

Sunnyvale Neighborhood Association Meeting Report Monday, October 22, 2012

Agenda

- 7:00pm - 7:05 pm - Introductions
- 7:05pm - 7:35 pm – Lisa Rosenblum, Director of the City of Sunnyvale’s Library and Community Services Department
- 7:35pm – 8:15 pm – Anne Ehresman, Executive Director of the Silicon Valley YMCA/Project Cornerstone
- 8:15pm - 8:30pm – Roundtable Discussion
- 8:30pm - Adjourn

Meeting Report

Tonight's meeting was very interesting and informative. Here are the notes taken by Reid and modified slightly by Wayne

- Information on the library and community services from Lisa Rosenblum, Director of the City of Sunnyvale’s Library and Community Services. The presentation included inputs from Robert Walker, Assistant City Manager, and Kent Steffens, Director of Public Works
- Options and info on exploring a Branch library on the north side of town
- Options and info on exploring a new, larger main library
- Presentation from Anne Ehresman, Executive Director of the Silicon Valley YMCA/Project Cornerstone, on Project Cornerstone and how we can help our community youth thrive

Lisa Rosenblum, Director of the City of Sunnyvale’s Library and Community Services Department

FYI: The Civic Center is the complex at Pastoria and El Camino Real, 852 W El Camino Real. The Community Center is at Remington and Manet Drive, 550 East Remington Drive.

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

This department includes all recreation programs, senior center, pool programs, Columbia Neighborhood Center, community resources, and more!

BRANCH LIBRARY EXPLORATION

City staff, with direction from the city council, has reprised their April presentation.

Four reasons we need a branch library:

- We don't have enough space in our current library for a city our size. We have the least space per capita than any city in Santa Clara County, and we have 2000 patrons per day.
- There is a clear need in North Sunnyvale where they are bound by 101, 237 and Lawrence Expressway which makes it harder for them to venture to the library on the other side of town
- There is a need for more programs in the community
- There are fewer cardholders in North Sunnyvale as it's harder for them to get to the current library

Current building was built in early 1960s- along with city hall and public safety with not much renovation. We have been deferring maintenance for decades (some buildings are actually portables that have been used for over 10 years).

The Lakewood area is a good spot for a branch library because there are no services currently available there, and the demographics include many youth and seniors who are the biggest library users and the ones that find it most difficult to get to the library. Northern Sunnyvale is favored (See slide show for details, http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Portals/0/Sunnyvale/LIB/doc/Library_Study_Session_Final_073112rf.pdf).

Location of branch library at Lakewood Park:

- Lakewood park is shared school/city property
- Existing parking spaces are available
- Pool was closed due to cost and low use
- Could be located on pool property to not interfere with open space or playgrounds, etc.
- Cost would be 7-9 million dollars for 7,000-10,000 square feet which includes design through construction and startup (furniture, computers, etc.)
- Annual cost estimated 200-300K/year

How to pay for project:

- City is working on selling the Raynor activity center (not the park) which has been leased out for 20 years. Didn't get a good lease offer- council decided to sell the center and proceeds could be used a for branch library.

Next steps under consideration:

- More community outreach
- Environmental review
- Sell Raynor Center
- Design
- Build

NEED FOR NEW MAIN LIBRARY

Current library is 60s design for 2012 user. Users want:

- Larger collection, more programs and services
- Green building
- A flexible/adaptable building

40% of the current library is used by kids, only 8% is allocated to kids (can't easily change this!)

Would like to have a library that grows with our community... some options for a new building:

- Library located at Community center near the Senior Center and other recreational buildings would grow from 60,000 square feet to 80,000 square feet
- Could be on Michelangelo (cost \$74 million) or on corner of Michelangelo and Remington (cost \$66 million)- both have been explored.
- Also exploration of library at Civic Center at or near the current library - cost \$73 million
- Staff considers renovation of the current library to be less cost effective

How to pay for this? Two options:

- Tax Measure (last one failed but could try again)
- Redevelopment of current civic center, i.e., find a developer to build or lease some of the current property at civic center and use the proceeds. The current buildings have not been maintained so something needs to be done.

City Council wants exploration of the community center location, and the redevelopment option at the civic center location for funding. This is just in the exploration phase; *nothing has been decided yet.*

The library video presented by Lisa Rosenblum, Director Library and Community Services is available at:

<http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Departments/CommunityServices.aspx>

The slide presentation for the library options, presented by Kent Steffens, Director of Public Works, is available at:

http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Portals/0/Sunnyvale/LIB/doc/Library_Study_Session_Final_073112rf.pdf

A Branch Library webpage has been set-up at:

<http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Departments/SunnyvalePublicLibrary/BranchLibraryConcept.aspx>

Project Cornerstone- Anne Ehresman

Project Cornerstone is doing work to help youth thrive in Santa Clara County. Kids are not just parents' responsibility, not just schools' responsibility but they are the responsibility of our community! Even if a child has a difficult home environment- if they have 5 caring adults in their life they will make it! It's important that our neighborhood offer a safe, caring environment.

We think of "assets" as things we own - cars, houses, money - but Project Cornerstone is focused on developmental assets- these are the emotional assets we own. 41 development assets have been identified to help kids thrive. With less than 10, kids would likely be in Juvenile Hall, with less than 20 they are likely engaging in risky behaviors-- with more than 21- they are having less risk behaviors and more thriving behaviors. We can all help! See the list of assets and learn more at www.projectcornerstone.org. We strongly recommend that you visit the website.

Project Cornerstone did a county wide survey of our children which shows that as kids move from elementary school to middle then high school, they lose some of the key assets they need to thrive. We can all help by making our kids feel important, safe and listened to. Say "hi" to them as you walk by!

Good news is that Project Cornerstone has done 3 surveys (5 year intervals) and we are making progress over time.

Project Cornerstone is very synergistic with our neighborhood associations and presents great opportunities to become involved as a group.

Thanks!

Reid and Wayne

Contact Information:

- Wayne Amacher – Cherry Hill Neighborhood – wamacher@amacher.com
- Reid Myers – Cumberland South Neighborhood – reidsmail@yahoo.com
- Sunnyvale Neighborhood Association Website – <http://www.sunnyvaleneighborhoods.org>
- City of Sunnyvale Neighborhood Association Webpage - <http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/IntheCommunity/NeighborhoodAssociations.aspx>
- Library – <http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Departments/SunnyvalePublicLibrary.aspx>
- Community Services -- <http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Departments/CommunityServices.aspx>
- Project Cornerstone – <http://www.projectcornerstone.org/>
- Nathan Truitt – City of Sunnyvale Contact for Neighborhood Associations – ntruitt@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us