CACC Meeting Notes – May 22, 2019

GENERAL MEETING – Start time: 7:00 pm

**Police Report** – Cmdr. Tom Higgins, VPD

- College area report included: 0 commercial burglaries, 7 residential burglaries, 7 vehicle burglaries, 6 larcenies (thefts), 7 thefts from unlocked vehicles, 0 robberies, 0 stolen vehicles.
  - Crimes have evened out, not primarily thefts from vehicles, but remember to remove your valuables and lock your cars.
  - We’re seeing an increase in residential burglary, in daytime & at night while people are home. One burglar made access via a doggy door. Keep your garage locked. Access also being made via attached garages.
  - Pockets of crime in a single neighborhood are sometimes the work of a single person.
  - Report thefts so police can increase patrols in your neighborhood.

- **BEWARE** of phone & internet scams that are becoming more frequent. REMEMBER that NEITHER the Social Security Administration NOR the IRS ever call you or email you:
  - The Social Security scam
  - The IRS scam
  - The “kidnapped” relative scam
  - VPD includes warnings about emerging scams on its website, Nextdoor & Facebook: [https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Faq.aspx?TID=51](https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Faq.aspx?TID=51)

- RING Doorbells are very useful to deter crime and/or capture criminals. RING has a **FREE app** so that you can see footage captured by your neighbors. You can stay informed without investing in the RING system.

- **VPD has joined “Neighbors by RING,”** the new Neighborhood Watch that send real-time crime & safety notifications directly to your phone. To join the VPD on the FREE Neighbors App, text venturapd to 555888. Learn more at: download.ring.com/venturapd.

- The RING system costs $199. The videos are very helpful to VPD. If you install the system, register your camera with VPD. [https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/1244/Video-Camera-Registration](https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/1244/Video-Camera-Registration)

- **Discussion:**
  - Question: We’ve had a number of traffic fatalities lately. Are these taking up significant officer time?
    - They can impact officer time, but primarily take up hours of investigators’ time.
  - Police non-emergency number is 650-8010.
Ventura College Report – Sue Royer, College Services Supervisor

• Graduation was May 17 at 10:00 am. Of 2300 graduates, 800 participated in the graduation ceremony.
• The college has made its choice for a permanent president. Dr. Kim Hoffmans, prior VP of Academic Affairs has been selected for the permanent position.
• Summer projects include a thorough cleaning. The solar project is scheduled to begin next Spring of 2020 for 4 months duration.
• Rotary will put on its traditional July 4th fireworks show at the college.
• CA State budget unveiled by Gov. Newsome has reduced COLA (Cost of Living Allowance) by .2%, but increased the CA College Promise program to fund the second year of college for first-time students by $5 million. He has also included $40 million for physical improvements, deferred maintenance, water conservation, solar, etc.
• Thank you to all who have given to the VC food pantry.
  o Remember that **YOU CAN BRING DONATIONS TO CACC MEETINGS!** Sue will deliver any donations to the pantry.
  o If you’re a Ventura College Student, staff, or community member interested in volunteering or donating to the pantry please contact ASVC (805-289-6487) or the [Basic Needs Department](805-289-6583).
  o Hours of Operation (Located within the Campus Student Center…old Cafeteria) Monday – **Thursday 9am – 4pm; Friday from 9am – 12pm.**
• Events: [https://www.venturacollege.edu/about-ventura-college/college-events/arts-and-events](https://www.venturacollege.edu/about-ventura-college/college-events/arts-and-events)
• VC Calendar of events: [https://www.venturacollege.edu/calendar-node-field-date](https://www.venturacollege.edu/calendar-node-field-date)

**Telegraph Road Improvements** - Rob Corley

• Safe Routes to School Project between Mills & Ashwood includes:
  o Installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection of Telegraph Road and College Drive;
  o widening Telegraph Road adjacent to four properties between Mills Road and Ashwood Avenue to allow the installation of bike lanes;
  o improved bike and skateboard facilities on campus, and
  o installation of a new pedestrian crossing at Telegraph Road and Glen Ellen Drive
  o This project also serves as a major traffic safety improvement project. This area of Telegraph Road has experienced severe traffic collisions in the past since the existing curb line along the north side moves out into the roadway adjacent to four properties.
  o This project will align the curb lines along the north side of Telegraph Road so that there is a consistent curb line.
  o Budget:
The current total estimated project cost to construct the capital project is $2,824,281, which includes administration, design, construction management, inspection, construction, purchase of new right of way and temporary construction easements, and a construction contingency of 10%. Current project appropriations are:

- Federal Safe Routes to School Grant $621,300 (22%)
- Gas Tax funds $536,039 (19%)
- City Gas Tax budget $1,666,942 (59%)

Public works:
- Repaving of Telegraph to begin mid-summer. The repaving project will be accomplished in stages over a period of about one year.
- Edison poles must be moved out of the newly aligned roadway.
- Toro has been selected as the contractor for the project.
- New surface will be installed from Mills to Ashwood.
- Measure O (additional sales tax) is providing funding for many roadway improvements.

Youth Tobacco/Vape Use & Availability – Helen Tosh, Ventura County Public Health

- Brief history of cigarettes:
  - First manufacture began in 1880
  - The discovery that cigarettes are linked to cancer was publicly acknowledged in 1964.
  - In 1966 the first health warning appeared on cigarette packs.
  - Tobacco is the most preventable cause of death in the U.S.
  - In the last few years e-cigarettes have become extremely popular due to a huge marketing push by the industry.
    - They are battery powered & there are many types of e-cigarette devices.
    - Their use is called “vaping.”
    - They use small vials of liquid nicotine & flavors called “juices.”
    - Trace amounts of other chemicals have been isolated from these nicotine delivery devices, including antifreeze (ethylene glycol), acetone, ethyl benzene, formaldehyde, and rubidium.
- Marketing of these e-cigarette devices has impressed on youth that vaping is “cool.”
- Brands of devices:
  - JUUL, based in SF, dominates 75% of the $15 billion market. 1 pod = 1 pack of cigarettes.
  - PHIX is 4 times the size of JUUL.
- Issues involving youth & e-cigs:
  - Use of nicotine before age 18 builds a path toward addiction.
  - E-cigarette devices are unregulated.
  - The kaleidoscope of flavors attracts youth.
  - JUUL looks like a jump drive.
  - In Ventura we have 118 tobacco retailers, 40 within 1,000 feet of a school.
  - A 2018 survey found that 23% of them sold to youth under age 21.
  - In 2016 1 in 5 11th graders had used e-cigs. In 2018 that number rose to 3 in 5.
  - In 2018 60% of California high school students had vaped.
  - Single juices can be sold for $1.
• Coupons are available for e-cigs in stores to bring the price down to permit youth to purchase the devices.
• There are no restrictions on flavors.
• The 1994 Lee Law only applies to advertising at liquor stores. These are no regulations for cigarette shops. The law restricts window coverage to 33% of total window space so that one can see inside from the street. This is a safety issue (reduces crime) as well as a transparency issue to discourage sale to underage youth.

VC Public Health and VUSD is proposing a local ordinance to require a Tobacco Retail License that would be renewed annually.
• It would establish standards to improve safety by limiting window coverage.
• Flavors could be limited or banned.
• Packaging could be regulated.
• Locations of sale could be regulated.
• The annual license fee would fund enforcement.
• In Ventura County ONLY Oxnard has a Tobacco Retail Licensing Ordinance. It was passed in 2003 and at current costs is underpriced. The annual fee was set at $60/year. To cover costs, this fee should be $300/year.

• Discussion:
  • What do e-cig devices cost? Ans: JUUL device + pods is $49.99 less an available $15 coupon. The pods are NOT refillable though there are online videos purportedly showing you how to do this. Pods are 4 for $21.99 (sold in packages of 4). 1 pod contains nicotine = 1 pack of cigarettes
  • Health issues? Ans: 2,500 incidents per year are related to nicotine poisoning & explosions of the devices.
  • How long have they been on the market? Ans: 5 years
  • What are we doing about this? Ans: From Mayor LaVere – he has instructed our city attorney, Greg Diaz, to draft an ordinance to create a Tobacco Retail Licensing program in Ventura for Council consideration. This is a youth crisis. Use among high school students is up 78% from 2017 to 2018 and up 50% among middle school students. It has started up among elementary school students who see older youth vaping. A model ordinance will be brought before Council as a policy consideration.
  • Mike commented that Phillip Morris was caught paying teenage “influencers” on social media.
  • Jim Barroca suggested that we contact our state representatives to take action on a state level.

• CACC agreed at our April meeting that we wanted to vote on this issue at our May meeting. We intend to hold a formal vote, which requires all members voting to have attended 2 of our last 5 meetings. A formal vote allows our council to take an official position on an issue, which includes a letter to the city informing Council of our decision.
  • Mike Johnson moved to support the VUSD resolution in favor of a Ventura Tobacco Retail License ordinance.

• Motion: “I move that the College Area Community Council send a letter to the Ventura City Council in support of a citywide tobacco retail licensing ordinance in the City of Ventura as approved by the Ventura Unified School District Board of Education on March 26, 2019.”
- Linda Hatcher seconded.
  - Discussion included a concern about restricting adult access. This would not be the purpose of the ordinance. It would be narrowly focused on protecting youth.
  - 12 members eligible to vote were present. A formal vote was taken.
  - The vote was unanimous in favor of supporting the VUSD resolution calling for an ordinance.

Senior Housing in the College Area – Rob Corley
- Rob presented the outreach by a couple developers who are interested in developing independent senior living units along the Telegraph corridor in the college area due to proximity to the hospitals and the availability of open lots.
- The basic concept is 3-story senior apartments like “Silvercrest,” a lower-income senior housing project near the 126 that keeps a waiting list. These ideas are not like the “village” concepts that we have discussed in the past.
- Funding is available for this type of housing.
- One developer is private, the other a non-profit that builds both independent living and assisted living senior housing.
- A 2-bedroom apartment would rent for approximately $2,000 per month.
- Important to have sufficient parking for the facility for staff, residents & visitors.
- Discussion:
  - We have no specific rules for parking for senior housing facilities.
  - Why are these developers interested in Ventura? Ans.: We have a growing senior population & we have 5 other senior facilities in the college area.
  - 2-3-story max? Ans: They are looking at 3-stories as the concept.
  - The lots along Telegraph are CPD (Commercial Planned Development) & C1. C1 is limited to 3-story development, which is what is being proposed.
  - Assisted living facilities require a CUP (conditional use permit)
  - One attendee thought another Townhouse-type structure at 5-6 stories would be ok.

Ventura Vision, General Plan & the College Area – Kathy Bremer
- This presentation attempted to tie our basic values (our vision) to our General Plan elements & future of the College Area.
- The 2005 General Plan development began with the citizen committee that developed the “Ventura Vision” whose elements include:
  - Environmental
  - Economic
  - Social
  - Planning & Design
  - Collaboration
    - Collaboration is where the Community Councils come into the picture to offer ideas, recommendations and critique to help fashion a workable and sustainable General Plan.
    - We can provide input to the mandatory General Plan elements:
      - Land Use
        - Will determine how the city & the College Area will look in the future, especially along the Telegraph Corridor.
• Housing mix will be continuing to be an important consideration in the College Area.
  • Commercial: professional & medical offices, retail

• Circulation
  • Ventura needs a citywide traffic study so that changes are planned for the entire city rather than piecemeal, which has rerouted traffic onto alternate routes of least resistance.
  • Traffic calming
  • Improved rapid transit
  • Appropriate & consistent speed limits
  • Separated bike lanes
  • Pedestrian safety upgrades

• Housing (see Land Use)

• Conservation & Open Space
  • The College Area is lucky to be home to Camino Real & Arroyo Verde Parks, both large regional parks.
  • Our area is bordered to the north by open space on the hillsides, preserved as a cattle ranch in perpetuity by the Rancho Sanbuenaventura Conservation Trust.
  • Just to the east the Ventura Land Trust will acquire Harmon Canyon & open it for public access.
  • To the west Mariano Rancho will hopefully be acquired for restoration & public access and Grant Park & the Ventura Botanical Gardens already preserve the westerly hillsides.
  • SOAR will protect farmland to our east until 2050.

• Noise: review & update standards as needed

• Safety (hazards)– including Climate Impacts
  • Urban-rural interface hazards
    ▪ Fire entering the community from the hillsides
    ▪ Debris (dead vegetation & trash) accumulation in barrancas creating fire danger
    ▪ Mud flows from the hillsides down barrancas & city streets, filling debris basins & blocking drainage
  • Earthquake fault along Foothill Road
  • Underground gas & oil lines (active & abandoned)

• Air Quality
  • We must plan future growth to continually improve air quality

• Environmental Justice (new for this update)
  • We must plan to avoid saddling underserved communities with dangerous and/or toxics-emitting businesses.

We can recommend additional elements pertinent to our community.

Some ideas:
• Strategic fire prevention & mitigation
• Climate change mitigation, adaptation & resiliency
• Watershed planning (rivers & barrancas)
• Local Coastal element - Local Coastal Program (LCP)
Discussions, Announcements and Other Issues

- **Library News** – Kathy Thomson, Treasurer, Friends of the Library (FOL)
  o No library report – Kathy not present at meeting.
  o The Summer Reading program has begun.
  o FOL Events: [https://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org/?page_id=9](https://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org)
  o Ventura Friends of the Library [https://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org](https://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org)

- **College Area Businesses** – Rob Corley
  o No new information. Denny’s (old CoCo’s on Ashwood) is supposedly still on-track to start renovations this summer.

- **City Water Update** – Mike Johnson
  o Casitas is at 45% capacity. We remain in a water shortage event.
  o Direct Potable Reuse project is moving forward. The EIR comments period is closed.
  o Breeze article came up again. Mound Basin is NOT “ours” take to take all we can. It is also poor quality water that must be blended with high quality water before it is delivered to homes. We take 2,300 AF (acre feet) of water from the Ventura River, but the city wants to take 4,000 AF. The State Water Board is currently studying the river to determine what instream flow must remain for fish habitat.
  o Drought monitor: Beware of the depiction that we are “not in drought” since by next winter we may have drought conditions return depending upon how the rainy season goes. We MUST continue to conserve. Water will be scarce in California now & into the future. We must prepare for that scarcity. [https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA)

- **Announcements & Discussion:**
  o Issue of the old Santa Barbara Bank & Trust came up. The poor building is a mess to everyone’s frustration due to the buyer not being adequately informed of the building’s historic status prior to purchase. Now the buyer is trying to sell after the building has been abandoned & vandalized. No new buyer has been found. Rincon Consultants was dealing with this renovation project.

Adjournment approximately 9:00 pm

**Next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2019, at the Wright Events Center on the Ventura College Campus.**