

**Central City East Project Area Committee
Monday March 2, 2009 PAC Meeting
Patten University, 2433 Coolidge Avenue, Student Activity Center**

(The minutes are in draft form until approved by the PAC)

Tom Thurston, Chair of the Project Area Committee (PAC), chaired the meeting. The meeting started at 6:34 pm.

I. Roll Call

- a. See attached roster of attendance.

II. Open Forum

No speakers

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion (by Peter Marcotte, seconded by Eugene Smith): To approve the January 5, 2009 PAC Meeting minutes.

Vote: Motion approved by consensus.

IV. Administrative Items

- a. Nominations for PAC positions.

None.

- b. Announcements from PAC community organizations.

- i. Multiple PAC members discussed the Conflict of Interest Form 700, due April 1st from all PAC members. Staff agreed to send out e-copies of the form for those who did not receive via the mail.
- ii. Kathy Chao stated that Lao Family is offering foreclosure intervention counseling on a one-to-one basis, by appointment. Appointments are booked until April, but exceptions can be made for urgent matters. Also, Lao family is offering VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) services every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.
- iii. Frank Rose informed the PAC that the East Oakland Boxing Association's Smart Prove program was having a fundraiser via Pappo's in Alameda located

at 2320 Central Avenue. Thursday, 3/4 from 5:30 – 10:30, 20% of the restaurant's revenue will be donated to the organization, which is looking to purchase a facility.

c. Council item updates and other Staff administration

- i. Theresa Navarro-Lopez gave quick status updates on the Student PAC member item and 2 acquisition items, all of which were heard by Council.
- ii. Theresa gave an update on the demolition of 2777 Foothill boulevard, and informed the PAC that the next steps would be a feasibility analysis. Claudia Burgos from Councilmember De la Fuente's office gave their appreciation to the PAC, as the site had been a neighborhood blight for years.
- iii. Theresa gave an update on the demolition of the 3 parcels on Wallace Street. She reminded the PAC of the history regarding the properties and discussed the ownership issues the Agency had to deal with.
- iv. Kimani Rogers and Preston Turner highlighted a Façade Improvement Project at 5320 Foothill Boulevard and informed the PAC that the project is almost complete.
- v. Kimani Rogers and Bari Scott discussed the grand opening of the Orchards at Foothill, which happened February 27th. Kimani encouraged the PAC to check out the affordable housing development built by Affordable Housing Associates and partially funded by CCE NOFA funds.
- vi. Marge Gladman from Housing and Community Development (HCD) informed the PAC that she will be retiring as of April 3rd. She spoke of the quality affordable housing projects such as Orchards at Foothill that the PAC and her department have helped to establish. Marge introduced Meghan Horl, who will represent the HCD department at CCE PAC meetings for the foreseeable future. Meghan Horl introduced herself and provided her contact information to the PAC.

V. Review of CCE Visioning Workshop & PAC process.

- a. Larry Gallegos presented. He discussed the information that was gathered from the January 10th workshop and the draft plan that was presented to the PAC in their monthly packets. He presented an example of the Existing Priorities section and the Action Plan section in the draft plan.
- b. Tom Thurston had questions regarding the communicated status of the streetscapes and the timelines/due dates as displayed. Larry responded that the streetscapes continue to be works in progress and that the timelines as well as other aspects of the streetscapes are consistently changing.

- c. Art Clark stated that he didn't see a connection between the work done by the PAC in the February 2008 retreat with the action plan derived from the January 2009 retreat. He also had issues with the proposal for an Area Plan as he questioned the need for another plan. He stated that the CCE area is built out and needs more focused planning than an Area Plan. He thinks they should be working with the community to identify sites that need improvements as well as working with OHA or other agencies/partners/stakeholders. He gave examples of sites/parcels at 82nd and MacArthur, 77th and Bancroft and 75th and MacArthur. Larry responded that the Area Plan was in response to feedback from representatives from the Elmhurst sub-area and the desire by staff to offer the service to the other areas as well. There are current initiatives by staff to address blight and deal with the streets of MacArthur. Staff is pursuing identified sites for purchase, but OHA has expressed no interest in selling their sites. Staff continues to welcome more feedback regarding the Vision document draft from PAC members.
- d. Tom Thurston next presented to the PAC the results of the ad-hoc Process sub-committee meeting with CCE staff. The sub-committee explored how the sub-areas can better communicate with staff as well as be more effective as a group. There was also discussion regarding the PAC being provided with an increased number of -and more consistent- updates on existing projects and actions by CCE staff. It was suggested that informal, unofficial meetings between sub-area members be held to discuss issues and items. This could lead to a more efficient use of the PAC and staff's time during regular meetings. These informal sub-area meetings will occur immediately before the regular PAC meeting, but will not allow a quorum to be met, and could occur in multiple rooms if necessary.
- e. Gilda Gonzales added that the crux of the ad-hoc committee's decision was to allow each sub-area to meet as a group and discuss/focus upon the "who/what/when" of projects or programs within their sub-area. The feasibility and guidance of the proposed Area plans would be the initial item the sub-areas can discuss. She would like to use the San Jose matrix model supplied during the February 2008 retreat as an example.
- f. Art Clark stated that he would like to work within the sub-areas for some planning, but still wanted a unified CCE Area Vision and does not want that to be lost in the focus on the sub-area plans. Jean Blacksher said that she would like to focus more on an "Action Plan" and less on a "Vision." The PAC has been flooded with "visions" in the past, and she would like to now see more action.
- g. Bari Scott expressed concern that the Eastlake group could devise such a plan and wanted to know how CCE staff would help to bring an Action Plan or Area Plan to culmination. Tom responded that staff will bring their professional expertise as well as provide consultants who can add their expertise/skills, while the PAC members will provide the neighborhood familiarity/expertise as well. Gilda stated that the PAC can provide "drilldown" neighborhood expertise and direction. The sub-area meetings can also allow potential developers or those seeking funds in specific parts of CCE to talk to the individual sub-area groups and discuss the aspects of the project with them, first.

- h. Tom Thurston stated that the other item the committee discussed was the Annual Calendar. There were various aspects of the Calendar that were important,, but he specifically would like to have two meetings a year on a high level topic that is area-wide and will look at not only the CCE Budget, but also focus on the Vision on a semi-annual basis. Two Calendar options were up for consideration. The major distinction between the two was the number of meetings that would be dedicated to hearing funding requests.

Motion (by Kayode Powell, seconded by Art Clark): To approve Calendar Option 1 (Dedicates March, June, September and December as meetings where Funding Requests will be heard, excluding the NOFA. Budget and Vision Updates will occur in February and July. NOFA presentations and approval will occur in October and November. January, April, May and August will focus on Miscellaneous Themes or Topics).

- i. Bari Scott had concerns regarding the number of funding requests brought forth before the PAC and the amount of time available to adequately hear each request. Kimani Rogers responded that staff can provide the monthly mailout packet one week earlier, for PAC to review. The PAC would be strongly encouraged to review the material before the meetings and contact staff or the appropriate party before the meeting for any basic/clarifying questions to more efficiently use the PAC meeting time. Also, the informal sub-area group meetings can be used to clarify some aspects with those requesting funds.

Motion (by Kayode Powell, seconded by Art Clark): To approve Calendar Option 1 (Dedicates March, June, September and December as meetings where Funding Requests will be heard, excluding the NOFA. Budget and Vision Updates will occur in February and July. NOFA presentations and approval will occur in October and November. January, April, May and August will focus on Miscellaneous Themes or Topics).

Vote: 15 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 Abstentions. Motion passed.

VI. Rebuilding Together Oakland Funding Request

- a. Kym Luqman, of Rebuilding Together Oakland (RTO) presented. Kym provided background regarding the organization and specifics on the funding request. She stated that RTO has been around for 15+ years and has provided services to many people, including seniors, low-income individuals and foster care providers. RTO also makes heavy use of volunteers to help with repairs. For their April Rebuilding Programs, RTO receives the bulk (70%) of its revenue from corporate sponsorships with the remaining assistance coming from other sources. To date, RTO has helped approximately 500 homes in Oakland. RTO is seeking \$50,000 in funding from CCE to help with projects within CCE.
- b. Art Clark wanted clarification on the destination of funds. Kym responded that 83% of RTO's funds is directed towards programs and 17% is directed towards

administration. For the CCE funding, the funds will be dispersed towards expenses including materials and staff.

Motion (by Gilda Gonzales, seconded by Frank Rose) to approve staff's recommendation to provide \$50,000 in CCE funds to Rebuilding Together Oakland.

Vote 16 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions. Unanimous approval.

VII. Update on CCE Neighborhood Enforcement Team (NET) program

- a. Sergeant Todd Mork, the Field Supervisor of the East Oakland NET unit, presented. He provided background information regarding the NET, as well as discussing some of the NET's achievements. NET has been in operation since 2007. There are 4 NET officers that patrol the CCE Redevelopment Area and 4 that patrol the Coliseum Redevelopment Area. The NET unit was set up to target areas in East Oakland with the highest percentage of violence, drug related issues and blight. The unit covers from 35th Avenue to the San Leandro border along MacArthur, Bancroft and Foothill Boulevards. They work with other Oakland Police Department (OPD) units, including Vice, Prostitution, Narcotics, etc. The NET will notice trends and attempt to identify offenders. An example is to identify and arrest individuals who violate a "stay away" order (order where they are forbidden to be in an area where they were previously convicted of committing a crime). The NET unit is in the top 5 of arrests, and if the NET unit is removed that could be translated into a result of 1000 less arrests. Sgt Mork gave his contact information (773-6051 or tmork@oaklandnet.com).
- b. Gilda Gonzales asked about more information and the effectiveness of a "stay away" order. Sgt Mork responded that once the offender ventures into the boundaries of the stay away area they are in violation of a court order and can be arrested. Historically, the DA hasn't enforced the order as much; however they are doing it now. It doesn't solve the problem, as the offenders just move elsewhere within the City, but it is a step.
- c. Jean Blacksher inquired as to whether the NET targets areas, if there is a plan, if the plan is working, and how is the plan evaluated. Sgt Mork responded that the NET has targeted patrol areas. The area has had a small decline in both numbers and percent of incidents. He would not say that it has had a major effect, but there is a minor effect on criminal behavior. The offenders started to come out after the NET hours. The officers began to adjust and vary their hours to adapt.
- d. Gilda Gonzales asked if the NET partners with other units. Sgt Mork responded that the NET unit works with different departments and units within OPD. He works with other sergeants within OPD and there is coordination between different units and officers. The CCE NET unit works with the Coliseum NET unit, and Sgt Mork oversees both.

VIII. Items for the next PAC meeting of February 2nd 2009.

- a. Bari Scott asked for more information regarding what bailout funds were available or being pursued. Larry Gallegos responded that staff can provide the list from CEDA Public Works department that displays the improvement projects pursued by the City.

IX. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27.