

Allied Neighborhoods Association

Wednesday, February 25, 2004
City Council Hearing Room, City Hall

Minutes

Members Present: Jim Kahan, Vijaya Jammalamadaka, Paul Hernadi, Joe Guzzardi, Lee Moldaver, Beatrice Rosales, Brigitte Forsell, Gene Forsell, Naomi Kovacs, Dianne Channing; Wesley Brown

Others Present: John Dixon (Tri-County Produce); Ricardo Venegas (Franklin Center)

City Staff Present: Don Olson, Special Projects Manager; Marcelo Lopez, Asst. City Administrator; John Ledbetter, Senior Planner; George Estrella, Building Official

The meeting began at around Noon. Jim Kahan introduced and thanked Don Olson and we were introduced to the other City staff.

Don Olson used a PowerPoint presentation, which he had prepared in January 2004 for City Council, to inform us about the new **City Neighborhood Improvement Program**. The slide presentation and the staff report will be available for review on Allied's website.

The highlights of the presentation were:

There is a growing awareness of problems with blight in various parts of the City. The Neighborhood Improvement Program is about improving quality of life for all the City's citizens. The challenge is to improve services with the limited resources the City now has. An interdepartmental task force was formed which identified neighborhood priorities, inventoried resources, and started work on the "just do it" projects. Subcommittees are working on enforcement strategies.

Applications have been put in for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Focus will be on housing rehabilitation loan programs; Community gardens; Lower Eastside; Lower Westside-Coronel Street linkage. The most blighted areas of the City in need of the most improvements were targeted first. Public improvements will take time and big money. They would like to empower the Community to take responsibility for their areas.

The seven fire departments, whose employees know the nooks and crannies, have been charged with identifying problems in their areas. The City is testing an improved customer service program. A quick reference of telephone numbers to call for common problems has been

February 25, 2004 Minutes4

Ratified April 27, 2005 (previously approved)

prepared and distributed to the fire departments as first responders and all departments who interface with the public. The City will respond to calls from citizens for problems on publicly-owned lands within the City. Anonymous calls are not taken. Citizens are urged to go through their neighborhood associations, churches or other organizations if they wish to remain anonymous.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Submitted by

Vijaya Jammalamadaka, Secretary

February 25, 2004

February 25, 2004 Minutes4
Ratified April 27, 2005 (previously approved)