

## Notes

### 3<sup>rd</sup> District Block Captain Meeting

575 Administration Drive, Suite 117C

April 25, 2019

5.30PM

#### INFORMATIONAL SPEAKERS

Councilmember Victoria Fleming [vfleming@srcity.org](mailto:vfleming@srcity.org)

Lieutenant Ron Nelson, Santa Rosa Police Department [rnelson@srcity.org](mailto:rnelson@srcity.org)

Jason Nutt, Director – Transportation & Public Works [jnutt@srcity.org](mailto:jnutt@srcity.org)

Gabe Osburn, Deputy Director – Development Services [gosburn@srcity.org](mailto:gosburn@srcity.org)

Alane Wall (Laney), Community Advisory Board Member (4<sup>th</sup> City District)

[laney@uchastings.edu](mailto:laney@uchastings.edu)

#### ***Crime & Vandalism – Lt. Nelson***

- Lt. Nelson explained that [Beat 4](#) is huge and described the parameters
- Not a significantly for the whole beat – most crime outside of burn zone
- Numbers:
  - Vandalism (reported incidents) – 4 in 2018, 12 in 2019
  - Of 117 calls for service, 101 were initiated by police officers discoveries while on patrol
- Provided crime statistics noting that he was not there to dispel what people are experiencing and suggested not everything is being reported
- Councilmember Fleming pointed out that the numbers reflected a 300% increase
- Encouraged making calls to SRPD non-emergency number 528-5222 to report incidents

#### ***Crime & Vandalism – Comments, Questions, Suggestions from Fire Survivors***

- Beat 4 should be broken up to allow for Fountaingrove to be a stand-alone beat
  - Fleming will take the request back to the SR Police Chief and City Manager
  - The request was made that CM Fleming really drive that issue
- Can the number of patrols be increased?
  - Nelson: can't promise you that
  - Fleming: Again, this is something I will bring back to the Police Chief and Mayor
- Challenging to control crime without working streetlights
- Different examples of past incidents were brought up
- Can the City pay for private security?
- Isolated areas without lighting are an invitation to crime and theft
  - People are waiting in the area for the opportunity to steal

- Private security cameras monitored by police
- Ongoing problem at 3450 Lake Park Drive. For many years. Situation with homeless encampments creates a fire hazard. Some of area surrounding it is city property and completely covered in weeds.

#### ***Public Infrastructure/General Info – Director Nutt***

- TPW actively in process of working on \$50 million worth of capital projects (of the \$60 million in damages)
- 27 projects have been submitted to FEMA
  - City has negotiated about half of them over last 18 months and this number is increasing every day
  - The public can follow the process on the following website <http://fema-santarosa.opendata.arcgis.com/>
- Estimated cost of repairing streetlights, street signs and guardrails is \$2.5 million
- Commitment has been made to City Council members to have most lights up and running by end of summer, with all to be restored by end of fall
- Debris removal trucks caused \$13 million worth of damage to roads

#### ***Streetlights Specific – Director Nutt***

- Energizing streetlights is complicated and ongoing
- Waiting for FEMA approval but close to finish line
- PG&E had determined that Hidden Valley and Coffey Park underground systems needed total replacement and they erected temporary poles
- Damage to streetlights may not be visible
  - E.g., a fried conduit inside the pole would not be visible
- Working with PG&E and City's own electricians to be responsive where possible where underground is intact and have materials required to replace the light
- Situational awareness of where the challenges are and where higher levels of effort are needed
- Apologized for the length of time it has taken but cannot take shotgun approach to replace streetlights (e.g., following repopulating homeowners)
- PG&E has informed City there are certain blocks they've needed to de-energize
  - Streetlight wiring has been stolen in some areas – something that happened often before the fires

#### ***Streetlights Specific – Comments, Questions, Suggestions from Fire Survivors***

- FEMA funds are retroactive – why can't this be accomplished now?
  - Nutt: A cash flow issue exists – would have to cancel other projects in the queue
  - Nutt: Actually cannot complete a project that's been obligated by FEMA or City runs risk of losing those funds
- That is not the case. You can completely finish a project as long as it can be justified

- Nutt: That is not part of our discussions with FEMA and Cal OES
- This situation with the streetlights should have been more foreseeable

### **Public Infrastructure – Q&A**

#### Sidewalks:

- We've been hearing for about a year that the City is hoping to obtain FEMA funds to replace and repair residential sidewalks. A lot in Hidden Valley sidewalks were destroyed between the fire and the debris removal process, followed by the PG&E underground. PG&E has repaired the sections they broke up. Nervous about having a destroyed sidewalk. Gabe had mentioned a while ago that there was still a possibility of having FEMA funds for this.
  - Nutt: Unfortunately, it is likely going to fall to the residents to repair the sidewalks. FEMA has denied our applications because they don't believe it is the City's responsibility. They believe it is the homeowners responsibility based on a City ordinance many years ago. The City appealed this decision once and it will be appealed again, but we're not confident about overturning the decision.
  - Nutt: US Army Corps is saying their work is done, but the City continues to try to keep the Corps from walking away.
    - ✓ Nutt: If you have something you believe was damaged during the debris removal process, you need to let us know about them. Photos would be helpful
- Issue with sidewalks at the corner of Thomas Lake Harris and Cross Creek. Have to walk out into the road while walking dog every day, and it is dangerous as cars are not stopping at that intersection.
  - Nelson: Our motorcycle force is down, but I will get the word out to them.
  - Nutt: PG&E has a timeline and resource issues but Gabe's team will make sure this is repaired (note: possibly a temporary patch by PG&E)
  - Osburn: If there's an unsafe situation there, we'll push that out front (having PG&E repair sidewalk).

#### Blinking Light at Fire Station

- Why is there still a blinking light where the fire station was? People literally come to a stop because they are anticipating an emergency vehicle entering the road
  - Nutt: If it's turned off, when we rebuild the station, we then have to recondition people. The blinking light was a requirement of building a station there. Have to look into all the reasons it was left on and compare them to reasons it should be turned off.

### **Funding Gaps, CDBG-DR Q&A**

- Happy you're here today. We really need more advocates. It seems like City and public entities have put a lot of attention and money on Coffey Park fire survivors, and Fountaingrove is not getting the same attention. Resent a council members comments

referring to rich Fountaingrove households being subsidized by less affluent taxpayers. We don't feel like we are a priority.

- Fleming: This is not meant to mitigate anything you've been through, but we did make it a priority to fix the water in Fountaingrove
- Fleming: The recent loan program established by the California Dept. of Housing and Community Development (HCD) was focused on low-to-moderate income levels and couldn't even find anyone from Coffey Park who met the criteria.
- Fleming: We're going to reach out to FEMA about reopening SBA loans
- Received word today about a possible CDBG-DR program coming out in a tiered format and those in Fountaingrove are urged to apply.
- Fleming: Will come back to answer your questions when the CDBG-DR funding is available.
- Feel like there is a lack of support from the City. Would like to see the City spend money proactively on security in Fountaingrove. With all the funds going to support homeless programs, the City Council should find a way to find funding for security.
  - Fleming: The funds we have for homeless programs are not from our general funds. These funds are made available as a result of state programs with specific guidelines on how we may spend them. This frees up our ability to spend money from our general funds on other things.
- We're ready to commit to rebuilding but feeling disengaged from our community. A lot of people are leaving the area.
- I'm about \$50K short, is there a way to get a loan without another mortgage?
  - Fleming: That may be a possible option out of the new CDBG-DR funding on the horizon
  - Osburn: We'll roll out those resources as soon as they are available. Need to determine why the initial program did not work.
  - Fleming: When that funding comes through, we will let you know. I will email Tracy and Laney. There will also be outreach from Planning & Development.
  - Wall: I'll post it on Nextdoor
- Where is the biggest hurt in lost revenue? Fountaingrove. Give us some love and we'll rebuild and our tax base will return.
  - The Mayor and I are lobbying in Sacramento to get funding for unmet needs and to address those gaps. We want you to rebuild.

### **Trees Q&A**

- What can we do about the burned trees? Most people have not touched their trees.
  - Nutt: If they're on your property, you need to work with your insurance company first. 50% of the properties still have burned trees.
  - Osburn: Once fire season is declared then the City can compel property owners to remove dead trees.

- Osburn: Outside of city limits, we've suspended tree removal in the burned areas. We're working with the fire department to determine by a site analysis which trees present a hazard.

### ***Debris Removal & Insurance Q&A***

- Wall: Wrote a letter to the Commission on Catastrophic Wildfire Cost and Recovery. One of the biggest problems in California is that the existing laws allows people to be underinsured, and insurers routinely deny requests to increase coverage. After fires, was told by insurer that it was my own fault that I was underinsured. Look into replacement cost endorsement.
- Insurers refusing to provide coverage in future?
  - Fleming: If companies are refusing to insure you, send me an email.
- Question about timing of debris removal bills (cost analysis)
  - Nutt: FEMA is still dealing with Sandy and Katrina. Their program is that they allow you to use your money to finish the job and they'll take whatever is left from your debris removal.
- What is the City doing on the issue of insurance? Are you looking into adopting something similar to the Boulder, CO [Wildfire Partners](#)? Where is the City at in terms of adopting these types of programs?
  - We are in the early stages of investigating an insurance pool.

### ***PG&E, CPUC, Wildfire Mitigation Q&A***

- What is the City doing to be a part of CPCU de-energization?
  - Nutt: Have not yet spoken to the fire chief, but know he was present at the meeting with FEMA in DC.
- PG&E release wildfire mitigation plans today. They've cut back on some areas or have not met their timelines. Are we prepared to be without power for two to three weeks?
  - Nutt: City has not weighed in with the CPUC

### ***Miscellaneous Q&A***

- Park in Rincon Valley is brown and dying. We need some green space – why is Coffey Park getting a park?
  - Nutt: Made list of capital projects because irrigation system was damaged and requires a complete rebuild.
- Fire station in Hidden Valley is needed
  - We're working on what to do about a fire station. In all likelihood there will be one there, but based on fire methodology, looking at the backside facing Brush Creek.

- Feedback from a fire survivor – have had nothing but a positive experience in dealing with the resiliency permit center, and good experience as well with the landscape workshop.
- High efficiency windows causing fires
  - Subject came up as a result of a fire survivor arriving at the meeting immediately after witnessing and fighting a fire caused by windows on a rebuild lot
  - Fire survivor mentioned reading a white paper on the windows – one particular example was of a spontaneous fire set to gorilla mulch beneath a window
  - Osburn: Have seen this once during construction outside rebuild area. Window was pressured and created a bow that compromised the window. These windows are required by state code. Have addressed this with North Coast Builders Exchange to see what can be one.

### ***Further Discussion After City Portion of Meeting***

- Future speakers to be considered
  - Mike Behler and panel from Changing Builders Workshop that took place same evening
  - Representatives from Coffey Park and Larkfield groups – how did they overcome obstacles, accomplishments, next steps, advocacy
- Insurance commissioner
  - Fire survivors may reach out to DOI to advocate for a definite meeting date
- Suggestion that Supervisor Zane and Councilmember Fleming meet to have discussions on how to provide better support to the D3 fire survivors
- Need status on FEMA database issue
- Meeting frequency – discussion about going back to weekly meetings. D3 will survey the block captains.

### ***Scheduled Informational Speakers***

May 9

- Christel Querijero, Office of Recovery and Resiliency
  - Q1 update on two of County's top ten priority projects (insurance, utility hardening)

May 23

- Deva Marie Proto, County Clerk-Record-Assessor-Registrar of Voters and Greg Walsh, Chief Deputy Assessor
  - All things taxes and assessments