Summary Minutes

Public Comment
None.

I. Utility Box Art/Community Identifier Project Update

Rosa Valdez, Alameda County Arts Commission, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Utility Box Art and the Community Identifier Project.

The Board of Supervisors approved the Community Identifier Projects for Ashland/Cherryland, Castro Valley and San Lorenzo. This project has an overall goal to have a positive welcoming environment to the communities. CalTrans approval is required for each site. The locations are as follows: I-238 overpass, I-580 at Redwood and I-880 at Hesperian. The artists have been selected for the identifiers as well as the utility boxes.

The County-controlled utility boxes designs’ will be printed on vinyl wraps and placed on utility boxes around the County. Designs reviewed and approved by selection Committee and the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Miley stated that the County is hoping to raise the $55,000 needed for the Castro Valley Community Identifier Project.

Speaker

Randy Waage thanked the Alameda County Arts Commission for their work, he sat on the Selection Committee; he is pleased to have beautiful art coming to the community.

II. Update on Old Castro Valley Library Site

Supervisor Nate Miley and Willie Hopkins Jr., Director, General Services Agency via Skype reported on the Old Castro Valley Library site.

Supervisor Miley and staff met with veterans and their representatives regarding the Old Castro Valley Library.

Willie Hopkins, Jr., gave a brief update on the Old Castro Valley Library Site. Mr. Hopkins stated that it was the Board of Supervisors desire to have the General Services Agency explore the option of creating a meeting space, housing and veterans services at the site. The State of California as well as the federal government have funds available for veterans housing, which could be an opportunity to have several services at one site.

Supervisor Miley reported that the Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council has agreed to examine and analyze the site, along with the General Services Agency to determine feasibility to renovate the site and costs associated with it. Resources for Community Development (RCD) has agreed to give an assessment on the feasibility of services for veterans the site. The site has not been deemed surplus at this time.

Supervisor Chan stated that 160 units has been allocated for veterans housing from Measure A1 funds.
After the assessments are completed this item will be brought back to the Castro Valley MAC and the Unincorporated Services Committee.

Speakers

Ethel Gilmore asked if the housing would be opened up to other low-income persons. (No, the site would be analyzed for housing veterans only)

Ed inquired about if the facility could house service dogs for veterans.

Peter Rosen stated that he understood that there was an agreement that the veterans would renovate the building and when did everything change.

Steve Griggs was concerned about the project being further along than appears and the neighbors need to be notified of future meetings.

Madeline Falling asked why was RCD the only agency asked to give an assessment. (Supervisor Miley stated that other agencies/groups may give their assessment of the site.)

Steve Turner stated that no one has talked about alternative sites for housing homeless veterans.

Jay Wakey stated that he hopes the building can be preserved.

Mark Winchel stated that homeless veterans often have drug related issues.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned to March 28, 2018.

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