

**LODI IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

May 12, 2009

6:00 P.M.
ROLL CALL

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

MINUTES

March 10, 2009 – Regular Meeting
Mr. Yadav motioned to approve, Ms. Ortiz 2nd it.
Approved 5-0

TREASURER’S REPORT

Ending balance is \$730.13
Ms. St. Yves motioned to approve, Mr. Yadav 2nd it.
Approved 5-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Wood mentioned we ordered name plates for everyone and we will look at ordering business cards.

AGENDA ITEMS

A. Follow up on Goal Setting Session

Mr. Wood stated from the recent Goal-setting session that was held on April 18th, a number of issues required additional information and review before the LIC could take formal action to establish goals for the coming year. One of them was the Local Affiliate Status with Keep America Beautiful. Christine Flowers, Executive Director of Keep California Beautiful, has suggested that the City of Lodi pursue status with the national Keep America Beautiful. This will give us more clout, availability to additional funding through grants and materials. With that there is an application fee, based of the city’s population. For the City of Lodi it’s about \$3500 and on top of that there is a yearly fee of \$250 to maintain status. Ms. Flowers suggested we partner with Waste Management. They may be able to help cover that cost.

There is also a possibility that local business sponsorship could be enlisted to help cover that cost.

Eastside Summit

Mr. Wood stated he proposed a neighborhood revitalization plan that involves a rather significant element of public outreach. The word back is to hold back on the Eastside Summit issue. The City Manager's office wants to have a little more dialog with Council or a Council member. The neighborhood revitalization plan that Mr. Wood has been putting together, has been given the green light to pursue so as we have the plan more flushed out it will be brought back before the improvement committee for review and comment. Mr. Wood mentioned that one of the key elements is getting out to the community, holding community meetings, community forums to determine issues within specific neighborhoods. One example is the Affordable Housing issue on Railroad Ave. property. The City will continue to look at some possibility of doing some type of project there. We are getting more calls from developers who are showing an interest in doing something there. Before starting anything, it would be wise to go back to square one and focus on the neighborhood surrounding the proposed site with the hope of getting some input.

Mr. Takeuchi would like to have two topics be brought up in this upcoming year. One is Affordable Housing. Second is the Eastside Summit. Both of these are very important topics. Mr. Takeuchi stated he would like to have all committee members be more active in what we do in the committee. He thinks the members that have been on the board many years have not done much, himself included. He thinks that a sub-committee chairs be appointed from within the committee for each of these major topics. He thinks that this will relieve Joseph of a lot of the burden he has taken on personally, and we need to achieve more involvement.

Mr. Takeuchi stated in regards to Keep California Beautiful, he feels Tim Mustin could take the responsibility for overseeing that and would like to appoint him if that is within the authority of the Chair to do so. Mr. Takeuchi asked Mr. Wood if this is something he can do.

Mr. Wood replied everything you have discussed is clear within the agenda. It is following up on issues from the goal setting session.

Mr. Takeuchi stated then he would like to assign Steve Jarrett for the Affordable Housing. In regards to the Eastside Summit, Mr. Takeuchi would like to have representatives from the City Council, Lodi News Sentinel, Chamber of Commerce and others get on a speakers panel. We need to have meetings before the actual Summit we will be presiding over. Mr. Takeuchi mentioned we should all be more active in some of our activities and do more to try to further the objectives of the Lodi Improvement Committee.

Ms. St. Yves stated she would like to see the Eastside Summit be the first thing to take on.

Mr. Takeuchi replied that the reason he would like to leave it for next calendar year is because it is just an awesome task that if he do it we need to do this right and this is a lot of work. I am not sure we are up to it to accomplish that much in a short period of time. This may be a good idea to take this on first and I'm very willing to take that on.

Ms. St. Yves replied you have to either move or get off the dime and that we have been on the dime too long. There has always been a postponement by somebody or somebody says no, it's too soon and she gets frustrated because nothing seems to get done.

Mr. Takeuchi replied he still has his reservations but is willing personally to go forward. We need to schedule more meetings.

Mr. Wood stated he is going to need Council to take action to do that. He suggested that what they may want to consider, if there is consensus amongst the committee, is to bring it to the Council at the next or one of the following meetings. Bring forth an idea and to ask Council to take specific action to help the Improvement Committee to push the Eastside Summit issue forward. They can direct the City Manager to put it on one of the next Council agendas.

Mr. Takeuchi asked when the next council meeting is.

Mr. Wood replied May 20th.

Mr. Takeuchi asked Mr. Wood if he would be willing to participate.

Mr. Wood replied he would be happy to be there, as they may ask him to draft the Council Communication.

Mr. Takeuchi stated we will take the ball and run with it.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Community Development

*** Planning Commission**

17 W. Pine St. – Zin Bar – Use Permit Type 48

A Conditional Use Permit for alcohol related establishment for wine tasting and live entertainment. This location specifically is currently occupied as Franks

Business Machines. They plan to create an upscale wine tasting room with live entertainment; they propose to operate from 3 p.m. – 1:30 a.m., six-days a week. If you have any discussions or issues we can direct them back to the Planning Dept. to make sure those concerns are addressed.

Mr. Takeuchi commented he does not have enough information to comment on it.

Mr. Wood replied that he provided everything he has.

Mr. Takeuchi stated this is not enough information.

Mr. Wood replied this is all he has.

* **Planning Commission – Past Action**

None

* **Neighborhood Services Division**

2009/10 CDBG Funding – Entitlement Process

Mr. Wood stated on May 6, 2009, the Lodi City Council did approve the final plan for CDBG allocations for 2009/10.

Mr. Wood commented of a special interest to the LIC, the list of City projects includes the Alley Drainage Improvement Project. The project entails the complete rebuild of one block of alley and will include storm drainage and repaving in concrete.

Mr. Wood would like to see the LIC, play the lead role in determining the short list of targeted alleys, as he believes that a survey of Eastside alleys has already been done by Fran Forkas. The selection of the initial target alley will need to be done relatively soon to allow for the preliminary engineering to be started to allow this project to be started in the spring of 2010 and he thinks that Fran Forkas is a good person to help do that.

Affordable Senior Housing Project Update

Mr. Wood commented he has provided a synopsis in the staff report. We have moved our focus to the park adjacent to Roget Park over on Tienda Dr. We have selected a developer that we are working with. Eden Housing who is a very established/well known developer. They are putting together a proposal and we could see this project move forward this time next year. Within the past thirty days things has moved along considerably.

A. **Police Department**

* **District/Watch Commander**

Community Improvement/Code Enforcement

Ms. Aldred mentioned that the month of April their department received 149 new cases and that they have 232 active cases.

Ms. Aldred gave a Powerpoint presentation on an Overview of LMC for Portable/Temporary signage.

Ms. Aldred stated our temporary/portable signage equals A-frame signs, post signs, handmade signs and A-frame signs in the beds of pick-ups parked on the public street which have an impact on the visual clutter along Lodi's corridors. Our current regulations say that a building permit shall be issued by the building department prior to any erection of any sign with the exemption what may be specifically exempted. The items that are exempted are name plates, identifying an occupant of a residence, an unlighted sign advertising the sale or rental of premises and a warning or a trespassing sign not exceeding six square feet in area. We have set back requirements that in no case a sign shall not extend 2-feet from a back of curb.

Ms. Aldred stated that currently how we address these issues is we write them a citation that it is unlawful for anyone to put anything in the public right away with a written permit to do so. The property owner and the tenant are given 15 days to remove the sign or the sign is confiscated and administrative citations are issued. We are currently seeking improving the code language and are seeking some input from you on how to best address the issue. Our current code language does not prohibit or regulate portable or temporary signage or A-frame signs. The City of Stockton specifically prohibits banners, streamers unless a permit is issued. They also prohibit inflated signs, balloons and figures unless meeting certain conditions. We are looking for some suggestions and comments.

Mr. Takeuchi asked that the Lodi Improvement Committee can help you in certain ways. Could you review that portion for me? How do you want us to help you?

Ms. Aldred replied that the Lodi Improvement Committee would be beneficial in assisting us because your interest is the betterment of community at large. You also have contacts within the community that could provide us an avenue to understand what might be mutually beneficial to businesses and the city both.

Mr. Takeuchi stated that he thinks we should try to help you in the way you want us to. Second, what you have provided in this Powerpoint is a bunch of information that many of us have not been able to digest yet or at least he hasn't. He thinks the best way to help you is to set up a sub-committee and hopefully there is a volunteer this time to assist Jamie to come up with a recommendation of what we should propose to the City Council.

Ms. St. Yves is volunteering to help Ms. Aldred.

Mr. Takeuchi asked Ms. St. Yves if she could report to us what her recommendation is and what we should present to Council.

Mr. Yadav asked Ms. Aldred how are businesses are supposed to survive if you have so many restrictions.

Ms. Aldred stated that if people are not going to your business it is because we are in a huge recession. Ms. Aldred also mentioned if you choose to open a business where it is not visible from the street that is not our fault. Right now we have a free for all and everyone is doing what they want to do.

Mr. Wood stated he suggest we take some formal action where the committee gives you some direction to draft a statement on behalf of the committee to be read at the next council meeting.

Tim Mustin motioned it and Rosie Ortiz second it.
Approved 5-0.

B. Public Works

None

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

Mr. Suris Bagta has a property on Lockeford St. and Cluff Ave. is inquiring regarding the Pacific Railroad area. He asked that it be cleaned because the weeds are coming onto his property. What is happening?

Mr. Wood replied that he does not have an answer but he will follow-up with Public Works. You can contact Cal Trans directly to see what they say.

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

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Issue for discussion at future meetings

- Affordable Housing
- Update on Gang Issues

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Ms. Aldred stated another topic that they would like input from the Lodi Improvement Committee is on rental inspection program. We have a huge rental ratio on the Eastside. A lot of rental owner take the rent but do not reinvest in the housing stock is why

Community Improvement is so busy on the Eastside of town. She was approached from a Council member to put some data together. She thinks that it is prudent and very important to get feedback from you on your thoughts, ideas and suggestions. We can talk about this in June if you'd like.

Mr. Takeuchi replied that he thinks the Affordable Housing has a broader interest but if the committee feels the rental inspection program would like to address then he would not object to it. He thinks it is important that we have viable topics at each of our meetings so we can increase the participation of the public at these meetings.

Mr. Wood replied in regards to the gang issue. I did receive a phone call from a gentleman who would like to come back with some follow-up. We can have them on the agenda for next time and as far as the rental inspection which I think would also be a good topic. If we want to get some discussion and some interested parties to participate he thinks that would be a good idea.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, it was, on motion duly made by Mr. Takeuchi and Ms. St. Yves seconded, adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ARASELI DEL CASTILLO, Recording Secretary