

## MEETING NOTES

### Community Redevelopment Action Committee

June 27, 2002

6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

#### *I. Welcome and Introductions*

Mike Robinson, the City's Planning and Redevelopment Manager, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the Committee and made the following announcements:

- The City's website has been updated to include a new Redevelopment Agency section. Information about the Agency, project areas and the Community Redevelopment Action Committee is now posted at <http://www.cmredevelopment.org>
- The Redevelopment Agency has opened a "Storefront office" at the Westside Police Station and will be open Fridays from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Mr. Robinson then introduced John Douglas of Civic Solutions, the Committee facilitator.

Mr. Douglas thanked the Committee for taking the time and effort to participate in this process and introduced the other members of the consultant team: Rigoberto Rodriguez, Jennifer Lilley, Gus Salazar and Christine Villegas (a handout was distributed with biographical sketches of the facilitators). Mr. Douglas then offered some introductory remarks describing the facilitators' approach to the project. He stated that all of the Committee members are there because they want the Westside to be a better place to live or do business in the future, and that the consultants' job is to provide a framework to help the Committee explore ways to improve the community and discover common ground. He noted that every person in the room brings with them a different set of experiences, values, beliefs and attitudes, and that the facilitators do not assume or require that anyone will change their fundamental beliefs during this process — but that it might happen for some. He described a scene from the movie "Annie Hall" that illustrated the point that two sincere people can look at the same set of facts and draw completely different conclusions.

Mr. Douglas offered his opinion that the best chances of finding some significant areas of agreement will be if the Committee takes the time and effort to understand the frame of reference and interests of our fellow Committee members. He quoted one of the "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" by Stephen Covey — *Seek first to understand, then to be understood* — and relayed a story about the quote attributed to former Russian leader Nikita Krushchev, "*We will bury you*". He noted that some historians now believe Mr. Krushchev intended that remark in the same sense that we might say "I will bury my father", meaning that I expect to outlive my father. Instead, Americans interpreted the statement as a threat, leading to a continued deterioration in Soviet-American relations. The point is that we should be careful that we do not misinterpret the statements of others, especially those from different cultures.

Mr. Douglas then reviewed the remainder of the agenda with the Committee, and introduced Rigoberto (Rigo) Rodriguez who led the Committee in a small group exercise.

To introduce the exercise, Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the following principles the groups would be asked to abide by:

- Participating in discussions and sharing the floor
- Focusing on ideas, not individuals
- Seeking first to understand, then to be understood
- Seeking always to contribute to informed decision-making
- Raising issues and questions that need attention in a timely manner
- Accepting irreconcilable differences gracefully

Mr. Rodriguez explained the purpose of the exercise was to discuss the symbols Committee members have selected to represent the positive characteristics they hope to see in their community in the future. Following the small group discussions, a reporter from each group described the symbol they selected to represent their hopes for the future. The following symbols and themes were described:

A house	American dream
Wonder sponge	Green
Monte blanc pen – elegant but useful	Quality
Balance – family/economics/environment	Unity
Sense of community	Diversity
Art	Pride
Safety	Respect
Equestrians	Efficiency
A bridge	Economic resources
Newport Beach	Rose quartz
Harmony	Up from the ashes
Change	Clean & safe

## ***II. Break***

## ***III. Roles and Functions***

Mr. Douglas reviewed the roles and functions of the participants in this process as follows:

### Committee members:

- Content expertise
- Vision
- Participation

### Elected officials:

- Consider Committee recommendations & provide feedback
- Final decisions & implementation

### City staff & other consultants

- Resources for Committee - background data & technical expertise

### Consultant team

- Provide structure and ground rules
- Keep the process on track

Mr. Rodriguez then walked the Committee through the handout titled “Ground Rules”. He asked all members to review this document carefully before the next meeting. All members will be asked to sign the Ground Rules to indicate their agreement to participate under those provisions. The Committee then returned to their small groups to discuss the Ground Rules and identify questions.

The full Committee then reconvened the following questions were raised:

Logistics/procedural issues

- How will absences be handled?
- Why doesn't each Committee member submit a written statement of issues and solutions?
- Will the meetings be videotaped for cable broadcast?
- How will we find common ground? What if we can't get 75% consensus?
- Will Committee materials be posted on the website?
- Will meeting minutes be prepared?
- Will agenda materials be sent in advance of the meetings?

Substantive issues

- Is this an Ad Hoc committee?
- What is the City's commitment to this process?
- The Committee purpose is too narrow (eliminating blight) – should revisit the scope
- Will the Committee have the opportunity to review & edit reports to the Council and the final product? Can members make their own presentations?
- What is the role of non-members?

***IV. Next Steps***

The next meetings were scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Attendance:

**Members Present**

C. K. Allen  
Sheri Barrios  
Eric Bever  
Michael Berry  
Terri Breer  
Stan Brown  
Paul Bunny  
Mirna Burciaga  
W. James (Jim) Clough  
Vanessa Cocroft  
Janice Davidson  
Tom Egan  
Christian Eric

**Members Absent**

Mariko Beaver  
Fred Bockmiller  
Dee Cinquegrani  
Michael Clifford  
Max DeZempen  
Terrance (Terry) Douglas  
Donald Elmore  
Chris Fewel  
James Fisler  
Paul Frech  
Bill Gartner  
Dan Gribble  
Donn Hall

**Members Present**

Kathleen Eric  
John Feeney  
Mary Fewel  
Constance Fleming  
Aviva Goelman  
Hidegard Gonzales  
Robert Graham  
Frank Gutierrez  
Steven Hayes  
Chris Hayden  
Alexander Hernandez  
Gregory Hohman  
Melanie Hohman  
Howard House, Jr.  
Lisa Lawrence  
Allan Mansoor  
Eva Marin  
Steve Marx  
Stephen J. McNash  
Martin Millard  
Russ Ramirez  
Ralph Ronquillo  
David Salcido  
Cal Sawyer  
Heather K. Somers  
Michael Steiner  
Shelby S. Swayze  
Roberto Torres  
Edilia Torres  
Bill Turpit  
Cathy Waters  
Robert R. Wine

**Members Absent**

Mike Harrison  
Phil Jimenez  
Debby Koken  
Gregory O. Lee  
Karen McGlinn  
Bob Miller  
Thomas Morrow  
David "Chip" Robinson  
Athena Sawyer  
Ann Stawicki  
Vernon K. Taylor  
Tom Vasich  
Alma Vegara  
Robert Watts  
Larry Weichman  
Corrine Zartler