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SVTC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 4, 2018

7:00 pm

Marriott Courtyard Sorrento Valley

Call to Order: 7:00 P.M.

Present from the SVTC Board were Susan Carolin, President; Julia Schriber; Lil Nover; and Wayne Cox. Absent from the Board were Jutta Birkenthal and Aycha Efe. Representing elected officials were Anthony Nguyen from Scott Peters' office, and Luis Pallera from Chris Cates' office. Among the invited guests were Bruce Brown and Al Radick from the Mira Mesa Recreation Council; Barbara Gordon, County Office of Education (COE), and Program Director at Friday Night Live; Judi Strang, Ninth District PTA Health VP; Kelly McCormick, Director at Damsel in Distress; and Peggy Walker, San Dieguito Alliance for a Drug Free Youth. Also in attendance was Democratic candidate for District 6, Tommy Hough.

Susan commenced the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Susan delayed approval of the November meeting minutes. Wayne had distributed them electronically following the meeting, and in print form prior to the start of this meeting, but because this was going to be a busy agenda, the delay was employed for the sake of convenience.

Luis Pallera:

1. Thanked the SVTC for its participation earlier in the day with Councilman Cate to discuss the myriad Marijuana Production Facility (MPF) applications in Sorrento Valley. These are currently being considered by either the Torrey Pines Community Planning Board (TPCPB) or the Mira Mesa Community Planning Group (MMCPG).

2. Thanked the SVTC for it's contribution of 25 individual toys that they had delivered to the Toys for Tots pancake breakfast event in December.
3. Handed out the Councilman's Public Safety Related Regulations for Non-Retail Marijuana Related Businesses. Allen Young is the Committee Consultant on this issue for D6. Chris Cate is Chairman of the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee for the City.
4. Announced that March 15, 2018 will be a D6 Awards program event at Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport, Crownair Hangar. More information will follow.

Anthony Nguyen:

1. Reviewed several of the issues the Congressman had worked on in December, and distributed his 2017 Year in Review handout.
2. Presented Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition awards to each SVTC Board member.
3. Announced that Congressman Peters would be visiting the SVTC in early 2018.

Tommy Hough, Democratic candidate for District 6, spoke briefly regarding his candidacy in his challenge to Chris Cate.

Susan introduced our guests, courtesy of Lil, from the Mira Mesa Recreation Council: Bruce Brown and Al Radick. Both spoke briefly and distributed an MMRC Community Outreach flier that listed (1). how the MMRC distributes and collects information related to MM recreation facilities/functions, and (2). the 12 MM parks, their major facilities, and the improvements for each that are under review.

Susan opened the forum on discussion of Marijuana Production Facility (MPF) applications in SV. She gave a brief description of the challenge our neighborhood faces regarding these businesses.

Julia reviewed the results of the meeting in Councilman Cate's office at 9:30 that morning.

1. Four retail operations per District will be allowed. D6 already has theirs. Each major community in D6 has one. The closest one to SV is on Roselle St.
2. 40 MPFs will be permitted in the City. Because there is no limitation to the number that can be placed in a Council District, and three of the districts don't have any industrial zoning, D6 will have to be very diligent in resisting becoming "Pot Central."
3. The City's major concerns were outlined as Crime, Advertising, Ventilation/Water Purification Systems and the fact that this is a Cash Business.
4. Detection of violations will be the responsibility of citizens.
5. Guidelines are not yet set in stone.

Wayne distributed his notes from the meeting with Councilman Cate. He brought out a box with the 21 MPF applications that the MMCPG has received since it's last meeting in November. Seventeen of these are scheduled to be heard for the first time at the MMCPG meeting on January 11th.

Susan started an around-the-room commentary. The most notable comments were:

1. Barbara Gordon: The Statewide oversight of the pot industry is the Bureau of Cannabis Control, the result of the Rohrenbacker Amendment.
2. Judi Strang (9th District PTA Health VP): Discussed the review process, the role of the Hearing Officer, and the importance that CEQA reviews precede planning group approvals of applications.
3. Kelly McCormick: PTA's are alarmed at the City's vote to legalize the distribution of marijuana. The County Central Committee is gathering serious research on the health implications of marijuana and are hoping to educate the Council and Mayor's office on the human impact this decision is going to make. This is in spite of the Council not having heeded the facts that Police Chief Zimmerman had given them prior to their vote in September.
4. Peggy Walker: Has considerable experience fighting the cigarette industry. There is a condition called Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome (chronic cannabis use, accompanied by cyclic episodes of nausea and vomiting). High intensity marijuana products will now be available for general access, and this syndrome has increased radically in Colorado since it legalized recreational use.
5. Bruce Brown: Our efforts should be directed to the Mayor's office. Eric Young is the Mayor's rep and we should invite him to our next meeting. We should not let up on our efforts to influence thinking in the Mayor's office.
6. Tommy Hough: His experience in Pennsylvania in the 1980's was that prohibition leads to violent organized crime.

Wayne asked Judi Strang what she thought about:

1. The City's Pueblo Lands Ordinance provisions being employed at the planning board level to block MPFs from affected buildings in SV and MM. She thought it had considerable potential, though the act affects a highly limited area.
2. U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' statement that he would challenge the distribution of marijuana in the states that had legalized it. General discourse followed regarding this states rights issue.

Susan announced the meeting had ended at 9:05 P.M.

Wayne Cox, Recording Secretary