

**LODI IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

May 11, 2010

6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

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

April 13, 2010 – Regular Meeting

Mr. Takeuchi would like to address a typo on the first page to change Mr. Ortiz to Mrs. Ortiz

Mr. Mustin motioned to approve, Mrs. Ortiz seconded. Approved unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Ending balance is \$611.31

Mr. Yadav motioned to approve, Mr. Jaramillo second it. Approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Wood asked if anyone from the public wishes to address to please come to the podium.

AGENDA ITEMS

A. Presentation/Discussion with Richard Hanner, Editor, Lodi News Sentinel

Mr. Hanner thanked everyone for inviting him here. Mr. Hanner has been working as a journalist in Lodi for almost 20 years. The newspaper industry is in transition. We are working very hard to hold onto our readers and advertisers. Our challenge is that we have a lot of content online. We are giving our content away but we did that in hopes of bringing advertising online as well. Mr. Hanner stated that eighty to eighty-five percent of our revenue comes from the paper you receive on your front porch every day.

Mr. Hanner stated he spoke with Maggie Creamer, the City Hall reporter this morning about coverage about the committee. She stated she has not had a chance to come and cover the committee. Mr. Hanner mentioned Maggie is a fine report and she would like to attend more of these meetings but in the mean time if

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you see an issue that is worth more focus from us, let me know or Maggie. Mr. Hanner stated they are working with a shrinking news room. We haven't had to lay anyone off from the news room. We are trying to cover more and more with the same amount of people.

Mr. Takeuchi mentioned that we are a volunteer committee group. Our focus is on the Eastside because that's where things are happening peaking our interest at the moment. We are a community based group that's looking at give back to the community to take care of problems in the community.

Mr. Takeuchi stated that he personally subscribes to both the Lodi News Sentinel and the Sacramento Bee and that he is thinking seriously of cancelling the Sacramento Bee because the Lodi News Sentinel is so good.

Mr. Takeuchi stated he would like to partner with the Lodi News Sentinel so that you have a proprietary interest of what we as a group are doing. I would like the Lodi News Sentinel to take more of an active interest. For example, we have had a meeting on gangs and would like your help reaching out to the community.

Mr. Hanner replied that he would like to help out with the possibility of exploring options. I don't we have had a chance to check in depth look at the gang problem in Lodi like we would like to. I would be open to discussing that with you and possibly meet along with Maggie and Leila.

Mr. Takeuchi mentioned that another project we are working in Lodi is Japan Town. I would like to see that expanded into an International center. I think we can lend a better hand if we had input and assistance from the only news paper in town.

Mr. Hanner replied that this is a very compelling vision you have and would love to learn more about it.

Mr. Jaramillo asked what we can do to get the news paper more involved with this committee. Would it be possible to get someone here at each meeting and educate the public what we are focusing on and what we are talking about at our meetings.

Mr. Hanner replied to get Maggie here for every meeting would not happen. I hesitate to give you a promise I cannot keep. Mr. Hanner stated he can offer a regular column you can write where you appoint a correspondent to keep the community up to date.

Mr. Yadav stated that in the past one of our board members have sent you e-mails about what we are doing here and it was never printed is what we heard. Also, when we hold meetings here if you can print something or write it where we can fill these chairs. We want to let them know we are here to resolve any issue they may have.

Mr. Hanner replied if you have sent an e-mail I apologize if I did not respond but I don't recall receiving an e-mail. I think the column idea would help you because you can write any upcoming meetings.

B. Follow Up on Items from Previous Meetings

- **Main Street Project**

Mr. Wood stated he met with Brian Siken from Temple Baptist Church out on Main St. this afternoon to give him an idea of what we are looking at. We are gearing for May 22nd to focus on the Fire Station Jail/City Hall clean up. We want to get the painting contractor out there a week before and pressure wash the building in coordination with Municipal Utilities so they can have their vacuum truck out and keep out anything from going into the storm drain.

Mr. Wood stated Parks & Recreation and Public Works agreed to invest in the new fence around their corporation.

- **Celebration on Central**

Mr. Wood stated he spoke with Hilda Bohacek who works with Community Partnership for Families this week. She was pulled from the Lodi office and sent to Stockton without any warning. She apologized for being non responsive but it was out of her control. Mr. Wood stated she has been given direction to have a condensed Celebration on Central on June 26th. The event would be scaled back to fit within the parking lot at Joe Serna School.

Mr. Yadav stated he would like to attend on the committees behalf.

Mr. Wood stated he will keep in touch with her and pass everything along to Mr. Yadav.

- **Spring Clean Up Projects**

None

- **Tree Lodi**

None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Community Development

* **Planning Commission**

Mr. Wood stated he received word through the City Attorney's office this afternoon that the courts have come back and removed the stay the Wal-Mart Super Center project allowing the Wal-Mart project to start moving forward with the understanding that more than likely within the next ten days that one of the groups will come forward with an appeal and it will be side lined again.

Mr. Takeuchi replied that this sounds like a never ending process and it sounds like this committee should take up to give an overview of what's going on so that the public can be informed.

Mr. Mustin stated he would like to stay out of that battle.

Mr. Takeuchi replied he does not want to get into it but to air what's going on.

Mr. Wood stated that the legal standing on this is that it all revolves around the Environmental Impact Report and the court required that the City go back to two specific areas on the report. Those were addressed and resubmitted to the court. The court stated that was sufficient and addressed the concerns and gave the o.k. to proceed. Mr. Wood stated the challenge will be from any of the opponents is that no that the Environmental Impact Report is still not sufficient.

* **Planning Commission – Past Action**

None

* **Neighborhood Services Division**

- **First Time Home Buyer Loan Program**

Mr. Wood stated the approval was given on April 26. We have scheduled a shirtsleeve presentation to Council on May 11th and will bring them back to Council on May 19 for approval. Once approved, we will distribute application packets to the 29 people that are on the current waiting list. This will be a good thing.

B. Police Department

- **District/Watch Commander**

Lt. Patterson would like to talk about Tera Place area. That has improved in the last couple of months. I am very happy with that.

Mr. Yadav stated we appreciate what your department is doing.

Lt. Patterson stated with the limited staff they have, he is happy with what they have been able to do.

Mr. Jaramillo asked if Lodi does Ride-alongs.

Lt. Patterson replied yes, you would fill out a form and turn it in.

- **Community Improvement/Code Enforcement**

None

C. Public Works

None

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

None

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

Ms. Ortiz asked Lt. Patterson what they can do with our neighbor kids. They play with a basketball and they throw it over our fence getting into our flower beds and fruit trees.

Lt. Patterson replied if she has contacted the Police so we can talk to them.

Ms. Ortiz replied yes but it has not helped.

Lt. Patterson stated that maybe a mediator needs to get involved and hopefully if the parents are charged with something maybe this will stop.

Mr. Jaramillo thanked Lt. Patterson for his presence and asked where he can get a form for the ride a long.

Lt. Patterson replied to give him his address and he will get it to him.

Mr. Yadav mentioned that the Chair is buying twelve T-shirt and the total is \$137.00. The cost for six is \$68.54.

Mr. Takeuchi stated for Mr. Yadav to have everything in order and bring it up at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

A. Looking Ahead

- * **June 8th**
Review of route changes and provide an update on various transit-related items.
- * **July 13th**
- * **August 10th**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, it was, on motion duly made by Mr. Takeuchi adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
ARASELI DEL CASTILLO, Recording Secretary