

M I N U T E S

GARDEN GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (NICC)

REGULAR MEETING

COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER
11300 STANFORD AVENUE
GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA

MONDAY
APRIL 3, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: The regular session of the NICC Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Community Meeting Center.

PRESENT: CHAIR SILVERBERG, VICE CHAIR BRIETIGAM,
COMMISSIONERS DIAZ, HANNA

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS D. NGUYEN, J. NGUYEN, AND M. CHONA
PRESTON

ALSO PRESENT: Kim Huy, Neighborhood Improvement Manager; Allison Mills, Project Manager; Code Enforcement Officer Patti Petruzzelli; and Teresa Pomeroy, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair George Brietigam led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Brietigam moved to approve the Minutes from March 6, 2006, with a correction in the minutes for the sentence "He suggested that the older people in the community are against fireworks,..." to "He suggested that some older people in the community are against fireworks..."; seconded by Commissioner Diaz, and was carried with the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: BRIETIGAM, DIAZ, HANNA, SILVERBERG

NOES: COMMISSIONERS: NONE

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS: D. NGUYEN, J. NGUYEN, PRESTON

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

None.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

Public Hearing for Draft 2006-07 Housing and Community Development Action Plan

Ms. Allison Mills, Project Manager, reviewed the staff report and recommended that the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission transmit the Draft 2006-07 Action Plan to City Council.

Commissioner Diaz questioned the number of organizations eligible to receive HUD funding that were notified, and how many were new applicants. Ms. Mills responded that Requests for Proposals were sent to 18 organizations, and 13 responded. She noted that there were four new applicants with a recommendation from staff to fund one new program.

Vice Chair Brietigam asked whether a notice was published. Ms. Mills responded yes, noting that it was published in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Commissioner Diaz asked which Spanish publication was used. Ms. Mills stated La Opinion.

Chair Silverberg opened the public hearing to receive testimony.

Senior Meals and Services Director, Mr. Bob Rivers, approached the Commission with Mr. Chris Olsen and Ms. Chasity Agrawal. He emphasized the importance of Senior Meals and Services in the lives of the seniors they serve. They deliver meals five days a week utilizing volunteers. These volunteers play a key role by noticing if any of the seniors on their route are having problems, and need to be referred to a case manager for intervention. He stated that Senior Meals and Services, a non-profit serving several cities, began in the 1970's in Garden Grove. The organization has been experiencing a 10 to 11 percent cut in CDBG funding, and they were not prepared for a 36 percent drop in funding allocated from the City of Garden Grove. He expressed the importance for the funding that they receive from the City, and to be able to continue the service, asked that the cut be no more than 15 to 20 percent.

To illustrate the importance of the service provided by the volunteers in delivering meals to the homebound seniors, Ms. Agrawal related a situation about a Garden Grove resident experiencing a serious decline in health. The volunteer noted the decline and referred a case manager to intervene.

Mr. Chris Olsen stated that they have expanded their program, and last year they hired a paid driver with the \$5,000 funding from CDBG. They service 450 seniors at the H. Louis Lake, 42 at the Acacia Adult Day Care, 230 home deliveries, and 15 home deliveries for Vietnamese speaking elderly. They also provide for the friendly home visit volunteer service.

Mr. Rivers noted that there is no sliding scale, and they only ask for a donation of \$2.00. Chair Silverberg asked about their yearly budget. Mr. Rivers stated that it is \$412,065.

Ms. Elvia Ruiz, representing Interval House, approached the Commission. She stated that she and her two young daughters became clients of Interval House 25 years before, and because of that assistance, she is a college graduate today. She stated that Interval House has received many prestigious awards. She is very thankful to be associated with Interval House, and she commented that she has seen many lives change for the better over the years. She commented on the seriousness of domestic violence, and became emotional as she shared a recent tragic event about an Interval House client.

Ms. Mary Ann Lam Bui, representing Interval House, approached the Commission. She stated that she came to Interval House 26 years ago unable to speak any English. Interval House is the only shelter in Orange County with Vietnamese speaking staff, and she is very grateful for the Asian staff at Interval House.

Ms. Sharon Wie, representing Interval House, approached the Commission. She stated that Interval House has been serving the Garden Grove residents for 26 years. She works very closely with the Korean community, and Interval House is the first to offer a program to members of the Korean community. They work very closely with the school district, and with students and counselors, and are featured every year on channel 3. She stated that they recently did their first outreach to the Korean community, and that was very successful. She invited the Commission to come to Interval House for a tour.

Vice Chair Brietigam complimented Ms. Wie on her presentation, and asked whether families stay together at Interval House.

Ms. Wie stated that they try to bring the families together, but with domestic abuse cases, social workers will remove children from the home when necessary. In order for mothers to get their children back, they must agree to leave the home. She stated that two thirds of the residents at Interval House are children from infants to teens.

Chair Silverberg asked how they protect the people. Ms. Wie stated that the shelter has a lot of support from the police department.

Commissioner Hanna asked whether there is a limit on how long people can stay. Ms. Wie responded that people have 30 to 45 days at the shelter where their emergency needs are addressed. The transitional program for non-English speaking people is six months to two years.

Commissioner Diaz commented that he was delighted that there are people who help their community. He asked, aside from money, what other kinds of things are needed at Interval House. Ms. Wie stated that they could use diapers and supplies for children.

Vice Chair Brietigam asked whether they specialize in helping immigrant families. Ms. Wie stated that the staff is multilingual and are available to help everyone.

There being no further comments, the public portion of the hearing was closed.

Vice Chair Brietigam asked if by transmitting the draft action plan to City Council as is, then the funding would remain as recommended. Staff noted that City Council would be conducting a public hearing for the draft action plan, and could make the decision to redistribute funding.

Commissioner Hanna asked for a comparison from last years' funding for public services. Ms. Mills stated that last year the gang unit received \$176,000.00, they requested the same amount and staff is recommending \$163,971.00; the Senior Center received \$229,685 and staff is recommending \$217,588.00; the Senior Meals and Services received \$32,950.00 and staff is recommending \$20,854.00; the graffiti abatement program received \$9,386.00 and this year staff is not recommending any HUD funding. The maximum funding allowed by HUD for public services is \$402,413.00, and staff received \$493,939.00 in requested funding.

Vice Chair Brietigam commented that graffiti is one of the biggest problems in the city. Ms. Mills stated that the graffiti program would be receiving redevelopment funding.

Commissioner Hanna commented that all of these are very important, but Senior Meals and Services had a large amount of money taken from their budget. She asked if there is any way to reshuffle the numbers to make it more equitable.

Ms. Huy stated that the Commission could make a recommendation to City Council.

Commissioner Diaz agreed with Commissioner Hanna, and stated that he would like to make a recommendation to adjust the funding for the Senior Meals and Services. He commented that there is a growing population of older people in the community who rely on this program. The program is needed, but that they have to be realistic as well.

Vice Chair Brietigam questioned the difference between the funding of ESG programs from last year. Ms. Mills stated that the Women's Transitional Living Center received \$36,813.00 last year. They asked for \$82,000.00 and staff is recommending \$35,000.00. Thomas House received \$50,060.00 last year. They asked for \$80,000.00 and staff is recommending \$48,000.00. The Dayle McIntosh Center received \$4,065.00 last year. They asked for \$25,000.00, and staff is recommending \$20,134.00. Interval House is a new program. They asked for \$50,000.00, and staff is recommending \$6,016.00.

Vice Chair Brietigam agreed with both Commissioners Diaz and Hanna that the numbers of the programs funded under the public services cap need to be adjusted for the Senior Meals and Services in order to be more equitable.

Commissioner Hanna moved to transmit the 2006-07 Draft Action Plan and citizen comments to City Council with a recommendation to recalculate the distribution of the public

services/program funding to reflect equal percentages commensurate with the amount of funding; seconded by Commissioner Diaz and was carried with the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: BRIETIGAM, DIAZ, HANNA, SILVERBERG
NOES: COMMISSIONERS: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS: D. NGUYEN, J. NGUYEN, PRESTON

Public Nuisance Updates

Code Enforcement Officer, Patti Petruzzelli, provided an update on 8502 Davmor and 10615 Artcraft, both properties that were deemed a public nuisance at the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission meeting held March 6, 2006. Ms. Petruzzelli provided a power point presentation with photos of both properties. The overgrown vegetation has been removed from both properties. The property owner at 8502 Davmor has scheduled paving the week of April 29, and the inoperable vehicle has been removed.

Chair Silverberg asked about the cost to the city to assist with the clean up. Ms. Petruzzelli stated that the Davmor property was a total of \$2,200.00 for the labor and dumpster that was paid for with set aside funding. The clean up on the Artcraft property was funded entirely by the property owner.

Vice Chair Brietigam inquired about the dead tree on the Artcraft property. Ms. Petruzzelli stated that although the vegetation has been removed, the tree is still on the property.

Ms. Petruzzelli thanked the commission for their support with the public nuisance efforts.

Criteria for Agenda Items

Ms. Huy noted that at the previous Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission meeting the subject of placing items on the agenda was discussed, and the Commission did request that a member be able to agendize items. At the last meeting, the Commission was told that there was going to be a memo issued about this subject; however, the memo actually addressed utilizing staff beyond the scope of the commission being served.

Vice Chair Brietigam commented that there is some interpretation of the kinds of things that could be addressed by the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission.

Commissioner Diaz expressed his apology for any confusion.

Ms. Huy indicated that she had thought that the memo regarding staff time did not actually address placing items on the agenda; however, matters that come before this or any commission should be items that the commission oversees, and policy issues are to remain with the city council.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

None.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Hanna commented on how pleased she was to see the public nuisance properties resolved so quickly and that she is eager to do more in the future.

Vice Chair Brietigam expressed his desire to be allowed enough time to deliberate during the commission meeting even if it goes very late.

Commissioner Diaz agreed and thought that it was unfair to be cut off from comment.

Chair Silverberg stated that as he is the Chair, it is his function to keep the meeting moving and that he does not cut off any commissioner or rush the time.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. to June 5, 2006.

TERESA POMEROY
Recording Secretary