



MINUTES
Neighborhood Council Organization (INCO)
General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, June 2, 2021

A. ROLL CALL

At 7:03 p.m., Chair Gleason called the online meeting to order. A quorum of members was present.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of April 7, 2021, online meeting.

Motion by Len Shulman, seconded by Jack Villa. Minutes were approved as presented.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS Public comments were received from:

Gabe Teran -
Roger Poirier -

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. SUBJECT: Special Guest Speaker, Fire Chief Alexander Hamilton
RECOMMENDATION: Receive a verbal report on Chief Hamilton's vision, goals, and priorities for 2021, followed by Q&A

Chief Hamilton gave a verbal report. Chief spoke on plans and goals for 2021. Same staffing for Fire as 1970s; furloughed recruit academy in 2020 due to pandemic, 2021 academy is near completion and training will commence over the next twelve months; plans are underway to hire next Fire academy, want to restart paramedic squad which has been furloughed since the start of the pandemic, the department has been chronically short-staffed for years; by January 2022, will have 30 new firefighters on probation, ready to join the ranks. Looking forward to talking to the neighborhood councils, especially on the issue of ambulance service with the County. Working now on a five-year strategic plan for the Fire Department. There is a real need to diversify the department and bring in more female firefighters. Issue with losing department staff to other agencies.

Questions were received from:

Aaron Greer - Santa Barbara County opened up ambulance services to competitive bidding. The idea is to provide a better level of service to residents. Engage the Board of Supervisors on competitive bidding in the County? ANSWER: still moving through the legal process with the County, talks are ongoing, including a settlement

Jack Villa - any efforts to increase bilingual staff, how many are currently bilingual? ANSWER: the short answer is yes, working with HR on how to recruit the best way, don't have a firm number but will get back to you, the guess is 40-50% are currently bilingual; the contract with ambulance services will have bilingual staff

Jon Huyke - preventative maintenance at fire stations? Working with high schools? ANSWER: fire stations have not had any meaningful maintenance in over ten years; working with high schools is something they want to do, however, there isn't enough staff for that effort

Michael Gleason - deploying a drone for Fire planned? ANSWER: work with PD on support; work well during fireworks monitoring

Chris Hernandez - what would it take to staff the City comfortably with Fire staff? Does the new plan include vehicles? Firefighter cancer incidents? ANSWER: Yes, new vehicles, including three new fire engines will be placed in service in FY 2021-22; ISO Class 1 rated fire department and accredited fire

department is a major goal. The chance of lung cancer is about 10% greater than the general population; smoke can also enter the body through the skin, where toxins enter, which is presumed to be the main cause of cancer diagnoses in firefighters

Barbara Macri-Ortiz - clarification on recruitment for paramedics and ambulance services; ANSWER: Fire Department hires paramedics, 12 out of 100 current staff are paramedics; contract with the ambulance company hires their own staff

2. SUBJECT: Etting Road Apartments Project

RECOMMENDATION: Receive a presentation from special guest speakers Gustavo Almarosa, Director of Real Estate Development for Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation, and Barbara Macri-Ortiz on the Etting Road Apartments Project, followed by Q&A

Mr. Almarosa gave a presentation.

Questions were received from:

Veronica Vasquez - concerned about lack of affordable housing, including a lack of studio apartments; ANSWER: there is a demand for studios, as well as all types of housing. Priorities have changed with developers and what is being built, such as for homeless and special needs, looking at studios and 1 bedroom units in the future

Len Shulman - apartments for veterans on the first floor? Designed for the disabled? ANSWER: Yes, the building is designed with accessibility in mind

Diana Velzy - is the design a City of Oxnard requirement? ANSWER: design is an interplay between design standards from City as well as neighboring architecture and cost

Jon Huyke - does the roof have access for activities? Rainwater capture? ANSWER: there is roof access and are looking at innovating such as solar panels and Tesla solar tiles, no access for tenants to roof; Title 24 compliance standards for stormwater, including rainwater capture

Chris Hernandez - 93 parking spaces? How many units? Will it be gated? ANSWER: Yes, 93 parking spaces, 58 total units, 42 for farmworker families, 15 for veterans at risk of homelessness; the complex will be gated

Efrain Jimenez - what percentage of units are projected for homeless and farmworkers? ANSWER: see the answer above

3. SUBJECT: INCO Report to City Council

RECOMMENDATION: Discussion and action regarding the INCO reporting to City Council

Executive Secretary gave an update. The recommendation is for an annual report to Council, like the other commissions and Citizen Advisory Groups in the City

F. NEIGHBORHOOD CHAIR REPORTS Reports were received from:

None.

G. EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS Reports were received from:

None.

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Continued item E3 to July agenda

Roger Poirier - Chair did a fine job. Hobson Park East meeting on June 17 with guest speaker Chief Benites, agendize Quimby fund spend down and Parks Master Plan

I. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Chair Gleason adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Smith
Executive Secretary