



CASTRO VALLEY

MUNICIPAL

ADVISORY Advisory to Supervisor Nate Miley, 4th District

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GENERAL PURPOSE MEETING

Monday, April 17, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Council members present: Marc Crawford, Chair, Ken Carbone, Vice-Chair, Chuck Moore, Sheila Cunha, Dave Sadoff

Location: Castro Valley Library – 3600 Norbridge Avenue, Castro Valley, CA 94646

Summary Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rachel Osajima, Executive Director, Alameda County Arts Commission, reported on the Community Identifier Project, which will be a painted sign on the I-580 freeway overpass in Castro Valley. The selection committee has selected five (5) semi-finalist artists. On Tuesday, April 25, 2017, the artists will participate in a Round Table discussion at the Castro Valley Library and the community is invited to share their ideas with the artists.

Michael Kusiak requested that the General Purpose meeting agendas for the Castro Valley MAC have more detail; also he asked if there could be some maintenance of the vegetation around the library, the creek and surrounding neighborhood; also for residents and the MAC to be mindful of the County budget and advocate for services for Castro Valley.

I. Presentation of Eden Area Village

Blair Barnett, Outreach Coordinator, Eden Area Village, presented information about Eden Area Village.

Eden Area Village is a member driven, non-profit organization that serves older adults living in San Lorenzo, Hayward and Castro Valley. Eden Area Village provides an array of services through the help of members and volunteers. Services include: telephone check-ins, transportation, help with simple household chores as well as a variety of social, educational and wellness activities.

Eden Area Village's mission is to provide neighborhood-based support to enable its members to stay in their homes as they age, continuing a high quality of life and remaining engaged in their community.

Eden Area Village is in need of more volunteers. As new members and volunteers are recruited, additional services will be added, such as: friendly visitors, light home maintenance, technical help, and coordination of rides with the VIP Rides program.

Speaker

Carol Sugimura stated that she supports Eden Area Village. It is important that older people do what is needed to remain in their homes. Eden Area Village has provided an option for assistance and provide services. There will be a membership fee once the program is completely launched.

The Council thanked Mr. Barnett for the information about the Eden Area Village.

This item was informational only and required no Council action.

II. Status of the Old Castro Valley Library

Candi Clark, Assistant Superintendent, Castro Valley Unified School District, presented a PowerPoint presentation of possible uses for the Old Castro Valley Library space. The presentation included potential academic uses, such as additional classroom space for career and technical education to pre-school expansion.

The District proposes to acquire the site free of charge through Government Code Section 25365, which allows the Board of Supervisors 4/5 vote to “grant, convey, quit claim assign or otherwise transfer” property to school districts as long as the property is not required for County use. Funding for the possible expansions would be covered by the recent bond passed to fund Castro Valley Schools.

In response to a member of the community’s question regarding noise, Ms. Clark stated that the school district would work with the community to address any concerns they may have. All school district properties are available for community use;

Jim Smith, Castro Valley resident, American Legion Veteran, stated that the veterans of Castro Valley are interested in acquiring the property for veteran’s services. Uses would include meetings and other small functions.

Cindy Chadwick, County Librarian, reported that in terms of library use, the old library has been used for storage space and the library does not have any long term plans for use of the building.

Willie Hopkins, Jr., Director, General Services Agency, reported on the status of the Old Castro Valley Library. Mr. Hopkins stated that once a property has been determined to be surplus by the County, then the Board of Supervisors determines the disposition of the property through the General Services Agency.

The property was appraised in 2016 at just under \$1 million dollars, demolition costs for the property is approximately \$514,000 dollars and as a vacant lot the property value increases to over \$1 million dollars.

Speakers

Several veterans and their families were present and spoke in support of the Veteran’s acquisition of the building. Representatives addressed questions from the community.

Discussion from MAC

Sheila Cunha suggested a MAC subcommittee to determine next steps for the Old Castro Valley Library.

Chuck Moore supports the Veterans acquiring the building.

Dave Sadoff supports the Veterans acquiring the building.

Marc Crawford stated that he did some research and found a report (100 page report) that was completed in 2010, which details include an earthquake study and an itemized list for improvements for the Old Castro Valley Library. Some of the proposed uses at that time included public meeting rooms and or an office building, with renovations listed at a cost of \$3 million dollars.

Chairman Crawford will have County staff place report on the CMAC.com website and e-mail the report to Councilmembers. He is not in favor of demolition or the proposals from the Castro Valley Unified School District.

There was no action taken by the Council, however there was consensus to place the item on a future agenda to discuss a subcommittee to determine proposed uses for the Old Castro Valley Library.

III. Palomares Road Traffic Concerns

Scott Terry, resident of Castro Valley who lives in Palomares Road, expressed his concerns regarding traffic problems on Palomares Road.

There have been several crashes, including collisions involving power poles and head on collisions. The speed limit has been increased on the road, which residents believe is a major cause of the collisions. The road has become “a freeway for commuters”. Mr. Terry and other residents have requested that the County determine the appropriate traffic calming measures on Palomares Road.

Chuck Moore said a bigger problem is the canyon roads, which are a “commuter haven” and residents cannot get enough enforcement in those areas. The County needs to support the Canyonlands with more enforcement and placing proper speed limits on the roads. The speed limits are unsafe for the residents, i.e. backing out of driveways and bad road conditions.

Deputy Scott Miller, Motorcycle Traffic Unit, Sheriff’s Office, explained why the speed limit increased on Palomares Road. The California Vehicle Code determines speed limits by the 85th percentile method, meaning that 85% of drivers are driving at the appropriate speed limit. A completed survey in the area of Palomares Road determined that 85% of drivers on that road were driving at approximately 30 miles per hour, thus the increase in the speed limit.

A California Highway Patrol representative stated that the CHP investigates collisions and DUI’s on Palomares Road. Distracted driving is the reason for a number of collisions and it continues to be an issue. April is Distracted Driver Awareness Month. CHP staff is almost up to full capacity with 36 uniformed personnel with 28 of those on patrol.

Art Carrera, Assistant Agency Directory, Public Works Agency, completed some research on accidents on Palomares Road within the last two years. He researched 23 accidents and it was determined that 2 were caused by drivers falling asleep, 5 accidents to avoid deer/wildlife and 4 accidents were the result of DUIs.

- The Public Works Agency can only reduce the speed limit by 5 miles per hour per State statute.
- Speed surveys also have to meet certain requirements.
- Legislation is required for a toll road
- Certain findings have to be met for road closures and or/gated entry

Rick Yeung, Public Works Agency, reported that for the survey, if the sample size is too small the survey is null and void as it has to measure the measure true speed of the driver. Surveys are not completed during peak hours.

Speakers

Kathy Gil, Daniel Jones, John Simon, Greg Garcia, Art Walton, Lou Ann McKeefery, Leroy Ginn, Dustin Finuty, Tyler Reeves, Bunny Ginn, Glen Van Buskirk, Torrey Young (shared traffic photos) and Cathi Skyles all spoke about traffic problems on Palomares Road.

Discussion from MAC Council

The Council discussed the possibility of a gate on private property at the current road closure with residents having access via remote or code.

Several residents were in favor of closing the road and the MAC will work with County staff to determine feasibility and next steps.

The Public Works Agency will complete another traffic study on Palomares Road.

IV. Council/Staff Comments

None.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned to July 17, 2017