

Memorandum

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

Re: CAB Update – February 2010

A. Update on CAB Goals

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

Status: The CAB/Board of Community Services ad hoc committee had its first meeting on February 25. The ad hoc committee agreed that it was important for both boards to learn more about each other's work before making recommendations on opportunities for collaboration. Neighborhood leaders have expressed strong concern that the role of CAB not be diminished or reduced in effectiveness as a result of its move into the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services (see enclosed letter from the Santa Rosa Neighborhood Alliance on this topic).

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 continuing to inventory neighborhood groups and leaders in each area. Our master list will evolve as we strengthen our connections to the community in all areas of the city.
- Objective 2.4 - Leveraging information technology: CAB now has a facebook page – check us out online at <http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/pages/Santa-Rosa-Community-Advisory-Board/347134406910>.

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 updating the application and process documentation with the goal of announcing the availability of grant applications in April.

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

Status: No update.

B. Issues and Opportunities by Area

Downtown/Core

CAB member Chris Carrieri has been paying close attention to and attending public meetings for the Humboldt Bike Blvd and Santa Rosa Ave Corridor plan.

Humboldt Bike Blvd (HBB) pilot project

Many in the community were upset prior to the February Bicycle and Pedestrian board meeting because it was felt the project would not get its fair hearing before the recommendation involving the traffic diverters went to council.

More than a few neighbors, with differing perspectives on the project's attributes, nonetheless spoke towards the uselessness of a pilot that the full experimental components planned are not put in place. The board was clear in its desire to send something much more useful to council than just a yes or no vote on diverters & thus the future of the project coming into question.

Santa Rosa Ave Corridor Plan

The Santa Rosa Ave Corridor Plan, known as an 'opportunity area' as part of the Station Area Plan work that was done, has had 2 differently-sized public process discussions this past month. CAB has heard feedback from residents indicating that the second public meeting was an improvement from the first and that they felt their concerns and inputs were better listened to than in the first meeting. Thanks to city staff for listening to public feedback after the first meeting and responding with changes for the second meeting.

Southwest

Issue: Lack of neighborhood associations in Southwest Santa Rosa

CAB member Jo Anne Cohn has been leading the effort in the Southwest area to compile a complete inventory of neighborhood organizations. To date she has identified 3 active Neighborhood Associations in Southwest Santa Rosa: Hughes Avenue Neighborhood Association, Bellevue Ranch Neighborhood Association and USA2000. SWAG (Southwest Area Citizens Group) to her knowledge is not currently meeting nor is the Wright Area Action Group. There is also a new group forming outside the city limits on Moorland.

Jo Anne is also experimenting with different ways of communicating with residents in the Southwest including monthly email blasts and Facebook updates.

Opportunity

Given that there are so few visible neighborhood associations in the Southwest, there is a huge opportunity to contact residents in Southwest to see if they are interested in forming a neighborhood association. Or, if there is already an existing group formed, to inform them of a number of upcoming neighborhood activities (e.g. Spring Clean Community Day on April 24).

Southeast

The CAB funded Peter Spring Park Mural Project planning and design work continues in the SE. This project has been headed up by neighbor Rebecca Rappensperger working with Montgomery High School teacher Lee Vanderveer and MHS students Juan Diaz, Paige Alaire, Nova Oru, and Celeste Quintero. The design will be reviewed for city suggestions and approval March 1st.

Northwest



Youth Community Skate Park on Piner Road

CAB members attended several community meetings (Santa Rosa Neighborhood Alliance, Concerned Citizens of Santa Rosa, and the Sonoma County Latino Democratic Club) in February and one common topic of discussion was the formation of the CAB/Board of Community Services (BOCS) ad hoc committee. Each community group expressed similar concerns which are summarized in the following paragraph taken from a Santa Rosa Neighborhood Alliance letter (attached to this report):

“Participants in the Neighborhood Alliance fully support strengthening the Community Advisory Board to better meet the City Charter’s goal that seeks to “greatly increase citizen and neighborhood participation and responsibility” in City Government. With reference to ongoing discussions between CAB and the Board of Community Services on their respective roles, the Alliance urges that no steps be taken that would in any way diminish the independence or capacity of CAB to pursue the goal set forth in the Charter.”

Areas of concern in the Northwest:

- Youth Community Park on-going concern – kids not wearing helmets
- Graffiti @ Pioneer Park – Peterson Lane/Pinercrest Drive – GREAT none for the month

Northeast

No updates.

Requests to Council:

CAB members are always looking for additional neighborhood contacts in their areas. Please forward the name and contact information of anyone you come in contact with who is involved in a neighborhood association or has expressed interest in forming one to the CAB rep for the area.

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,



Tanya Narath
Chair, Community Advisory Board