

Huntington Beach

Southeast Area Committee

January 15, 2008

Attendance: Council Members Jill Hardy, Joe Carchio, and Don Hansen

City Staff: Todd Broussard, David Dominguez, Kellee Fritzal, Travis Hopkins, Rosemary Medel, Doris Powell, and Bill Reardon

Council Member Hardy called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm.

Public Comment:

Dave Guido commented on the tree planting project on Newland Avenue and requested that missing trees be replaced between Atlanta and Lowman.

Eric Pendergraft from AES introduced the new Plant Manager, Dave Stone.

Mary Urashima from Cannery Hamilton LLC, owners of the Ascon Landfill site, introduced herself to the group.

Ascon Landfill Project - Rosemary Medel from Planning stated that the Revised Feasibility Study has been approved by the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) and that they are currently reviewing the revised Remediation Action Plan. Medel mentioned that the City Council Study Session on the Ascon landfill project has been delayed until DTSC has completed their review of the plan. Mary Urashima gave out a web site (www.ascon-hb.com) that the public can access to see a copy of the Feasibility Study and other documents. She also stated the no public funds will be used to clean up the site. Carchio stated that it is important that the site be cleaned up and that the clean up is a priority for the City Council. Urashima stated that they are waiting for DTSC to approve the plan. Hardy directed staff to notify the group when a date is set for the City Council Study Session.

Banning Branch Library Project - Deputy Director of Economic Development, Kellee Fritzal reported that the Banning Library plans were being presented to the Library Board tonight and a City Council Study Session is planned for March 3, 2008. The public was invited to attend the City Council Study Session. A presentation on the project will be made at the next Southeast Area Committee meeting.

AES Property Tax - Kellee Fritzal reported that City Treasurer, Shari Freidenrich, had to attend another meeting but that she had provided handouts of the BOE assessment schedule. Hardy suggested that we may need the help of a consultant again.

Park Projects - Dave Dominguez from Community Services provided a status update on the proposed plans for Lebard and Edison Park Improvements. The Lebard Park is a 5 acre park in the Meredith Gardens Area. The plan is to put turf on two areas adjacent to the river bed. The plan has been under environmental review that has been delayed by unusually dry weather conditions. In previous seasons, the area had poor drainage and fairy shrimp may have been present. In addition, ADA compliance work is needed on the ramp leading up to the river bed path. However, funds are not currently available for this phase of the project.

Dominguez also reported on the proposed plan to improve Edison Park that includes a new parking lot and reconfiguration of existing parking lots, lighting for the fields, a turnaround/drop off area and art elements. There is also the possibility of a small scale skate park. Due to lack of funding the improvement will have to be in phases. The first phase will be additional parking along Hamilton Avenue and other phases will follow as funds are available. Hardy expressed concerns that landscaping may screen the area and creating problems. She also mentioned issues with standing water along path. Dominguez stated that as the landfill settles, low areas develop and fill with water. Hansen stated that parking is needed for the park and that overflow parking has impacted the surrounding neighborhood. Hansen mentioned the need for additional restrooms in the park near the ball fields. Dominguez stated that no new structures can be built over the former landfill and that portable restrooms are currently available. Carchio said that perhaps they could be upgraded to trailer type portable restrooms. Mary Urashima said that parking along Hamilton and drainages is an issue. Milt Dardis complained of lights being out in tennis courts and suggested a sponsor for Skate Park. Merle Moshiri said that portable restrooms encourage transients and vandalism. Carchio suggested a hotline to handle complaints at the parks. Moshiri is concerned the new lighting may impact neighborhood. Dave Guido suggested battery backup for light timers.

Capital Improvement Projects - Todd Broussard from Public Works gave an update on the capital projects in the area. The arterial rehabilitation of Newland Street is under construction, from Atlanta to Yorktown. Adams Avenue is also under construction from Newland to Magnolia. The Newland Street Widening project will be under construction in February when a preconstruction meeting will be held. The Magnolia Sidewalk will go to the Zoning Administration in February for environmental review. The project should be started by the end of the year. Later this year, Public Works will slurry residential roads in the Meredith Gardens neighborhood. A City entry sign has been erected on Adams Avenue and lighting on the sign will soon be installed. Public Works is working on another entry sign at Pacific Coast Highway and Brookhurst. Pacific Coast Highway is a state right of way and Public Works is working with Cal Trans on this project. Improvements at Magnolia Fire Station are underway to update the station to accommodate female firefighters. Public Work plans to release a bid in March for a traffic signal at Adams and Ranger. The bid should be awarded sometime in May or June. Bids for a traffic signal at Newland and Hamilton should take place this summer.

Hansen and Hardy complimented Public Works about the good flow of traffic during the street construction projects. Milt Dardis commented that Newland Street is always being torn up for

various projects. Director of Public Works, Travis Hopkins, addressed his concerns and stated that the City is working with the utility companies to minimize and consolidate road work.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:30 pm.

Notes prepared by Doris Powell