

**LODI IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

April 18, 2009

9:00 A.M.

ROLL CALL

BOARD		STAFF
<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	
Robert Takeuchi (Chair)	Joe Spinelli	Joseph Wood, CDD
Stephen Jarrett (Vice-Chair)		Araseli del Castillo, CDD
Reyes Jaramillo		
Eileen St. Yves		GUESTS
Sunil Yadav		Councilmember Bob Johnson
Rosie Ortiz		Councilmember JoAnne Mounce
Fran Forkas		
Tim Mustin – late 9:03 a.m.		

MINUTES

TREASURER'S REPORT

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

Joseph Wood had no announcements

AGENDA ITEMS

A. Goal Setting Session for 2009/10

Review Previous Goals:

Mr. Wood mentioned that he has provided minutes and available staff reports from the goal setting sessions for the past three years to provide some perspective for both new members and our not so new members. He suggested that they please look over them and speak up if anyone wanted to talk about a specific accomplishment. This is just a format to allow for discussion.

Mr. Takeuchi asked Mr. Wood what his perspective is?

Mr. Wood replied that having a public forum was probably the most significant. The most successful is the gang forum. We have a very good turnout from the public and a presentation from the Police Dept. and Operation Peace Keepers from Stockton. That is the kind of things that suits the committee well.

Mr. Takeuchi wants to let the record know Mr. Mustin just showed up at 9:03 a.m.

Mr. Takeuchi mentioned he suggested he would like to make this more a forum for public issues and have hopefully a larger audience from the public. He would like to address issues that were relevant to a broader spectrum of our residents. Mr. Takeuchi stated that at the end we will address topics for 2009/10 and have saved some room for the City Council members and they will have the opportunity to address what they like.

Mr. Jarrett spoke about the location of the meetings. Mr. Jarrett believes the Chamber is a positive compared to the Police Dept. where it used to be held.

Mr. Yadav suggested we move around to locations where the committee wants to focus on. For example: Park & Recreation, a park, etc.

Mrs. St. Yves commented that when this committee first began it started at the LOEL Center and there was no city involvement in the group.

Mr. Jarrett stated this is a City Council appointed commission. We are no longer independent.

Mr. Takeuchi asked if there were any other comments on the location of our committee.

Mr. Jarrett replied if we had an issue driven meeting that addressed a specific geographic area of the city, he would be for moving the meeting to that area of the city.

Mr. Takeuchi stated he agrees with Steve to have our base meetings here unless we need to branch out to different areas if and when the need arises.

Mr. Wood replied that a good example would be if and when we move forward with the Railroad property again as far as housing development, having a public forum on the best use and development of that site. Community outreach is a fundamental in any successful affordable housing project which he thinks we were lacking in our previous effort.

Accomplishments:

Mr. Jaramillo spoke about accomplishment made during the last year is garbage area/clean up in Lodi and he thinks it is something we need to continue to pursue and get more involved. In the beginning it was mainly homeless people that were helping and towards the end there were a lot more volunteers helping and he thinks that was an accomplishment. Second, the gang issue was also a major accomplishment and we should continue to pursue and get more involved. Third, at the gang meeting the attendance was high. I think it is something that needs to be addressed and the city needs to look into in finding ways to chase these people out.

Mr. Takeuchi mentioned that we should meet with the top guns at Lodi News Sentinel to see if we can co-partner.

Mr. Jarrett replied that we should approach them in conjunction with youth. We have the Youth Commission and we can partner with them in a meeting perhaps.

Joanne Mounce stated if you want Lodi News Sentinel to partner with Lodi Improvement Committee, give them some news.

Mr. Takeuchi replied to get our community motivated we have to be motivated ourselves and I'm not sure we are. That is a shame but that is a reality as well.

Mr. Jaramillo mentioned that we should keep things black and white. When he did some work on the Eastside there were a lot of people out there that don't understand English. He thinks the main problem is we don't have communication with these people. We should focus on education these meeting people out there and the Lodi News Sentinel doesn't need to do that.

Mr. Takeuchi feels Mr. Jaramillo should put together a proposal of what he would like to do.

Mr. Johnson did not have his microphone on so I was unable to retrieve what he spoke about.

Mrs. Mounce did not have her microphone on and I was unable to retrieve what she spoke.

Mrs. Mounce thanked the committee for all the time the committee puts in making a change in Lodi. She mentioned she would like to commend them for their outreach.

Mr. Jarrett mentioned there are cycles and changes and he thinks the pain level is not at the level that generates public participation. He thinks Code Enforcement always has to have a place in this committee and in this meeting. He thinks the gang issue last year had gotten painful. A meeting was held with normal advertisement in the paper and the room was full. He thinks that we need to determine if the pain has gone away. That was his thought on the whole concept of how we can be more effective. He thinks that the Council will agree with him on the issue of pain level. He would like this year for a different organization to come to our meetings and collaborate with us in that meeting. The Youth Commission, El Concilio, Partnership for Families, the Boys & Girls Club, Building Blocks, etc. He thinks that we need to address the gang issue again. His disappointment with this meeting last time is that we did not see the City Manager, the Chief of Police. We did not see the stakeholders who have the ability to make some change and address the problem with some effectiveness. The blighted properties are going to be an issue again this year. We will need to stay on top of that and make it a priority this coming year. We will need to keep the infrastructure up and front every chance we can. Is Affordable Housing going to happen this year? Are the funds gone Joseph?

Mr. Wood replied that if we have it committed by June we can have it allocated and distributed by the end of the year.

Mr. Jarrett asked what the reality of a decision being made by June. This is April.

Mr. Wood replied that the City Council did authorize City Manager to negotiate with Eden Housing and that is progressing.

Mr. Forkas stated Lt. Price at the last meeting that gang issues in Lodi have seems to have hit a plateau and not getting any worse is encouraging.

Mrs. Ortiz mentioned that she disagrees with Mr. Jarrett about the complaint level has lowered. I think it is because people have been moving out of the Eastside and new comers have moved in and don't know where to go. She lives in the Eastside and sees newcomers come by.

Projects/Issues for 2009/10

*** Eastside Summit**

Mr. Wood introduced Council members Bob Johnson and JoAnne Mounce as they will discuss the issue of an Eastside Summit and how the Lodi Improvement Committee might be able to facilitate such a public forum.

Mr. Johnson was not heard regarding the Eastside Summit because his microphone was not turned on.

Mr. Takeuchi asked Mr. Johnson if the Summit contemplates one meeting or is that introduce a focus by our committee for our next year?

Mr. Johnson replied that his idea of a Summit is to continue meetings throughout the year.

Mr. Takeuchi asked Mr. Johnson if he or others might be a participant on some of these endeavors.

Mr. Johnson's reply was he promised he would be there and the rest of his comment was not heard on the tape because his microphone was not turned on.

Mr. Jarrett asked Mr. Takeuchi what he believes will come to light new or be different from what he have already explored in years past. We already know what the issues are on the Eastside. We know what the cost is to do on the eastside and we know we don't have the money to do it. What are you expecting the forum to accomplish?

Mr. Johnson replied that he would be hopeful that there is a better understanding whatever proposal comes forth. The rest could not be heard because the microphone was off.

Mr. Jarrett asked if he was looking for a vehicle to educate the public as to why we need redevelopment so when it is brought up next year, it will pass.

Mr. Johnson replied that he is convinced that we need to make some dramatic action. If we don't have a Plan A, please tell me what Plan B is. Let's see if we can work Plan B to resolve the problem.

Mr. Takeuchi stated we had Blair King a few months ago to talk about Measure W. He asked what he thought what the main argument will be on the opponents of Measure W. Steve Jarrett then interjected that it was a matter of trust of our present City Council. Joanne Mounce said something to the same affect in the Lodi News Sentinel. If that is true what good does a summit meeting do to come up with new ideas?

Mr. Johnson replied that if it was true we would have a better opportunity and option to participate in the process.

Mr. Forkas agrees with Mr. Johnson regarding the need for a summit but one concern him is that it didn't really offer any ideas of what was going to be accomplished to the Eastside. He thinks that if we are going to move ahead with the summit we need to start developing lists of what the people of the Eastside would like to see happen. We need specific goals and objectives of what we are after to accomplish on the Eastside. He doesn't think Measure W stated that originally.

Mr. Jarrett replied that the state redevelopment process does not allow you to state what it will or will not be spent on. The only thing it stated was the area and that there would be redevelopment in that area.

Mr. Forkas stated that you can list of what you could expect to see happen on the Eastside.

Mr. Jarrett replied that he was told by the City that you could not do that. It is not allowed by law.

Mr. Johnson could not be heard on the tape because his microphone was not on.

Ms. Mounce stated she was not a fan with Measure W. She brought up the water issue. Up until June 2008 there were great big dollars sitting for both the water/sewer infrastructure replacement and the money that we collected and promised to do that work wasn't done. The money was used for something else. What was it, not a priority? This is put on the back burner again and this happens over and over again. Ms. Mounce stated people don't trust us because we don't do what we promised them.

Mr. Mustin mentioned that he believes there is a missing link in communication and education that we are providing to the citizens and we are getting back from the citizens. He has been to 6-7 meetings and the chairs are empty. He thinks that there is a problem with communication to the citizens that this is a place where they can come and voice their opinion and we will respond in a manner that is appropriate. He thinks that partnering with churches is huge and should be one of the goals.

Mr. Jarrett stated the argument that Measure W was bad. Simply because of past practices of the City, we should not utilize the one single financial tool left in the tool box for the City of Lodi? In his opinion this was a very sad and bad argument. If you don't believe that you are a change agent then you should not be elected official. The service done by the failure of Measure W will impact the City for years to come and it may not recover from it. He personally believes that redevelopment will not be brought back for consideration in this town for another four to five years and by that time this City quite well could be bankrupt. As we sit here today we are powerless to do what's needed anywhere in town.

Ms. Mounce replied to Mr. Jarrett's comment but was not heard on tape because her microphone was not on.

Mr. Takeuchi interrupted stating let's not let this be a two way conversation. He asked to not let this be personal in making our comments. If you have anything with the benefit of the committee please say it otherwise let's save that for a private discussion.

Mr. Takeuchi asked to take a break at 11:07 a.m.

Meeting resumed from break at 11:17 a.m.

- **Affiliation with Keep California Beautiful**

Mr. Wood stated for at least the past ten years through our Community Improvement events we have been an affiliate or participant with Keep California Beautiful/Keep America Beautiful, the national organization. More recently the state affiliate has been becoming more the contact. They have provided us with clean up materials each year.

At the Arbor Day event, Christine Flowers, the executive director of the state organization of Keep California Beautiful, was very impressed with Lodi and what Lodi has been able to accomplish and maintain. She stated we could benefit from becoming a Local Affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. The initial registration fee is \$3500-\$4000 and an annual fee of \$250. Our local Waste Management Company may be able to help cover those costs and provide additional organizational support. Ms. Flowers has advised that by being a Local Affiliate we would have access to various grants that Keep California Beautiful would be going for on our behalf.

Mr. Wood is in the processing of getting more information from other cities to see what kind of grant funds they have received during the time period. This is an option you may want to consider for next year.

Mr. Jarrett asked the chair to motion to direct Joseph to move forward.

Mr. Takeuchi made a motion to direct Joseph to make further investigation as to our role to Keep California Beautiful and specifically to upgrade ourselves to a Local Affiliate as suggested by the Sacramento representative of Keep California Beautiful and to see what requirement will be opposed on us including financial requirements and what our role with Waste Management would be.

Mr. Jarrett made the motion and Mr. Forkas 2nd it. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Additional Topics for 2009/10**

Mr. Yadav would like to talk about at the next meeting regarding Lodi Ave. plan.

Mr. Reyes would also like to talk at the next meeting for a solution to make more communication with the public.

Mr. Jarrett suggested we invite someone for example, the Loel Center, Community Partnership for Families, El Concilio, etc. at each meeting.

- **Affordable Housing**

Mr. Jarrett mentioned that the Affordable Housing project for Roget Park needs to be brought before us because it has to be approved by June before we lose the counties matching funds.

Mr. Wood replied for us to bring this back at the next meeting and he will have all the details.

- **Celebration on Central**

Mr. Wood stated Celebration on Central is coming up in May 17th and is bringing it up if the committee is interested.

Mr. Jarrett believes we should be involved with a booth.

Mr. Takeuchi motioned it and Mr. Jarrett 2nd it. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Historic Preservation/Bungalow Tour**

Virginia Snyder stated we should honor the bungalows in Eastside Lodi. We need more tourist destinations in Lodi and the American Bungalow is known throughout the world. This is a real treasure we have in the Eastside and throughout Lodi. This might be something you would like to take a look at.

Mr. Jarrett asked if these are interior or exterior tours.

Mrs. Snyder replied exterior would be the thing to start with.

- **Committee Membership**

Mr. Wood brought up the issue again about going from a 9 member to a 7 member committee, especially with the facility we have here.

Mr. Wood did reach out to Nancy Spinelli and she stated Joe was transferred to Delta Convalescent and will be remaining there for some time. He expressed that our thoughts and prayers are with him, but asked again if Joe would reconsider resigning. Mrs. Spinelli agrees and will talk to him about it. If he resigns we may want to look down the path to 7 members. It will require a by-law for the change.

Mrs. St. Yves asked if it is possible in the change of the by-laws to can allow Mr. Spinelli an honorary member for the length of time he has been on the committee actively.

Mr. Wood replied we can look at that.

Mr. Takeuchi asked that this matter be on the agenda for the next meeting and let's see what needs to be done.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (5 minute limit per speaker)

None

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS on Non-Agenda Items (5 minute limit per speaker)

Mr. Jaramillo would like to thank Virginia for her work last year.

Mr. Takeuchi asked Mr. Wood that the budget/finance department has already elected their officers for the following year in January of this year. Why are we doing it in March/April?

Mr. Wood replied that it is done when the appointments are made in March.

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, it was, on motion duly made by Mr. Takeuchi adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
ARASELI DEL CASTILLO, Recording Secretary