

Memorandum

To: Mayor Susan Gorin and Councilmembers
From: Tanya Narath, Chair Community Advisory Board

Re: CAB Update – January 2010

Since our study session with the council in November 2009, the CAB has worked to assign owners and establish timelines for each of our goals. This update will highlight our progress against our goals and identify emerging issues and opportunities that CAB members are hearing from the community.

A. Update on CAB Goals

The CAB established the following Vision and Mission statement in 2009:

Vision

The Community Advisory Board (CAB) is an essential part of the City of Santa Rosa serving as an advisory body to the City Council. Its purpose is to represent the diverse voices and concerns of the residents, and provide adequate empowerment mechanisms for community members to voice their opinions around issues facing their neighborhoods.

Mission

The Community Advisory Board exists to provide residents of Santa Rosa a voice to our city government and to provide the government of Santa Rosa a voice to our community.

Specifically, the City Charter requires the CAB to advise the City Council on:

- Public Safety issues
- Capital Improvement priorities
- Involvement plans for development issues
- Recommendations on public improvement funds that are allocated by the City Council.

To achieve our mission, we then defined a number of goals. Following is a brief status update on the goals.

Goal #1: CAB is powerfully and actively advising the City Council, City Manager, and City staff on issues affecting the community.

Status: CAB will use this monthly report to highlight issues and opportunities to the City Council. CAB members are participating in city subcommittees including the Economic Development subcommittee and the Downtown Subcommittee.

Goal #2: CAB is increasing collaboration between neighborhood and government.

Status:

- Objective 2.2 - Identifying an initial list of residents who are vested in their community: CAB members are taking an inventory of neighborhood groups and leaders in each area and will create a master list of names and contact information. Our goal is to have this list complete by our February meeting.
- Objective 2.3 – Community Capacity Building: Arnie Barragan updated the CAB on his involvement in the Heal and Community Outreach Leadership Training which is targeted for the Southwest and/or Southeast area of Santa Rosa. There was discussion to provide cost for this training to allow potentially each CAB member to bring two community leaders and future leaders to such training. Further discussion is planned to determine how CAB can leverage this training resource to provide capacity building for neighborhoods.
- Objective 2.4 - Leveraging information technology: Eric McHenry has offered to help set up a Facebook page for CAB and we will pursue this as a communication tool.

Goal #3: CAB is utilizing the Community Improvement Grants to make positive and measureable changes in the community.

- Objective 3.1 - Community Investment Grants process: CAB is beginning work on the CIG process for 2010 and will start with a discussion of grant criteria at its February meeting.

Goal #4: CAB is educated on issues and city structure/organization to provide community with accurate information.

Status: CAB has not taken action on this goal yet pending progress on the other goals.

B. Issues and Opportunities by Area

Southwest

CAB member Jo Anne Cohn helped organize a meeting with Juan Hernandez, president of the Sonoma County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and owner of Mawson Computing, Mali Lopez, City of Santa Rosa, Leticia Mendoza, Community Organizer for St. Joseph's, and Hector Delgado, the Matriculation Specialist at the SW campus of the SRJC. The purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm possible sites in the Southwest for the free computer literacy class that is given by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Mawson Computing and the City of Santa Rosa. What makes this class even more special is that students receive free computers after they have successfully completed the course! Jo Anne sees potential to expand this class to other areas in Santa Rosa and sees the CAB's inventory of neighborhoods and leaders to be a critical step in reaching out to all parts of the city.

Southeast

CAB member Julie Combs worked with resident Eleanor Guerin to bring members of the Spring Lake Village Neighborhood Group with NABV neighbors and co sponsored an afternoon with a Lakota Elder. This is an example of CAB member efforts in the area to connect with different neighborhood and community organizations.



CAB members are working with neighbors in this area to assist with concerns regarding recurring problem car break-ins throughout the area, share current information including information about the street light reduction program. Julie has notified the council members who appointed her about neighborhood concerns with trash cans permanently left on the street at apartment buildings. A request has been made for an ordinance to require cans be taken up after a day or two so streets can be cleaned and trash piles do not develop in the neighborhood and as part of a beautification program.

Finally, the neighborhood led Southeast Greenway Campaign continues to reach out to bring energy into the southeast through networking and fundraising for a future design charrette. We can share more information on this with the council if interested.

Northwest

Rev. Curtis Byrd attended the city's Building an Inclusive Workplace Workshop in January and reported that it was a great workshop. We hope that eventually all CAB members will have participated in this important workshop and appreciate the opportunity to do so.

One of the issues that has been raised to the CAB is the street light blackout plan and a lack of communication with neighborhoods. Rick Moshier has attended both a Neighborhood Alliance

meeting and a CAB meeting to learn more about the neighborhood concerns and possible solutions. Rick agreed to work on improving the information about the delimiting schedule on the city's web site. Once CAB has its facebook page set up, we can also help communicate about the schedule. CAB members have helped open a communication channel between Public Works and neighborhoods on this topic and will assist in resolving concerns if they arise.

There has been quite a bit of interest in the Santa Rosa Avenue Corridor plan. CAB has been watching this process closely due to neighborhood concerns raised during the initial set of meetings. Community involvement is strong and we feel city staff has been receptive to responding to questions and concerns raised about the process.

Areas of concern in the Northwest:

- Youth Community Park on-going concern
- Graffiti @ Pioneer Park – Peterson Lane/Pinercrest Drive – GREAT none for the month
- Homeless hostile on Piner Road -- Piner Road -- Fenced property pending permit extension
- Currently no chair for the NW Neighborhood Association

Northeast

No updates to report.

Requests to Council:

1. **Please help us get the word out that more computers are needed for the free computer literacy class referenced above under Southwest.** There is a high demand for the class and a big constraint to meeting this demand is a lack of computers. Specifically, **you could help by letting people know that instead of recycling old computers, just give them to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** (hccadmin@hcc-sc.org or 707-575-3648).
2. To assist our efforts in more effectively reaching out to all parts of the city, we see a need to revise the existing neighborhood map to identify all known neighborhoods and, for those areas without established neighborhood organizations, assign neighborhood associations. **We will be looking at how other cities have tackled this problem (e.g. Simi Valley, <http://www.simivalley.org/?page=14&recordid=926&returnURL=%2Findex.aspx>) and request feedback from the Council on ways to achieve the goal of having all neighborhoods identified in the most effective way.**
3. The CAB is experiencing some attendance issues and feels that it is critical to have full participation on the board. Lois Hopkins, one of two downtown area representatives, also recently resigned. She made significant contributions to the CAB and the downtown neighborhoods and her presence will be missed. **We request the council to quickly appoint a new member for this position and to clarify the city's policy on board absences.**

If you have any questions or comments on this monthly report, please don't hesitate to contact me or your CAB appointee. We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the communication and collaboration between the city and the neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tanya Narath". The ink is a light grey or blue color.

Tanya Narath
Chair, Community Advisory Board