



Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
Hemet Public Library- 2nd Floor
Thursday, May 24, 2012 - 3:30 PM

AGENDA RECAP

- 1. Call to Order-** *Chairman Dan Goodrich called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.*

Present:

Jim Connell	Gary Fowler	Eva Gifford
John Gifford	Daniel Goodrich	Frank Gorman
Eric Gosch	Mona Groff	Connie Hall
Linda Krupa	Mary Ann Mari	Robert Masson
Sharon McComb	Michael Ramirez	Larry Smith
Valerie Velez		

Absent: Patti Drusky Norm Kyriss Stefany Nelson

- 2. Comments or corrections to the April 23rd CAC Agenda Recap-** *Chairman Dan Goodrich and CAC members*

It was MOVED by Larry Smith, SECONDED by Jim Connell, and unanimously agreed to approve the April 23, 2012 Agenda Recap as presented.

- 3. Informational Presentations by CAC Members:** *(Intro. by CDD Deanna Elliano)*

a. Hemet Community Action Network & Drug Free Communities Grant-
Michael Ramirez of MFI recovery

CAC Member Michael Ramirez, also the Project Coordinator for the Hemet Community Action Network (CAN) Coalition gave a detailed presentation of the group's program.

The main goal of Hemet CAN is to reduce underage use of, and access to drugs and alcohol. Environmental strategies include focus on laws, ordinances and policy changes, as they look to create a population level change with the idea that over a period of time environmental factors influence behavior. Efforts are focused on these strategies because they are cost-effective, sustainable, and they target all demographics. Last August the coalition received a Drug Free Communities federal

grant, which was authorized by Congress. The Hemet CAN meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at City Hall in the Administration Conference Room.

A current project of the Hemet CAN is the Family Pledge – Social Host Ordinance. The pledge is for parents to not provide alcohol to minors in their homes, and is an educational component which begins the process for an environmental strategy that leads to an ordinance. Other tasks of the Hemet CAN include collaboration with other coalitions, data collection (including community assessment and the California Healthy Kids Survey, which should soon be received by the Hemet Unified School District); ordinance research, and support of Hemet ROCS!

Questions:

Mona Groff: Is there anything in place that would allow the imposition of fines on parents that provide alcohol to minors?

Michael Ramirez: Currently, no.

Police Chief Dave Brown: There are laws on the books that make it illegal to provide alcohol to minors.

Jim Connell: How are parents advised of this program?

Michael Ramirez: The program was only recently launched, and we will be working on community awareness.

Eric Gosch: How many people receive compensation from the grant?

Michael Ramirez: Compensation goes to one full-time person (himself), and one half-time meeting coordinator. The coalition works for the outcome that the City desires.

Discussion ensued regarding extending the program throughout the valley.

Gary Fowler: The main effect of a family agreement is to get education and momentum going, but it is not anything that is particularly enforceable.

Michael Ramirez: Reiterated that it is an educational component.

Larry Smith: What year are you in of your last grant?

Michael Ramirez: Year one.

Chair Goodrich: Do you have a lobbyist group?

Michael Ramirez: Every coalition that receives funds meets to collaborate and see what is effective.

Eric Gosch: Who exactly is MFI Recovery?

Michael Ramirez: My Family Incorporated, which is the fiscal agent for this grant.

Eric Gosch: Where are they located?

Michael Ramirez: One location includes La Vista, which is a residential home in San Jacinto, but they are spread throughout Riverside County.

Member of the Public: What does the \$625,000 grant cover?

Michael Ramirez: There are many different budgets built into the grant.

The CAC thanked Mr. Ramirez for his presentation.

b. Hemet USD Programs regarding Health Education and Substance Abuse
-Valerie Velez, HUSD Health Education Program Consultant

CAC Member Valerie Velez gave a brief presentation regarding the Hemet Unified School District's programs regarding Health Education and Substance Abuse, which she explained, allows the HUSD to extend the work they are able to do at a school based level into the community.

Ms. Velez advised that 20,000 homes would be receiving the Family Pledge in their registration packets, which will help get word out to the community, and discussed the tobacco use prevention program that is being implemented within the HUSD. She referred to the exciting "PLUS" (Peer Leader United Students) Program, which is a student-driven violence prevention program, and discussed the Healthy Kids chart that had been distributed to the CAC, which included trend data in percentage form. She briefly reviewed the chart data and explained how the survey worked, noting that all programs listed on the sheet were supported by grant funds, with no cost to the HUSD's general fund. She added that the survey was focused on grades 5, 7, 9 and 11, and that she was looking forward to sharing current data upon receipt.

Dan Goodrich: Commented that it was alarming to see that more students were smoking marijuana than cigarettes, and that a large number of kids were not eating breakfast.

Connie Hall: Is gateway use of tobacco an aspect?

Valerie Velez: The survey identifies students that are at a higher risk of using tobacco, and the HUSD goes through a special program for those kids. The perception of younger students is that a large percentage of high school kids use tobacco, and perception tends to be very determinant of behavior.

Michael Ramirez: Noted that the dollar tax imposed with Proposition 28 would supplement grants that will assist not only with intervention, but also prevention. He added that this was a worthy proposition, and this community would benefit from those funds.

4. Main Presentation & CAC Discussion Topic: "*Crime Free Multi-Family Housing Program (CFMHP)*"- Brent Cain, City of Hemet Community Investment Department

Crime Free Multi-Family Housing Program Coordinator Brent Cain gave a Power Point presentation outlining the various aspects of the CFMHP that was first implemented in Hemet in 1997 under the direction of former Police Chief Lee Evans. He provided some background information on the program, which had commenced in Mesa, Arizona in 1992 and had since expanded across the United States and some other countries as well. He gave some statistics and provided handouts that he referred to throughout his presentation. He discussed the CFMHP Manual and the program phases, the under-utilized We-Tip line, and the "Safe Streets Now" program.

Mr. Cain ended his presentation by noting that the Police cannot solve all of the crime problems in the City without the assistance of the community, adding that the CAC could feel free to call him with any questions regarding the programs.

(Copy of Power Point presentation with related handouts is attached for reference.)

5. Public Outreach Groups - Assistant City Manager Mark Orme

Assistant City Manager Mark Orme addressed the CAC, noting that a great deal of interest had been expressed regarding the dissemination of information on the Hemet ROCS Program to the community. He reviewed various methods that had been presented to him, including:

1. Media – Press Enterprise, Valley Chronicle, the local radio station KATY FM, the local television station on Channel 3, KTLA Channel 5, FOX News.
2. Community Establishments – churches, Board of Realtors, community newsletters, Hemet Unified School District, Valley Wide, YMCA, Chamber of Commerce, the Community Action Group, and the Hemet Valley Medical Center
3. The City website
4. Utility bill inserts
5. The Hemet Library
6. Government Agency Liaisons
7. Public & Town Hall Meetings
8. Block to block walks – which would be the most impactful.

Mr. Orme asked that any additional ideas be emailed to him.

6. Update on Hemet ROCS Ordinances and Priorities -Community Development

Director Deanna Elliano

Community Development Director Deanna Elliano distributed an updated ordinance list, and advised that of the 19 ordinances on the list, nine had been adopted. She noted that these ordinances would be of assistance to the CFMHP and Safe Streets Now programs by providing additional implementation tools.

7. CAC Roundtable - CAC Chair & Committee Members

CAC Roundtable stating topics of primary concern or interest to CAC members and suggested topics or speakers for future meetings.

Chair Dan Goodrich: Inquired regarding how a nuisance property that had been boarded up could be returned to a habitable state with board removal.

CDD Elliano: Responded by explaining how the current process works to secure a nuisance property that is either uninhabited or inhabitable due to health and safety reasons. Once a property has been secured, we cannot make an owner fix up their property in a given period of time; we can only insure it is not a “nuisance” and then charge any clean up or board up back to the owner.

Mary Ann Mari: What if the property is bank owned?

CDD Elliano: The property still must be abated, which incurs charges and fines that must be paid by the bank.

Chair Goodrich: Asked for clarification that a property owner could not be forced to bring their property back to a habitable condition.

CDD Elliano: Confirmed that this was technically correct. There is currently no overall mechanism in place to require a property owner to restore the property to a habitable condition in a given period of time, however, if a property is on the market, the City has been utilizing NSP program funds to acquire such properties, improve them, and then sell them to qualified buyers. The City is in the process of working with our prosecutor's office to strengthen our codes to compel more action in a timely manner by the property owner.

Sharon McComb: If a complaint is submitted to Code Enforcement, does the chronic nuisance ordinance kick in?

CDD Elliano: Most of what Code Enforcement is responding to is property abatement. The chronic nuisance abatement ordinance deals more with the behavior of the occupant...such as noise, public drinking, or crime, that is a result of the occupant's behavior. We are trying to pull together a Hemet ROCS task force to smoothly integrate all of the affiliated ordinances and departments.

Jim Connell: Referred to an article in the Press Enterprise regarding a teen center in Murrieta, and suggested that the City of Hemet needs to provide a safe place for kids to go that will help keep them out of trouble and prevent them from causing trouble. Perhaps the churches in the area could take turns hosting events to give the kids something to do.

Frank Gorman: Noted that the PAL Program works with Valley Wide to provide a safe place for kids to go, where they can engage in a variety of activities and work with the police.

Chair Goodrich: Added that PAL also offers an afterschool program.

Jim Connell: Asked how the problem kids were informed of this and any other similar programs.

Frank Gorman: Responded that Valley Wide spreads the word, and there is also word of mouth through other kids that attend the program.

Chair Goodrich: Noted that HUSD also shares the information.

Valerie Velez: Expressed curiosity about the status of the expiration of the Smoke Shop and Hookah Lounge urgency ordinance and if/how it related to the tobacco licensing ordinance.

CDD Elliano: Advised that the ordinance that is currently in place is more of a land use ordinance, but that tobacco licensing could also be considered. She added that it was a violation of the health and safety code for retailers to have glass pipes or other similar paraphernalia for sale.

Michael Ramirez: Inquired about businesses that are not really marketed as tobacco or smoke shops, but still offer related items for sale.

CDD Elliano: Noted that she had been receiving information that some of the general retail stores were carrying tobacco related products, and that further investigation into the practice was needed.

Council Member Smith: Asked for clarification regarding the time frame before an adopted ordinance takes effect.

CDD Elliano: Indicated that an ordinance would take effect 30 days after its adoption, or second reading.

Discussion ensued regarding public nuisances, followed by a discussion of panhandling and how it could be prevented.

Unidentified Member of the Public: Indicated that panhandling is more easily prohibited on property that is deemed "private."

Council Member Smith: Requested that a discussion regarding panhandling be added to the next agenda.

CDD Elliano: Stated that she would obtain feedback from the City of San Jacinto and the County of Riverside prior to the next meeting regarding their efforts on many of the issues that Hemet ROCS is addressing.

Eric Gosch: Regarding the updated program status list, he would like CDD Elliano and Chief Brown to let the CAC know which of the remaining, unadopted ordinances were considered a priority by the City. Also, what can be done to start holding landlords accountable for their problem tenants? He referred to the Rental Unit Registration and Inspection Ordinance and Crime Free Housing Requirements, noting that this would be very difficult and expensive to enforce, with a great deal of investment involved.

CFMHP Coordinator Cain: Explained that Code Enforcement has a system in place to resolve the issues of nuisances, and that some additional compliance would likely be seen with the Hemet ROCS ordinances. He noted that the crime free lease addendum is for complexes that have joined the CFMHP, and suggested that the Rental Unit Registration & Inspection ordinance would get some compliance through ordinance implementation, since compliance will then be required rather than optional. He added that those complexes that are part of the CFMHP volunteered to make their communities crime free, and this ordinance would hit those who are not volunteering to do so.

Eric Gosch: Stated that he remained confused regarding this issue, in spite of the many Power Points he had seen, and the explanations provided.

CDD Elliano: Advised that the rental registration ordinance was still a work in progress, which was why the review process had not been started yet. We are currently researching how other cities with similar ordinances are implementing the program and what its benefits and downfalls are. Either way, the City needs to send a message that if you are going to have rental property, you need to maintain it and keep it safe.

Discussion ensued regarding the Rental Unit Registration and Inspection Ordinance and the Crime Free Housing Requirements.

Mary Ann Mari: Suggested additional round table time be allocated for future agendas so that the CAC members could discuss the various ideas that they have, and share the thoughts of people that they have spoken with.

Chair Goodrich: Stated that he would like to know where the City of San Jacinto stands on all of this.

Eric Gosch: Noted that he had counted seven shopping carts this morning on Florida Avenue within the Hemet city limits from San Jacinto Street heading west.

CDD Elliano: Advised that staff was currently working on retailer compliance through a Shopping Cart Containment Plan. She explained that the current practice was for any unidentified carts that are retrieved by city crews to go to the scrap metal yard, while those retailers that are identified on their carts may be charged a fine for each occurrence that the city picks up and impounds their carts before they can retrieve it.

Mona Groff: Asked if the carts were required to have wheel locks.

CDD Elliano: Explained that any new retailers that utilize shopping carts are required to have wheel locks, but that while existing retailers are encouraged to put wheel locks on their carts, they could not be required to do so.

8. Comments from the Public –CAC Chair

(This is an optional portion of the agenda at the discretion of the Chair, and allowed as time permits. The Chair may also limit the number of comments and the length of time for each speaker)

Unidentified Member of the Public from Valle Del Sol: Inquired about foreclosed property and how a resident would acquire ownership information to contact the bank regarding problems with the property.

Chair Goodrich: Responded that a title search would provide current property ownership information.

Unidentified member of the public: Noted that there are 287 homes in their community that are in foreclosure.

Discussion ensued regarding how the City deals with vacant and foreclosed properties and what efforts they expend to get property owners and/or banks to abate these properties.

Discussion followed, initiated by Chair Goodrich, regarding homes that are boarded up by the City.

CDD Elliano: Explained that the city only boards up homes if there is a broken window or unsecured door and the property owner, or bank, has failed to secure the residence. Citations are issued to the property owners, and the City's abatement costs are placed as a pendency on the property. Usually we do not recoup these costs until the property is sold.

9. Identification of Action Items for Next Meeting- CAC Chair and City Staff

No items discussed.

10. Adjournment to the meeting of June 28th, 2012- CAC Chair

It was MOVED by Chair Goodrich, SECONDED by Mona Groff, and unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m. to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Hemet ROCS Citizens Advisory Committee set for June 28, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. at the Hemet Library, 1st Floor meeting room.