste Committee meeting: (1) the possibility of a no-claw option and (2) the need for sufficient time for the County to finalize a new contract before the current contract expires in June unless current rates can continue for a duration before contract is finalized.</p> <p>Pam Eisele stated there will need to be compromises. Not everyone will be happy with the new contract. It is unlikely that we can have every-other week pickup of loose piles without an increase in cost.</p> <p>Eisele raised the issue of the role of aesthetics in the ongoing discussion, stating that the appearance of the neighborhood is deteriorating. A County ordinance that would regulate the timing of placement of yard waste on neighborhood streets is in the process of being drafted. This raised the question of whether fines would be levied. It needs to be recognized that many in our community prefer to avoid animosity and would be reluctant to report on their neighbors or their neighbor’s gardener. It was noted that the imposition of fines would not likely be universally applauded.</p>
7.	Tree Health in Old Willowbank: Don Shor of Redwood Barn made an extended presentation on issues related to tree health. Among items discussed: Reduction of the danger from falling limbs and trees; aphid infestation and control in hackberries;

	<p>tree life expectancy and planning for succession; the need for variety in the planting of replacement trees to avoid host specific pests and diseases; irrigation requirements---for most mature trees deep soaking beyond the drip line is needed.(A locally important exception is the native Valley Oak, which once established should never be irrigated.)</p> <p>Due to a late start on this agenda item, Shor was unable to present his full talk. He will post his handouts, talk, and a video at Redwoodbarn.com. Click on “<i>Willowbank talk.</i>”</p> <p>Audience discussion: Mention was made of Pat Reynolds’s pollinator planting project and the collaboration with UC Davis students. Regarding planning for urban tree succession or funding, Shore mentioned it may be useful to talk with Tree Davis.</p> <p>Woods announced that in the community spirit of the pollinator project and the earlier tree planting on Willowbank Road, Bob Brewer, a Willowbank resident, has offered to help with obtaining and applying the systemic pesticide, Imidacloprid, which acts to control the Asian woolly hackberry aphid and resultant sticky mess of vascular disease. The application, involving the drenching of the soil immediately around the base of Chinese hackberry trees, is carried out about one month before the hackberry flowers, just as it begins to leaf out (i.e. late winter or very early spring.) Hackberries are wind, and not insect, pollinated, so exposure of pollinator bees to hackberry flowers is minimized. However, Imidacloprid should not be applied to roots of flowering plants that can take it up---and it is harmful to soil organisms at the point of application. For further information, contact Bob at: (REBrewer@ucdavis.edu)</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Water rates and the Proposition 218 Vote Status: Stan Gryczko, Assistant Public Works Director at the City of Davis, described the City rate-setting process. The latest rate increase of 9% will show on consumers’ bills this month or next. There were three major drivers for this already-approved 9% increase: The requirement to ensure adequate revenues to cover debt service for the Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency (WDWCA) project; the fact that the State Revolving Fund (SRF) has yet to provide reimbursement for expenditures for WDWCA costs as well as for the City’s water meter upgrade project; and operating costs. The City will soon begin a new study of water costs. That study will likely result in a new set of rate proposals. These proposed rates typically operate over a five-year cycle. Absent a new Prop 218 vote in which 50 percent do not oppose the new rate, 2019 rates would continue.</p> <p>In about three months the City will engage a scoping consultant to undertake a study that will take about a year. During this time the Utility Rate Advisory Commission will receive the consultant’s info and interact prior to the City Council holding a Prop 218.</p> <p>The cost analysis will take into account the WDWCA’s new system provisions, Davis’s water operation costs, debt repayment (to avoid penalty some can’t be paid off until July 2019), and the budget for capital improvement projects (CIP). Currently the City gets about 85% of its water from surface (i.e., river) sources and 15% from aquifers. The new WDWCA system allows Davis to purchase surface water when it is inexpensive (when Sacramento River flows are high during the rainy season) and to</p>

	<p>store it in aquifers for later use. Last year the City explored putting Conaway water that does not have Term 91 state limitations into existing intermediate-depth City wells as a reserve to be withdrawn in summer when river water is insufficient to meet water demand. They will continue a feasibility assessment this year. One member asked the justification for Willowbank water users paying 1% of capital improvement costs to fund the arts in Davis. Another inquired whether the WDWCA was overbuilt, and then downsized. In conclusion, Gryczko stated that it appears that the result will be fewer significant increases in water rates, although he is uncertain of the place of Old Willowbank in the Proposition 218 process. Gryczko indicated that he would get back to the Chair on this issue.</p>
9.	<p>From the last meeting: The issue of the size of rights of way: The county right of way is typically sixty feet. That said, the easement is not always thirty feet on each side of the street centerline; the right of way on the north side of Montgomery Ave. is twenty-five feet.</p>
10.	<p>Budget update: The Chair provided County budget reports indicating that WCSA finished FY-2017-18 with a \$944 positive carryover and that expenses for the first quarter of FY 2018-19 were \$310, leaving a balance of \$4,875. (See WCSA website for both County reports.)</p>
11.	<p>Elections: Woods stated that the Chair and Vice Chair made commitments last January to serve at least two years. With the January meeting typically being the one at which officers are elected, he encouraged any member who might wish to serve as an officer or to nominate another member to make that fact known at this time. No nominations were made and Woods indicated that he and Kreith would continue respectively as chair and vice chair.</p>
12.	<p>Advisory Committee Member Comments: Kreith indicated that her household had experienced declines in the quality of AT&T broadband internet service. If others are having similar problems she suggested a neighborhood forum might be useful. Kreith noted that Xfinity seems increasingly to rely on wi-fi hotspots for mobile phone service and she wondered if this causes interference with internet or residential wi-fi networks. Residential hot spots also raised questions of the privacy implications of that reliance.</p>
13.	<p>Adjournment: Next scheduled meeting: March 20, 2019, at Montgomery School <u>Library</u></p> <p>Note: GWIA annual meeting: March 13, 2019; Montgomery School <u>All Purpose Room</u></p> <p>Meeting adjourned: 8:50 p.m.</p>