MINUTES
Neighborhood Council Organization (INCO)
General Membership Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 5, 2020

A. ROLL CALL

At 7:01 p.m., Chair Villa called the meeting to order at 305 W. Third Street, Oxnard, California. A quorum of members was present, including Executive Board members 1st Vice Chair Gabriel Teran, 2nd Vice Chair Daniel Rydberg, 3rd Vice Chair Michael Gleason, 4th Vice Chair Diana Velzy, and Chair Jack Villa.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of January 8, 2020 regular meeting.

The minutes were approved as presented.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments were received.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. SUBJECT: Ventura County Supervisor Candidates Forum.
RECOMMENDATION: Receive introductions from candidates, followed by Q&A

1st Vice Chair Gabe Teran explained how presentation and Q&A will work and introduced candidates. Candidate Trevor Quirk, District 1, introduced himself as a write-in candidate, and gave his background; Candidate Kim Marra Stephenson, District 5, spoke on her background and her ties to area and importance of education; Candidate Jess Herrera, District 5, lifelong resident of Oxnard, veteran, served on Harbor District; Candidate Carmen Ramirez, District 5, spoke on decision to run for the seat, bringing her Oxnard City Council experience to County, lawyer who started work in La Colonia; Candidate Jeffrey Burum, District 5, spoke on his credentials and experience in the armed forces; Candidate Tim Flynn, District 5, spoke on his experience in public service, will strive for economic development and job growth for the region, and importance of housing and cost of living.

Issue 1 - Homelessness
Stephenson spoke on the cost of living, mental health, and the vulnerable population. Need of shelter for all those on streets, Housing First.
Herrera spoke on cost of living and lack of economic development, partnership on local, state, and federal level as well as non-profits, and grant program availability.
Ramirez spoke on the 600 homeless in Oxnard, not enough affordable housing, County controls funding, importance of continuum of care, costly to maintain City's current shelter.
Burum spoke on ineffective government and used Ramirez as an example, importance of law enforcement, funding, shelter use, and the expense of running a shelter absent assistance from a non-profit.
Flynn spoke about current homeless population and lack of shelter for most of them, the cost of housing up to 700 homeless, nation-wide crisis, need to partner with D.C. and find a permanent solution.
Quirk spoke on issues in County, including violent crime occuring by the homeless individuals, the need to confront mental health issues, and creating a County coalition targeting mental health.

Issue 2 - Socioeconomic Equity Issues

Herrera: there is no equity, need for equity in education, healthcare, and environment, as a labor leader he has faced this issue before.
Ramirez: experience as an attorney to confront these issues, equal justice important, education is vital, tax revenue from large companies, property and sales taxes aren't enough for local cities.
Burum: Oxnard ranks low in public health, education, jobs; jobs are of utmost importance; investment, opportunity and free enterprise zones.
Flynn: importance of workforce development and job training; need to begin job training for jobs of the future; County program from 2017 should lead the way in workforce development, importance of Oxnard College.
Quirk: education, income, and occupation largely depends on where you live, gave stats on education levels and income, spoke on housing issues; take care of natural resources.
Stephenson: lack of access to healthcare and educational resources, environmental degradation as an issue needs to be prioritized.

Issue 3 - Protecting Environmental Resources
Ramirez: stopped liquified gas terminal, will seek to establish partnership with Clean Power Alliance.
Burum: land management, agricultural contradictory SOAR regulations, Edison Canal and pollution and ag run-off; Ormond Beach, Halaco, & Downtown are environmental disasters.
Flynn: spoke on decommissioning power plants in Oxnard and replacing with something environmentally sustainable that will restore natural state of land.
Quirk: issue in Ventura River from '98 about fisheries and environmental state of river, local governments did nothing despite warnings from multiple agencies.
Stephenson: protect soil, agriculture, air, and water; importance of protecting SOAR; infrastructure work needed to mitigate threats from future wildfires, overdependence on oil needs to lead to a transfer to renewable sources of energy.
Herrera: experience with Port of Hueneme and the transfer to green energy through an unfunded state mandate; pursued grant funding.

Q&A began on environmental integrity, Channel Islands Harbor & Fisherman's Wharf, economic and workforce development.

At the conclusion of the Q&A, the candidates each gave a two minute closing statement about their candidacy.

2. SUBJECT: Information on Measure B - "Oxnard Government Accountability and Ethics Act."
RECOMMENDATION: Receive a presentation from City Manager Alexander Nguyen, followed by Q&A.

Chair Villa introduced City Manager Nguyen for his presentation on the upcoming Oxnard Government Accountability and Ethics Act (Measure B) on the March 2020 ballot.

Questions/comments were received by Daniel Chavez Jr, Gabriel Teran, Alicia Percell, Aaron Starr, Audrey Keller, Aaron Greer, and Pat Brown.

F. NEIGHBORHOOD CHAIR REPORTS

Reports were received from: Aaron Greer, Windsor North (gift card for Marvin Boos); Len Shulman, Carriage Square (first meeting at Carriage School at 7 pm concerning homelessness); Paul Henke, East Village (neighborhood cleanup, groundbreaking for new high school); and Audrey Keller, Channel Islands (neighborhood council meeting presented by Nguyen and staff, toured harbor with staff member from Senator Diane Feinstein's office); Diana Velzy, next neighborhood meeting Feb 27, spring cleanup March; Teran, Nguyen to present Measure B

G. EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

Chair Villa: went to Cal Gisler meeting, efforts to activate dormant neighborhood councils and increase participation, speaking with PTAs to assist in this effort; 1st Vice Chair Teran: invited Aaron Starr to next Fremont South neighborhood meeting.

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Suggested topics for future meetings included from Carlos Quiroz, Redwood: change time of meetings from 7 pm to 6 pm, asked for vote at next meeting; Daniel Rydberg, El Rio West: requested that INCO E-Board provide input to the City on homeless shelter; need her name, she's not down with changing time from 7 to 6; Pat Brown, Five Points Northeast: does not support changing time.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Chair Villa adjourned the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Smith
Executive Secretary