

North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee

May 12, 2016

Oval Service Center

Committee Members Present: Rick Hernandez, Maria Gonzales, Bill Huott, Bob Ludekens, Esther Mirador, Paul Orosco, Vincent Salinas, Ryan Stillwater, Ruben Rodriguez

Committee Members Not Present: Michael Kreps, Franklin Romine, Cary Winslow

Police Staff: Lt. Candido Alvarez, Teresa Angel

Guests: Peter Thomas, Betsy McGovern-Garcia, Jeff Fultz, Lisa Wallis-Dutra, Adam Ennis, Paul Jaramillo

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Citizen's Requests
4. Discussion
5. City of Visalia Housing Partnerships
6. Visalia Rescue Mission Update
7. Removal of Benches and Tables Update
8. City of Visalia Park Rangers
9. Good of the Order
10. Upcoming Events
11. Next Meeting Date
12. Adjournment

I. Introductions

Guest and committee members introduced themselves

II. Approval of Minutes

Bob Ludekens moved to approve the minutes. Paul Orosco seconds the motion. All other members present approved. Bob did mention that he thought member Michael Kreps was at the April meeting. If this is correct the minutes will be amended to show this.

North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee

May 12, 2016

Oval Service Center

III. Citizen's Requests

The North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee requests that a 3 minute time limit be observed for requests. Please note that issues raised under Citizen's Requests are informal only and the North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee will not take action at this time.

IV. Discussion

Lisa Wallis-Dutra from Quad-Knopf came to invite the committee to a community outreach meeting being held on May 19th at 5:30 p.m. at the Mt Whitney High School cafeteria with regards to transportation. There will be a second meeting on July 9th at 9:30 a.m. at the Manuel Hernandez Community Center. She passed out flyers in English and in Spanish.

She advised that there will be a survey on the City website that the public can use to provide feedback and information. The website will have GIS maps that can be used to pinpoint problem areas that the public feels need special attention. Once all the information is gathered it will be presented to the City Council with their recommendations. The final approval is expected to be completed by January of 2017.

V. City of Visalia Housing Partnerships

Self-Help Enterprises – Betsy McGovern-Garcia – Program Director – Real Estate Development

Betsy provided the committee with information on the work that Self-Help provides for the community. Self-Help covers eight counties including Tulare County. They have multiple housing projects throughout Tulare County including some in Visalia. One of their most recent projects is the 4 unit apartment complex on Strawberry. They get the tax default list from the county and there are approximately 15 homes going up for auction. They purchase these homes for the amount of the back taxes and then rehab them to sell to low income families. In the future they hope to start infill housing on vacant lots.

The committee presented to her a list of properties with vacant homes and empty lots surrounding the Oval Park for them to consider when looking for properties to purchase. She advised that they will start looking for properties at the beginning of the upcoming fiscal year.

There is also a possibility that in the future they may be able to help with special needs housing, referring to the homeless population. Ryan said he would like to work with them on this, not as a NVNAC member, but as a representative of the Rescue Mission.

They currently have a future project in Goshen with 200 rental units and single family homes.

When asked what the criteria was for the rentals and/or home sales, she advised that for now they need decent credit and they do conduct background checks on prospective renter/buyers.

North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee
May 12, 2016
Oval Service Center

VI. Visalia Rescue Mission Update

NVNAC Member – Ryan Stillwater

Ryan provided an update on services the Rescue Mission provides. He stated that they are no longer serving lunch, but that the Bethlehem Center is providing this service. The nightly limit for people to stay at the mission is 30 days, once they have reached that point they need to vacate for 45 days before being able to stay again.

He wanted to advise the committee that they hope to stop enabling homelessness and help people get the assistance they need to accomplish this. They are working with Emergency Aid and CSET to help the homeless get housing.

Paul Jaramillo asked if he had noticed that there seem to be more people with what he states are possible mental issues. Paul has noticed more people talking to themselves and waving their arms around in the air, etc. It was discussed that some of that behavior may be due to drug use as well as mental health issues.

Lt. Alvarez advised that there may be more mental health issues due to surrounding counties not providing assistance to the homeless with these issues.

Ryan stated he would like to see someone from Mental Health possibly work with Rescue Mission to provide help to those who need it.

It was asked if once they are not staying at the Mission if they have access to the C-train to store and retrieve their property. Ryan advised that the C-train program may need to be re-evaluated to see if it is feasible for the Mission to continue overseeing the program. He advised the city pays \$600.00 month for the rental fees and the Mission oversees the program.

VII. Removal of Benches and Tables Update

NVNAC Member – Chair – Rick Hernandez

Rick Hernandez will be the representative for the NVNAC at the next Parks & Recreation Committee and will present the letter that the committee drafted and approved. Peter Thomas from Parks suggested that a member of the committee be present to read the letter and ask that the item be put on the Parks & Recreation agenda. The meeting is scheduled for May 17th at 5:30 at City Hall Council Chambers. Rick asked that any other NVNAC members who could attend the meeting to please show up for support.

VIII. City of Visalia Park Rangers

City of Visalia Parks and Recreation Department – Jeff Fultz

Jeff handed out a power point printed presentation on what services the Park Rangers provide the city. He advised that they provide education on the park rules and regulations to the public at the parks and also do maintenance. There is a possibility that they will be starting a volunteer program similar to the VIPS Program. This is something Mayor Nelsen and Jeane Greenwood are looking into.

North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee

May 12, 2016

Oval Service Center

Bill made the suggestion that the Park Rangers use the building at the Oval Park as this would show a presence at the park. Jeff advised that they are based out of the Corp Yard, due to them getting their vehicles, equipment, and having to clock in/out.

Paul Jaramillo asked what progress has been made on the road work on Santa Fe north of Houston. Jeff advised that the project is still moving forward, but there is no timeline as to the start of the construction. There are some issues that need to be worked out with regards to creek crossings and bridges.

IX. Good of the Order

Maria offered her congratulations to Bob Ludekens and his wife on their 65th wedding anniversary. She also advised that she is back in her home after the repairs from the fire.

Lt. Alvarez advised the committee that Eric Frost is going to be on next month's agenda with regards to the sales tax initiative and to be mindful of the time that it will take when considering other items for next month's agenda.

Esther asked if there was any word on whether or not there was going to be a ceremony for the opening of the Children's Park at the Oval. Jeff advised that once the park is completed the park foundation will be working on that.

X. Upcoming Events

(These events are not NVNAC sponsored events):

XI. Next Meeting

Thursday June 9, 2016
Oval Service Center
808 N. Court Street
Visalia, CA

XII. Meeting Adjournment

6:40 p.m.