

**LODI IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

June 9, 2009

6:00 P.M.
ROLL CALL

BOARD		STAFF
<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	
Robert Takeuchi (Chair)	Joe Spinelli	Joseph Wood, CDD
Stephen Jarrett (Vice-Chair)	Eileen St. Yves	Araseli del Castillo, CDD
Rosie Ortiz (Treasurer)	Reyes Jaramillo	Jamie Aldred, C.I.
Tim Mustin		Lt. Steve Price, Police
Sunil Yadav		
Fran Forkas		

MINUTES

April 14, 2009 – Regular Meeting
April 18, 2009 – Special Meeting
May 12, 2009 – Regular Meeting

Mr. Yadav motioned to approve, Mrs. Ortiz seconded.
Approved 6-0

TREASURER’S REPORT

Ending balance is \$730.13
Mr. Yadav motioned to approve, Mr. Forkas seconded.
Approved 6-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Wood mentioned that if anyone would like to speak to please come to the podium to speak so it is recorded.

AGENDA ITEMS

A. Presentation from “A Hand Up” Homeless Outreach Committee

Mr. Wood stated several representatives from the “Hand Up” Homeless Outreach Committee were present to speak about what they are involved with in the community. In conjunction with the Homeless Outreach there is also a presentation by those who are involved in gang intervention activities that originated from the LIC’s Gang Forum.

Mr. Takeuchi would like to have Virginia come up and give us a background

Mrs. Snyder mentioned when she first started with this project was when she was driving on East Lockeford St. and saw a homeless pushing a shopping cart with all his belongings. She saw him go under a bridge where she assumed he was sleeping and she thought to herself, "What would Jesus do?" That's what motivated her to do something and look at where we are at today. She wanted to thank everyone for their support.

Kathy Grant stated she is the co-Chair for the homeless program. Our goal is to build up this group of people and to connect them with many agencies around town. On June 27th we are having a potluck picnic at Lawrence Park at noon. We will be building a relationship with the homeless. Out of that group has come the Unity Project. Through San Joaquin County and Public Works we got some recycling totes painted yellow that were sitting in the yard unused for years and years that were paid with grant money. These guys wanted to start a recycling effort and put these totes at public events and actually collect bottles with CRV. They would turn them in and pay for feedings. This also creates work for homeless who are already going through dumpsters picking up recycling.

Mr. Jarrett asked if they have gone from an informational gathering process to developing a thought process to assist. Do you have a plan to do that yet?

Mrs. Grant replied it is individual situation. It's done one person at a time because their problems are unique. We do not have a big picture solution, its one person at a time.

Mr. Jarrett asked if in the last year you have had success stories.

Mrs. Grant replied yes. I have one here (Mark) who has been off the streets.

Mr. Yadav asked how many homeless people are going to be at the function on June 27th.

Mrs. Grant replied 40-60

former homeless person) spoke about the program. We are trying to help those who want the help. I have cleaned up and have been sober for four years and I help the homeless on the Eastside. I have been trying to find jobs for the homeless but with the economy the way it is it has been very difficult. We would like to see not only our group participate but would like the City involved.

Mr. Takeuchi stated we had a good presentation on what "Hand Up" is about. He stated he is interested in someone speaking regarding the gang issue.

Mike Lohoto spoke about a program that is in process called "Impact". We chose this name because we want to impact this community and their lives. We are running into a few obstacles and that is availability. It is a little hard for me to

volunteer full time to do all the paperwork and phone calls as I have two jobs. Mr. Lohoto stated he was recently at a park in Woodbridge and a girl who is 20 years old is dressed in gang color red and introduced her five year old son. The girl told her son to tell me his name. The five year old boy replied "I'm a Woodbridge gangster." My heart was grieved and thought to myself this five year old boy does not have any hope until the mom gets help. It is going to take someone like me an ex gang member and some of my buddies to guide these people and to hold their hand. It is going to take a lot of work and time. The passion is there. I have it in me and I'm striving for it but I'm waiting for some doors to open up and to get more volunteers.

Mr. Takeuchi stated that a person of your position benefits because you have been in a gang before. Two, you are a big guy and I think you can assert yourself physically than a smaller guys can.

Mr. Lohoto replied that it is the knowledge of the lifestyle. With me being in a leader of a gang and in the midst of it all, I want to use my past to change the future.

Mr. Takeuchi stated that there are very few people like you who are willing to do what you are doing.

Mr. Lohoto stated no one lent him a hand when he was going to state prison but if there was people out there like I want to do for others maybe things would have been different and that is why I want to help others but again I work two jobs and I can't do it by myself.

B. Follow up on Goal-Setting Session

Mr. Wood is doing a follow up on some issues brought up from the April 18th meeting. Mr. Wood stated Christine Flowers; Executive Director of Keep California Beautiful was really impressed with what she saw here in Lodi. She stated there is an opportunity to become affiliated with the National Association. It requires that there be some type of governing body. She sees the Improvement Committee meets all those requirements. At the last meeting Tim Mustin was assigned to this look at this a little further and he has a power point presentation.

Tim Mustin gave a power point presentation. Mr. Mustin stated he's going to do a run down of the program with the material Joseph provided for me. They are looking for 6-9 leaders who are already involved in the Community. They are looking for us to be involved in a pre-certification four hour training workshop. Someone from Keep California Beautiful would come to Lodi and provide training for us to set up effective programs for Lodi beautification and also to help us to find ways to engage the community. They said the benefit is if we put in \$1.00 they will return \$10.00 into it. I think that is a little bit steep but it beats not hiring someone from the City. They do have the Great American Clean-up which they look to provide one month of

clean-up. They said they have on their web site there is about three million volunteers nationally that all get together to do the clean-up.

Mr. Mustin stated the membership cost is \$3500 initially with a yearly cost of \$250 yearly and the other cost is time and training.

Mr. Takeuchi asked Mr. Mustin if he had a recommendation on what we should with this.

Mr. Mustin replied his recommendation if we feel their program will help us establish groups as well as a road map on community engagement then paying this guy \$3500 trainer to come out would be beneficial but we feel we already have a game plan in place we would use then I think we could save the \$3500.

Mr. Wood stated that the \$3500 would have to be done completely with outside sources because I don't think the City has funds for this.

Mr. Takeuchi stated to Mr. Mustin that he is free to make any motion he wants. My personal reaction to this is there are things that are important to the City but we are cutting back because of funding. I don't think Keep America Beautiful is going to be one of things the City is going to be happy about in terms to wanting to sponsor. It is your prerogative to make a motion to this committee to support whatever you want to support.

Committee Membership

Mr. Wood stated the committee should consider an amendment to the by-laws that would trim the membership from a nine to seven member. Staff suggests that this be accomplished through attrition, meaning that should a committee member resign, not complete their term, or not seek reappointment, their position would be eliminated.

Mr. Takeuchi would like to move a motion to the by-laws to reduce the membership to seven members.

Mr. Yadav asked Mr. Wood if previously it was at seven members.

Mr. Wood replied it had always been at nine.

Mr. Forkas offered a motion to direct Joseph to bring this back at the next regular meeting to consider modification to our by-laws to change membership from nine to seven. Mr. Mustin 2nd it.

Mr. Wood commented that one standing committee member Mr. Spinelli has been unable to participate due to his health well over a year. In accordance with the by-laws Article 4, Section 3 states: Any executive officer or board of directors who misses three unexcused meetings within a year period without the consent of one of

the executive board members shall be deemed to vacate the office. Mr. Wood stated because of Mr. Spinelli's health he is unable to perform his duty and technically we could simply knowledge an abundance of absences to deem he is has vacated the position. I would send a letter to that affect unless there is objection by the committee.

Mr. Takeuchi replied that he will be willing to meet with him and let him know.

Mr. Forkas stated we should wait until the next meeting because at that time we would move forward to reduce the committee from nine to seven.

Mr. Jarrett asked what could be the feasibility in getting a certificate much like the council hands out from this committee to give Joseph. Let's do it and move on with the process.

Eastside Summit

Mr. Wood stated that there will be a meeting next week regarding this to discuss how the City wants to approach this. People appear to be backing away from this.

Mr. Jarrett asked Mr. Wood why we care what the City Council thinks or feels about an Eastside Summit.

Mr. Wood replied it is within the ability of this committee to have public forums. Whether they fall under this Eastside Summit is the question.

Mr. Takeuchi stated this was all started by Bob Johnson. I believe if we are going to have an Eastside Summit we should have more meetings specifically on this so we can decide what we are going to do. This is not only going to take time but a significant amount of organization and man power we have to generate.

Mr. Wood replied there is a meeting regarding this next week with City staff. I will know more after this meeting and bring it back to share with you.

Mrs. Ortiz stated when someone starts something on the Eastside and they make it sound so good and then they stop and everything comes to a halt. I think we just better wait and see because I see that nothing is going to come up.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Community Development

*** Planning Commission**

None

*** Planning Commission – Past Action**

None

* **Neighborhood Services Division**

2009/10 CDBG Funding – Entitlement Process

Mr. Wood mentioned that one of the keys projects I want to get Public Works moving is the Alley Drainage Improvement Project. They had provided a list of about eight different locations as potential sites for improvement projects. I'm asking for Mr. Forkas' assistance to go out and look at these again. I want to get Public Works a short list so they can get working on this.

Affordable Senior Housing Project Update

Mr. Wood stated we are currently working on the Tienda Dr. location adjacent to Roget Park. We have a shirtsleeve session on June 23rd where we can share the concept drawing of the overall layout of the housing portion. We have meet with some of the neighbors and got some feedback from them. We are on the fast track as far as funding. Eden Housing is going through the process of being recognized as a certified Community Housing Development organization. They are also applying for HUD 202 program funds which are for specifically for senior projects.

A. **Police Department**

* **District/Watch Commander**

Community Improvement/Code Enforcement

Mr. Wood stated that residents from the South Pleasant Ave. have been dealing with an alleged nuisance property where they believe to be certain illicit activities such as drugs and prostitution that are having an impact on their properties

Mrs. Aldred spoke about the problem of A-frame portable signs. Mrs. St. Yves and I drove around town and identified the key problem areas and came up with a possible solution. It's just a matter of putting it together to move forward with that.

Mrs. Aldred mentioned that next week she will be starting a proactive effort on canvassing the Eastside of town where she will be physically be distributing Community Improvement pamphlets to every single property highlighting the ten most common violations.

B. Public Works

Lodi Avenue Improvement Project

Mr. Wood stated he spoke with the Senior Civil Engineer Lyman Chang has informed me that the Project is currently on schedule to begin this summer. Environmental clearance was just received by Cal Trans and they are planning on having the City Council approve plans and specs and authorize bids at either the June 24th or July 1st Council meeting. He expects that to be completed by the end of the summer.

Mr. Takeuchi asked what is the funding for this project.

Mr. Wood replied he will pull that information and get back to you.

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. Takeuchi gave Mr. Forkas a gift for a great outstanding service as prior chair.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Topics for Upcoming meetings

- Rental Property Inspection Program - July

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, it was, on motion duly made by Mr. Takeuchi adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
ARASELI DEL CASTILLO, Recording Secretary