

**LODI IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

March 9, 2009

6:00 P.M.
ROLL CALL

BOARD		STAFF
<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	
Robert Takeuchi (Chair)		Joseph Wood, CDD
Sunil Yadav (Vice Chair)		Araseli del Castillo, CDD
Rosie Ortiz (Treasurer)		Chief David Main, PD
Eileen St. Yves		Jamie Aldred, LPD
Tim Mustin		
Fran Forkas		
Reyes Jaramillo		

MINUTES

February 9, 2010 – Regular Meeting

Ms. St. Yves motioned to approve, Mr. Forkas seconded. Approved unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Ending balance is \$700.00

Mr. Forkas motioned to approve, Ms. St. Yves second it. Approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Wood asked that if anyone from the audience wishes to speak to come to the podium so we can record your voice.

Mr. Wood stated that for the past year or so the City of Stockton and San Joaquin County has been working on a Homeless Plan. They want to reach out to the remaining jurisdictions in Lodi to participate. We are setting a meeting with the Council members in Stockton. Mr. Wood will be reaching out to the Hand Up committee to invite them to attend. As soon as we have a firm date I will get in touch with the committee and let them know.

AGENDA ITEMS

A. Crime Statistics Presentation

- Lodi Police Chief David Main made a PowerPoint presentation on recent crime statistics. Mr. Main talked about challenges and directions of where they are going. Mr. Main would like to thank the Committee for having such dedicated citizens who really want to make a difference in Lodi. The Police Dept. cannot do this on their own. We have to have cooperation from citizens to really have an impact.

- LPD Mission Statement: Keep Lodi safe by providing excellent service and fostering partnerships within our community.
- Chief Main stated that Jamie Aldred from the Community Improvement Unit is an integral part of the process and has done an awesome job trying to facilitate this process.
- **Core Value: Ethics**
 - E-Employee Excellence
 - T-Team Work
 - H-Honor
 - I-Innovation
 - C-Communication
 - S-Services
- **Gangs:**

Chief Main stated we have approximately 300 documented gang members. We have 150 undocumented. About 10% cause the majority of the problems.
- Chief Main stated we have 300 parolees living in the City of Lodi as of January, 2010. We have 10 parolees released in the County every day.
- **Sex Offenders:**

Chief Main stated we have 102 registered sex offenders residing in the City of Lodi. We proactively deal with and monitor them. We pay them visits and make arrests if they move and don't notify us.
- **Strategic Plan:**
 - Trust and confidence
 - Meet with community members
 - Accountability
 - Hire the Best
 - Transparency
 - Information sharing
- **Customer Service:**
 - Limit time calls are held
 - Improve web site and information sharing
 - Improve communication with customers
- **Organizational Development:**
 - Employee commitment to COP/POP
 - Employee development
 - Encourage new approaches
 - Training
 - Scan external environment
 - Commitment for continual improvement
- Mr. Mustin stated that the statistic he mentioned we have 1.15 officers per 1000 residents. How does that compare to other communities in San Joaquin County?
 - Chief Main replied in 1991 we were about 1.13. In the 2000 we were in the 1.25-1.26. We are considerably lower than that. It really varies how it compares to other departments. So many departments in the San Joaquin County are reducing staff so much

and our need is different from Stockton or Sacramento. I think we are pretty comparable if you look at Tracy, Manteca because of their reduction in staffing.

- Mr. Forkas stated that Chief Main indicated traffic collisions are up 63%. Do you think that relates to cell phone usage?
 - Chief Main replied “I’m sure that enters to it.” That statistic might be a record keeping problem so some degree because we transferred to a new computer system.
- Mr. Forkas asked how much graffiti is related to gang problems.
 - Chief Main replied that is one of their methods of communication. The good thing is that it is removed right away. That is the main key.
- Mr. Takeuchi asked about Part 1 crimes. Can you please give an explanation of what Part 1 crime are and what does Part 1 mean?
 - Chief Main replied Part 1 is a reporting category. All police/sheriffs departments are responsible to report crime statistics to the State, the Feds and every State has their Part 1 crimes. Part 1 crimes are generally your more serious crimes. For example: murders, rapes, thefts, assaults. This is a reporting method.
- Mr. Takeuchi stated that this presentation has been given to us before and asked what was the single most important element of crimes in Lodi and the answer was clearly methamphetamines. Do you agree with that?
 - Chief Main replied you can probably turn that to Lt. Monroe who mentioned that. A lot of the Part 1 crimes are attributed to that.
- Mr. Takeuchi stated that our committee has been really involved in function in August when we visit various neighborhood parties and the root of all that is “Neighborhood Watch”. Unfortunately the police department took this off their calendar last year but I understand it will be back on the calendar this year. Is that correct?
 - Chief Main replied that last year was a very difficult year for us. Neighborhood Watch is a national night out. You can never cancel that especially Lodi. We will send staff out and we will have it this year. You can also follow us on Face book, Nextel and Twitter. Those three sights will also tell you what’s going on in the Police Department and get some added information.
- Mr. Yadav stated he lives on the East side and asked what the rate your stop from the East side to the West side.
 - Chief Main replied the majority of the coverage is on the East side.
- Mr. Yadav asked what the ratio is.
 - Chief Main replied the ratio is for example: Beat 5 runs from Hutchins to Cherokee Ln.
- Mr. Yadav stated he no longer sees people out walking their dog or themselves. We need more protections at least until 10 p.m.
 - Chief Main stated they are overlapping the shifts and a good number of officers are on the Eastside of town.

B. Review Proposal to Allow Regular LIC Meetings at Alternative Locations

- There has been discussion off and on through the past few years regarding having at least one or two meetings at remote locations out in the community, rather than at the Carnegie Forum. Committee Member Tim Mustin had brought this up most recently and Chair Bob Takeuchi asked that this issue be put on this agenda for discussion and possible action.
- Mr. Mustin mentioned that the basic idea is to bring our group of people within our community since they don't typically show up here and in doing that they will be more involved in improving Lodi on their own because we can only do so much. Maybe we can facilitate it by holding a meeting on their turf and at a place where they feel welcomed and will be willing to share their ideas and concerns.
- Mr. Takeuchi replied that Mr. Mustin's point is very well taken and believes we don't need approval from Council to be able to hold meetings at other locations. From a historical stand point we use to meet at Adopt A Child.
- Mr. Takeuchi stated that he thinks that we are becoming more of a public forum to talk about gangs, main street situation that we are now involved in. Mr. Takeuchi stated he has no objection from time to time going off and meeting in different locations especially is the matter we are discussing lends to that. I think we should have a home base and I think this should be our home base. This is the home of the City in many ways. I think your point is well taken and we should consider this from time to time. I think what it requires is somebody needs to come up with specific suggestions and we can consider that as time goes on but to say we are not meeting here creates a problem for us in terms of finding locations too.
- Mr. Mustin stated he did not want to come to the impression that we should cancel our meetings here but from time to time it will be beneficial to go to the communities. Not necessarily the eastside only but maybe the west side as well.
- Mr. Takeuchi replied that he thinks we were listening to complaints about their neighborhoods. The types of complaints I feel were complaints that should go to City Council. Instead of going there, they would come here and we have no power. That was the problem. I want us to be a public forum for that and I think this is a better venue for that than most places. I am open to what Mr. Mustin is saying and I think it is a good idea.
- Ms. St. Yves stated we start our meetings at 6 p.m. so a lot of people are arriving home from work, eating dinner and so forth. It's tuff to do but this committee started with complaints at the podium with Council. We used to meet at the Loel Center and had a great turn out but that was

almost 20 years ago. What happened was things were promised to members of the eastside didn't come through and they became frustrated with the City.

- Mr. Yadav stated the idea is not bad but the problem is finding a location and getting the people involved. You have to let the public know the topic as well.
- Mr. Wood stated the best turn out we will have will be the topic we are covering. I believe the opportunity will arise but it will be on a case by case basis.
- Mr. Takeuchi stated unless Mr. Mustin has a specific proposal we should leave it as it is and we are open to have anybody suggest a different place for a meeting at any time. I think the content should drive the location.

C. Follow Up on Items from Previous Meetings

- Mr. Wood stated this is the opportunity to bring up the Main St. project, Celebration on Central, Spring Clean Up project. Each of you has a copy of a draft showing some verbiage by Virginia Snyder. The intent of this letter is to introduce the idea of the Main Street Project, Beautification Project to the building owners and some business owners to inform them of the effortless that underway and to enlist their assistance. Some will say thank you but no but that does not mean we will abandon the project but we will go with those who will participate. The question I have is do you want to use the Improvement Committee number as a contact.
- Mr. Takeuchi suggested that the number be Joseph Wood's office number.
- Mr. Wood replied that is o.k.

Main Street Project

- Mr. Takeuchi stated that in his opinion it goes way beyond clean up because we are incorporating our thoughts what happens beyond clean up including what happens to the old City Hall and jail, the water tower. Mr. Takeuchi stated that at the last meeting we decided through a motion that was made to take on the challenge that Virginia presented to us and we would head up this Main St. project. I would like to propose at this meeting that we do that. Mr. Takeuchi stated he believes the time is right for us as a group to start meeting to get support from the community. I don't want this thing to drop. I want the enthusiasm to build than decrease.
- Ms. St. Yves stated that the sole purpose is to clean it up so it looks nice. Plant some plants and landscaping and if they are willing to paint their buildings. We have to give them reasons to make just the façade look good and give it a nice pleasant view when the train is sitting waiting for fifteen minutes.
- Mr. Forkas mentioned that on the second paragraph on the second sentence of the letter where it says no cost to property owners. This hits me the wrong way because there is no free lunch in this world.

- Mr. Wood replied with no or little cost.
- Mr. Takeuchi asked if Mr. Wood can work with Mr. Forkas, Mr. Jaramillo and Ms. St. Yves on the drafting of the letter.
 - Mr. Wood stated Temple Baptist is very interested in doing a Community Clean Up/Community Beautification are also interested in the Main Street Project. They are shooting for April 17th. Is that too far down the road?
- Mr. Jaramillo replied the weeds may be pretty high. I can get some volunteers from the schools if it is not going to insult anybody.
- Mr. Wood stated that Temple Baptist will be willing to put up about \$500 for any additional materials. Paint brushes, rollers, flowers.
- Mr. Takeuchi asked Mr. Wood if it would be better if he was the coordinator for all this since he is able to get information from Temple Baptist and the Mormon Church and various other groups.
 - Mr. Wood replied he doesn't think it is necessary. These groups called because they hold annual clean ups.
- Mr. Jaramillo stated he thinks we should work together and not pile it all on Mr. Woods plate. I think we should let everything take its place and come together.

Celebration on Central

- Mr. Wood stated he has not heard back from anybody. I am more than happy to work with her but they have to meet me half way.

Spring Clean Up Projects

- Mr. Wood stated that the folks we have been in contact with us are very interested in jumping on this and participating.

Tree Lodi

- Mr. Takeuchi asked Mr. Mustin if he is going to get on the board with them.
 - Mr. Mustin replied he is going to see what they are looking for. They meet on the second Tuesday and the fourth Tuesday. I would only be there half of the time. I am going to meet with Gordon Smear before their next meeting to see what they are going to do for the next Arbor Day on April 9th and see how we can be involved.

Committee Membership

None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Community Development

*** Planning Commission**

*** Planning Commission – Past Action**

None

*** Neighborhood Services Division**

2010-11 CDBG Funding Application Period

- Mr. Wood mentioned they finished filling out the application for the Community Development Block Grant program. We are presenting it to Council for a Shirtsleeve session on Tues, March 16th @ 7 a.m. We are looking at putting Block Grant funds towards the water meter installation program to provide financial assistance to very low income property owners who are faced with improvements necessary to install their water meters. This will be a separate program and design some guide lines. We have a small amount of funds and a large need. This will be discussed in great length at the public hearing.

First Time Home Buyer Loan Program

- Mr. Wood spoke in regards to the first time home buyer program. We met with the state this past week. It looks like there are some changes to the guide lines. We are taking them to council on April 7th and be ready to roll on April 8th. I'm looking forward to that. We have a list of 13-14 people who are interested.

B. Police Department

• District/Watch Commander

• Community Improvement/Code Enforcement

- Ms. Aldred stated they were able to take care of a Code Enforcement issue that has been in existence for years and could not have done so without unity group's efforts. We took three hours to remove items and took to a storage facility because the owner was convinced they needed. On their dime and time took stuff to the dump.

C. Public Works

- Mr. Wood stated they had the pre construction meeting for the alley improvement projects this morning and one of the things that the contractor shared is what they are looking at is shutting those alleys down one alley at a time for about seven days. The City staff immediately let them know that is not going to work for the residences

in that area. Mr. Wood met with City staff and suggested we put a community meeting/neighborhood meeting to let the residences in that area know what is likely to take place and try to come up with some alternatives to where project can be completed in a timely manner and their neighborhood lives not be disrupted so severely.

- Mr. Yadav asked if they are putting concrete or asphalt in the alleys.
 - Mr. Wood replied asphalt for the alleys. The center valley itself will be concrete.

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)

None

NEW BUSINESS

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

A. Looking Ahead

- * April 13th – Election of Officers
- * April 24th – Special Goal-Setting Session
- * May 11th
- * June 8th

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, it was, on motion duly made by Mr. Takeuchi adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
ARASELI DEL CASTILLO, Recording Secretary