

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
LODI IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE**

September 14, 2010

6:00 P.M.

**CARNEGIE FORUM – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
305 W. PINE STREET
Lodi, California**

For information regarding this Agenda please contact:
JOSEPH WOOD
TELEPHONE: (209) 333-6711

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6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Roll Call

Minutes July 20, 2010 – Special Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Announcements/Presentations

- Introduce New Member – Tim Litton

Agenda Items:

- A. Agency Profile: Mediation Center of San Joaquin
- B. Discuss Main Street Hotel Owners Issues
- C. Follow up on Issues from Previous Meetings

Department Reports

- Community Development
 - Planning Commission
 - Neighborhood Services Division
- Police Department
 - District/Watch Commander
 - Community Improvement/Code Enforcement
- Public Works

Comments by the Public on Non-Agenda Items (5 minute limit per speaker)

Comments from Boardmembers on Non-Agenda Items (5 minute limit per speaker)

New Business

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

Adjournment

Pursuant to Section 54954.2(a) of the Government Code of the State of California, this agenda was posted at least 72 hours in advance of the regularly scheduled meeting (or 24 hours in advance of a special meeting) at a public place freely accessible to the public 24 hours a day.

JOSEPH WOOD
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES MANAGER

**LODI IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

July 20, 2010

6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

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

MINUTES

June 8, 2010 – Regular Meeting

Mr. Forkas motioned to approve, Ms. Ortiz seconded. Approved unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Ending balance is \$610.69

Mr. Forkas made a motioned to approve. Approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Wood mentioned that Tuesday, August 3rd is National Night Out. Mr. Wood stated that in the last meeting there was some interest who wanted to participate with the Lodi Police Dept. Mr. Wood stated that he passed this on to the Officer who is coordinating that. Mr. Wood asked who still wants to participate.

Mr. Forkas, Ms. Ortiz and Mr. Yadav all would like to participate.

Mr. Wood would pass the information to Ms. St. Yves and I believe she was interested. The evening starts at a 5:30 p.m. briefing at the Police Dept. Community Room. They will give out assignments at that point.

Mr. Wood stated that anyone from the Public would like to speak to please come to the podium to speak so you can be heard and recorded.

Mr. Wood stated that some folks from Tree Lodi are here to give a presentation for us.

Tree Lodi

Mr. Gordon Schmere, the President from Tree Lodi introduced Joyce Harmon, the previous President of Tree Lodi, to give a summary of their activities as Steve Dutra; their Vice President was on vacation.

Ms. Harmon stated she started Tree Lodi in April, 2005, and that we have been very fortunate to be involved with the City to participate in some activities that were timed when our organization was getting started. Ms. Harmon stated they have become increasingly involved in the promotion, preservation and planting of trees for the beautification of the City. Our first big project was in 2006 which was commissioned by the City Council was planting of hundred of the Centennial Trees. Tree Lodi's next big project which is partnering with the City is establishing the new DeBenedetti Park on Lower Sacramento Rd. & Century Blvd. Ms. Harmon stated their group is responsible for overseeing the planting the 200 trees with the help of 400 volunteers. Ms. Harmon also stated they participate on Arbor Day, Earth Day, and celebrations at schools and parks. These events always involve tree planting. Ms. Harmon spoke about needing many volunteers and states she will speak with any organization that is willing to help.

Mr. Jaramillo asked if Tim Mustin was still a member with Tree Lodi.

Ms. Harmon replied no.

Mr. Jaramillo stated he would like to get more information to get more involved.

Mr. Wood mentioned that Tim Mustin's resigned last month because he is being pulled in other directions and is unable to continue with the Committee. Mr. Wood also stated that this was an opportunity if there was anyone from Tree Lodi that would be interested in joining the LIC, they should see the City Clerk.

Mr. Jaramillo asked for a contact number so he can get more involved.

Mr. Yadav stated he participated at Hale Park in 2006 and the whole committee was there planting trees.

AGENDA ITEMS

A. Follow Up on Items from Previous Meetings

Mr. Wood stated that originally had planned that Public Works Transit do their presentation. They have had to push that back so at this point we are looking at September for their presentation since we will not have a regular meeting in August. Mr. Wood hopes they will still be able to put their presentation together in time.

Main Street Project

Mr. Wood stated that there has been a delay in coordinating a light wash of the Main Street Fire House Building and have water/wastewater there to clean that up. We would need to coordinate that with the contractor who volunteered to paint that. Mr. Wood mentioned that in Mr. Forkas' absence it has fallen to him to try to do that and even with Mr. Jaramillo's help, it has been difficult.

Mr. Forkas asked if you got the plywood for six windows.

Mr. Wood replied he got the plywood for all the windows and the folks at Temple Baptist painted them. We have them back and are being stored at the old police building.

Mr. Wood refreshed the public in regards to the Main Street project. The Improvement Committee adopted a community clean up project working with another organization like Temple Baptist who is interested. The Main Street project is basically to beautify and clean up that area. Fran Forkas has been working with Parks & Rec. Dept. and Public Works trying to get the Parks & Rec. storage area cleaned up and getting a the fence replaced. Mr. Wood stated that the other eye sore is the Main St. Fire Station Jail/City Hall. There are no funds to rehabilitate it or tear it down so it might as well look a little better. We would like to clean it up and we found someone who would donate their time and materials. He would spray the building and the front and side windows will be replaced with plywood inserts painted to look like windows. Mr. Wood stated that at this time it is just trying to coordinate to get the building washed down and painted.

Celebration on Central

Mr. Wood thanked Ray and anyone else who helped coordinate that in his absence as this was held the week that he was gone. Mr. Wood stated it went fairly well. Araseli helped out with a booth for the First Time Home Buyer Program. They were very pleased with the turn out despite of the short period of time they had to coordinate this. Mr. Wood thanked everyone who helped out in his absence.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- A. Community Development**
- * Planning Commission**
- * Planning Commission – Past Action**

None

* **Neighborhood Services Division**

Mr. Wood stated they are hoping to close escrow on the property for the Tienda Drive Senior Housing Project. The City of Lodi is working with Eden Housing on that project for the future development of Senior Housing.

Mr. Wood stated we have a small infill site on East Oak St. and Garfield St. It is the one parcel that was acquired through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. This is the federal funding that was geared towards the impact on foreclosures in the communities. The funds were used to acquire this dilapidated house that had three units. There was nothing that could be done to restore it so it was torn down and able to do a lot split and create two single family dwellings. Mr. Wood stated they allowed some of the federal funds to allow the developer to acquire that. We are taking two eyesore properties and creating four separate parcels and each will have a single family dwelling on it. We are trying to coordinate a ground breaking in the next two weeks or so and ready for sale by the end of the year.

Mr. Wood stated the First Time Home Buyer Program has been keeping us very busy within the Community Development Department.

B. Police Department

- **District/Watch Commander**

- **Community Improvement/Code Enforcement**

Ms. Aldred stated she has continued to work on implementation of the new software that she mentioned a couple months ago so people can go on-line and report problematic properties. Ms. Aldred stated they are conducting staff training on Thursday and shortly after that we will have the link for the web reporting so hopefully in a near meeting she can do a presentation and show you how that works.

Ms. Aldred stated they have been getting more phone calls on home foreclosures as we seem to be having an increase for some reason.

Ms. Aldred stated they also implemented a main corridor clean up which encompasses Kettleman, Hutchins, Turner, Lockeford and Sacramento. They are going to the main corridors addressing any or all violations in those particular corridors. We will be breaking the neighborhoods up into sectors and attacking each neighborhood one by one.

None

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

Councilmember Bob Johnson spoke in response to comments by Ms. Harmon from Tree Lodi. A couple weeks back Public Works Department came to the City Council with a proposal to remove thirty-six – thirty-eight trees along Lower Sacramento Rd. These trees are about twenty years of age and apparently the problem is that the roots are invasive to the curbs and sidewalks, etc. Mr. Johnson states he believes Lower Sacramento Rd. is one the prettiest streets in the city and he asked the Public Work Dept. to put this matter on hold to see if there was another alternative. Mr. Johnson states he hates to see dozens of 20 year old trees removed unless there are no other viable alternatives.

Randy Rice, the owner of the Golden Era Hotel stated that he is on a mission to clean up the hotel and make it a nice place to live. He has worked very hard with the police and has been aggravated a lot with the eviction services. The owner asked that if there is anything anyone can do to help. They have installed cameras and they have been stolen but they will continue to do lots of things to make it look better.

Mr. Yadav asked if the Police have helped you out in any case that you called.

Mr. Rice replied yes, that he calls frequently and he's not going to say anything bad about about the Police.

Mr. Jaramillo asked how often they were there.

Mr. Rice replied that he has to stay out there all the time because he doesn't have cameras anymore. He is having them replaced but will put them behind cages and is having one installed on top of the building as well.

Mr. Jaramillo asked for his phone number.

Mr. Rice replied 781-6020

Mr. Yadav stated that Ken Patel from Star Hotel would like to say some comments about the Police Dept. Ken Patel owner of Star Hotel stated he would like support from the Police on Main St. Mr. Patel stated that last month he called the police three times and a guy was arrested and is still in jail now. This person gets arrested and is out the next day. This same person is around a lot and by the time the Police come, the guy is gone.

Mr. Patel states there are a lot of drug dealers around the Golden Era Hotel, Star Hotel & Main Hotel but the police don't do anything. Mr. Patel states they need support from the Police to stop this. Mr. Patel states he does not know what to do.

Mr. Wood stated he would ask the Watch Commander to attend the September meeting to speak about this issue specifically.

Mr. Yadav suggests that Mr. Patel come to the next meeting and bring his problem up again.

Mr. Wood replied September 14th.

Lisa Nixon, President of Breaking the Chains Counseling. 625 E. Pine St.
Ms. Nixon has experience with working with the homeless and is here on behalf of the homeless project. She stated that she help rehabilitate drug addicts and has some testimonial success stories where she has taken them in and rehabilitated them. Ms. Nixon wants to let us know that her heart is with the Community of Lodi. If she can help Lodi in any way please let her know.

Mr. Jaramillo would like to invite the owners of the hotels at the September meeting when there is a police officer present.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

A. Looking Ahead

- **August 10th** – No meeting
- **September 14th** – Public Works Transit
- **October 12th** – Code Enforcement

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, it was, on motion duly made by Mr. Takeuchi adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
ARASELI DEL CASTILLO, Recording Secretary



MEMORANDUM, City of Lodi, Community Development Department

To: Lodi Improvement Committee
From: Joseph Wood, Neighborhood Services Manager
Date: September 7, 2010
Subject: Staff Report for Regular Meeting of Sept. 14, 2010

I. Announcements/Presentations

- Introduce new LIC member Tim Litton, who was appointed to complete Tim Mustin's term through March of 2011.

II. Agenda Items:

A. Agency Profile: Mediation Center of San Joaquin

Executive Director Robert Anderson and Director of Business, Marketing and Training Elise Willis will be present to provide information on the programs and services that their agency provides within our community. Representatives from the LOEL Center, the Senior Day Care Program, the Community Partnership for Families, and hopefully San Joaquin Fair Housing will also be on hand to learn just what the Mediation Center can do to assist their clientele.

B. Discuss Main Street Hotel Owner's Issues

At the last LIC meeting on July 20th, a few Main Street hotel owners were present to discuss issues and concerns that they have regarding safety around their properties. It was agreed upon at that meeting to notify the LPD of these issues and arrange to have this matter brought back for discussion when a representative from the LPD could be present. I have contacted and confirmed that Sgt. Fernando Martinez, who is in charge of the Central District, will be present to respond to the hotel owners.

C. Follow up on Issues from Previous Meetings

Main Street Project

We are looking to schedule a light wash down of the building which needs to be coordinated with Water/Wastewater and the painting contractor. Fran Forkas has confirmed with Parks & Recreation that a Purchase Order has been issued for the replacement of the fencing around the storage yard located to the North of the old Firehouse/City Hall building. That work, including the painting, should be completed by the end of the month.

III. Department Reports

A. Community Development Department

Planning Commission

Neighborhood Services Division

B. Police Department

- **District/Watch Commander**
- **Community Improvement Unit/Code Enforcement**

C. Public Works

IV. New Business

A. Looking Ahead

- **October 12th**
 - **Code Enforcement**
- **November 9th**
- **December 14th**