



PUBLIC SAFETY CITIZEN TASK FORCE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

6:00 p.m.

Branciforte Middle School Cafeteria
315 Poplar Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

MINUTES

- I. Vice-Chair Howes Call to Order
 1. Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Vice-Chair Howes.
 2. This meeting will include a public forum and the structuring of the next phase of the TF process.
 3. Task Force members absent: Kris Reyes and Deb Tracy-Prouix.

- II. Approval of October 2, 2013 Minutes
 1. October 2, 2013 Minutes approved.

- III. Layout of the public forum is discussed.
 1. Those who left comment cards may go first.
 2. Each individual gets three minutes to speak.

- IV. Public Forum
 1. Citizen 1
 - a. Disappointed in the way things have gone over the years in Santa Cruz. It has become a welcome mat for criminals and drug addicts, though not for families or law abiding citizens.
 - b. Would like to see all the money that is going to fund the HSC at 115 Coral St. go somewhere else.
 - c. Is scared that she has to tell her children both what needles look like and that they have to stay away from them.
 - d. Other communities do not have the same severity of problems.
 2. Citizen 2
 - a. Neighborhood crime is obviously a major problem as the TF has identified it as a primary concern.
 - b. Santa Cruz suffers under a very high per-capita crime rate.
 - c. Night Walks seem to be an appropriate example of best practices for the citizens. San José recently took on a night walk-like program.
 - d. Collaboration is key. There is an organization called Citizens' Associate for Alliance for Peace and Safety that gathers monthly. An organization like this might be a potential approach to combatting neighborhood crime.
 3. Citizen 3

- a. The Resource Center on Nonviolence is offering free workshops on conflict resolution.
 - b. These workshops address the discomfort and fear that often is accompanied with a presence in downtown and other places in our community. The community needs to encourage our own confidence in appropriately responding to conflict both in our streets and neighborhoods.
4. Citizen 4
 - a. Many people want to do something to help out the community, but do not know what or how.
 - b. In depth workshops break the barriers community members face. They can help residents intervene in appropriate situations both safely and comfortably.
 - c. Green Dot is a project that attempts to do just that.
5. Citizen 5
 - a. Has been a Santa Cruz resident for 11 years. Throughout that time, the surrounding areas have worsened significantly.
 - b. Is very sympathetic towards treatment, however, treatment does not always work for everybody.
 - c. The mentally ill should be a primary target for treatment.
 - d. There is a growing group of people in Santa Cruz who are seriously committed to a criminal lifestyle. These individuals need to be dealt with. Programs will not sufficiently help people like this. This is where the police need to intervene.
6. Citizen 6
 - a. The worsening situation in Santa Cruz has become very dire in the last few years.
 - b. Santa Cruz used to be a very safe place; it is not the same anymore.
 - c. The state of affairs in Santa Cruz is borderline repulsive. The parks, beaches, streets, etc. are heavily polluted.
 - d. Changes need to be made fast.
 - e. Hopefully in the upcoming future the City can receive more manpower to help combat its issues.
 - f. The downtown and surrounding areas resemble skid row. It has become a very disturbing place.
 - g. After last week's meeting, it became apparent that it is a very good idea to approach youths and encourage them at a young age.
7. Citizen 7
 - a. The City's main problem seems to be the judicial system. It is a revolving door and needs to be addressed before any other problem.
 - b. Would like to see more police officers after this process.
 - c. Santa Cruz High School is an open campus. This, however, attracts issues such as leftover needles, mattresses and sleeping individuals. The high school has decided it is time to become a gated campus; however, the cost is drastically high.
 - d. It would help greatly if there was some way for the police to come visit the campus before teachers came and kicked people who camped overnight.
 - e. Is scared for her daughter to walk downtown to go to the library. The library itself is a major problem.
 - f. There will be a major exodus from the campus soon if something is not done about this situation.

8. Citizen 8

- a. Hopes the TF will focus on solutions that are actual possibilities. People need to look locally and ask the community what they can do to help the City, not the other way around.
- b. Growing the City's volunteer base will help better public safety.
- c. Too much time was spent on challenges revolving around homelessness.
- d. More outreach needs to be done in order to engage the Latino community.
- e. Santa Cruz Neighbors is an organization that needs to be better utilized. They already have a great neighborhood outreach.
- f. The high rate of truancy needs to be addressed.
- g. More after school programs need to be offered to students.
- h. Funding for SIP should be increased.
- i. The police department needs to continue receiving public support, especially in regards to curbing gang violence.

9. Citizen 9

- a. Has found many discarded tickets and citations just lying around the community.
- b. The courts seem to not care about the well being of the community. There must be consequences for individuals' actions.
- c. How does a person qualify for EBT? Our County gives out more dollars than any other County in the state.
- d. It is very clear that there are many issues ta the County level.
- e. The City is not in the health services business. We are paying the price for services that are not working.
- f. The County needs to be more cautious in regards to marijuana. Marijuana grows affect community safety.
- g. Marijuana directly relates to the IQ in our youth. The public should be extremely concerned about this.

10. Citizen 10

- a. Violence is not a new issue. Santa Cruz was seen as the murder capital of the world in the 1970s.
- b. However, homelessness and gangs are two major things that have changed dramatically within recent memory.
- c. The City is too tolerant of these issues. In order to better mitigate these issues, the City's tolerance must be changed to zero-tolerance.
- d. Why does law enforcement not get involved in overdose cases (in regards to illicit substances)?
- e. Is concerned for his son's safety. Wearing the wrong colored shirt increases his son's chances of facing harm.

11. Citizen 11

- a. Homeless people do not choose to sleep in bushes, our doorways, etc. One major cause is the lack of beds at the homeless shelters.
- b. What is really Santa Cruz's situation? The City has strict panhandling laws; there are long waits to get into shelters, etc. The City cannot expect the challenges posed by the homeless to simply disappear.
- c. This is why Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp is a solution to these issues. There are several successful examples of such places in the country.
- d. Never feels threatened while walking around downtown.

12. Citizen 12

- a. It is important to address after school hours between 3 PM and 9 PM.

- b. There is already a program that exists for after school sports. It should be funded by the school district as opposed to pay to play policies and donations. This leaves low income students out of the chance of playing sports.
- c. That program should be fully funded and supported. It currently has so many barriers against it.
- d. The City should offer matching funds for a fully funded program for each school.
- e. Funding would probably be less than \$70,000 a year per high school. This would be considered as an investment.

13. Citizen 13

- a. The hours after school are critical in the development of appropriate behaviors.
- b. Young men in particular need activities which are mentored with structures, rules and values.
- c. Parks and Recreation have hardly done anything with the money that they receive. The City has pursued high density planning. There is a park plan dedication, but by any means, is a complete failure. It has received over \$60 million since 1973, has required many acres, but there has been almost no development.
- d. More parks and areas are needed to increase participation in active sports.

14. Citizen 14

- a. Fred Keeley suggested four categories for amendments stemming from the TF. Officials of City and County schools should be added to this list of individuals who can enact change.
- b. Areas that need to be strengthened include drug education, after school programs, reduction in truancy rates and graduation.
- c. What are the districts' after school sports programs? How many students are being served? What are the demographics of the students being served? Can the programs be expanded? Are they being funded adequately? Is there funding for weekend after school programs?
- d. What are the programs/practices to fight truancy? Can these programs/practices be improved? What is working? What is not working?
- e. What can be offered to help keep students in school long enough to graduate successfully? Are programs to graduate working? Are they properly funded?
- f. Vocational education programs need to be readdressed.

15. Citizen 15

- a. There is currently too much negative attention on the City. The City needs to be rebranded. It needs to administer a media blitz that states the City is no longer the place to come when you are down and out.
- b. Santa Cruz is known nationally to house a wide range of many issues.

16. Citizen 16

- a. Not all homeless individuals are problematic, however, mainly the aimless, reckless and drug addicted are.
- b. Appropriations should be made for the mentally ill.
- c. The needle exchange program should be ended immediately. The argument that it saves lives is now invalid. It only costs about \$15-\$20 a month for clean needles to sustain an addiction to heroin (or other intravenously taken narcotics) where the heroin for that addiction costs

about \$1,500 - \$2,000 a month. If an individual can pay that much for heroin, they can set aside that small amount for needles.

d. There needs to be accountability of individuals using needles.

17. Citizen 17

a. How does the City deal with all of these problems (especially those regarding anti-social behavior)?

b. Jailing them has no effect. Fining them has no effect. What can be done?

c. The only leverage the City has is controlling the things it gives to these individuals. If an individual commits even a municipal code infraction and they are receiving benefits (such as free food, housing, etc.) they should not receive them for a set amount of time.

d. This should be the same if an individual is involved in a gang.

18. Citizen 18

a. Much of volunteerism has been based around helping children and creating a decent and safe living environment.

b. The 3 PM – 9 PM time frame is a huge issue. Anything to better address this time period is vital.

c. To create a safe and healthy community while still providing social services, there must be accountability. Being entered into and remaining within an information system should be applied to individuals receiving services. This can include an identification card or a system that shows that applicable individuals have received services, how many times they have gone through a program, etc. If there is some way to measure the success or failure of programs must be done.

d. The City must measure limits and fix failures.

19. Citizen 19

a. Many social service programs lack accountability. There needs to be an improved focus on rules and consequences.

b. Would like to see more accountability in the community's social services.

c. Would like to see an increase in focus on drug treatment programs. It does not seem that providing needles and such actually helps addicts change.

d. Santa Cruz's parks are not safe.

e. There are only a small number of individuals who are causing a large amount of Santa Cruz's issues.

20. Citizen 20

a. Does not feel unsafe in the community.

b. What is the reaction to the supposed welcome mat (previously mentioned)? Is it an erosion of civil liberties? Is it a cut back in programs? There actually seems to be a contrast to the welcome mat, homeless and transients seem to constantly be harassed by citizens, police, etc.

c. The sensationalism around the recent tragic events is overwhelming.

d. An us versus them attitude needs to be avoided.

21. Citizen 21

a. How are Santa Cruz's problems affecting its visitors?

b. Many families have canceled their plans to stay and/or visit the City.

c. Due to its horrible condition, the City is sometimes viewed as a joke by visitors.

d. The condition of the City seems to be reaching a point of absurdity.

V. Presentation by and Discussion with Fred Keeley

1. Will only deal with the process, not with actually posing recommendations. Will not delve into the content of the recommendations.
2. The first issue that needs to be discussed is the notion of the roles that various individuals will play in the process.
3. How do you gather and digest all of the information that has been provided during the previous process?
4. Staff has provided panelist, sources, research, etc. on a progressive basis. It is the TF member's role to now narrow down everything that has been provided to what will be relative to the work you want the staff to do.
5. A draft report needs to be provided so TF members have a document to work with.
6. During the refinement process, TF members should instruct the City staff on what information they desire to have before they recommend something. The spreadsheet (included with materials) is helpful.
7. Recommendations should be intended to be thought provoking.
8. Fred Keeley's proposed process will include convening and working through a series of drafts in order to refine them. In order to better allow the chair and vice-chair to proportionately contribute to this process, it may be of help to have a convener. This is where Fred Keeley would be of assistance.
9. The proposed process would mimic the legislative process. The legislative process would be applicable to the TF's efforts for the work that has been done is close to legislating.
10. To mimic the legislative process, the TF needs to begin with a draft bill, or piece of legislation. From there, the TF needs to discuss the legislations' future outcomes. The TF would benefit from bringing forth their initial thoughts on what they have seen and heard so far.
11. The preliminary draft is not to restrain or confine the TF's opinions or outlooks.
12. If this is the desired path, the staff should provide this draft legislation at the starting point. Timing is very important here, particularly if a document is to be adopted before October 31.
13. The TF will have at least three three-hour sessions to dissect and refine the draft document. Some of these meetings might even require an extra hour or so. Do not plan for this extra time, though allow for it to happen.
14. In regards to finishing the draft document, make sure the TF receives it well in advance of the next meeting.
15. At this moment, the intent is to have a draft document by the close of Friday.
16. Make sure the TF combs through every line and page of the document during the refining process.
17. By marking "TA" next to an item, the TF is indicating they have a tentative agreement. A TA is not final but it does signify that the TF has neared a consensus on that item.
18. TF Member Comment: This sounds like a good idea, though it does not provide a way for TF to prioritize the issues and how to add issues.
19. Because the document is a draft, all additions and deletions are fair game.
20. Some questions that need to be asked while addressing issues include: is it framed correctly? Does it capture the consensus view? Is the consensus view correct?
21. Motions could amend solutions to the drafts. The TF might want to make them slightly formal. This goes for both motions to amend or substitute motions. Motions to amend tend to address things that are on the right track, where substitute motions tend to address things that need to be restarted.

22. Question for Fred: Mention of scale of agreement (I'm in favor, I'm in favor of it with a few points of contention, it's OK, it's OK and I can live with it or I will block it). Is there time to have meetings before we have discussions?

VI. Dialogue Between TF Members

1. Answer: I do not think that is my call. I would think that there is time.
2. Comment by Susie: Process could be taking the spreadsheet that has been provided. Then translate that into a recommendations that include what themes we are trying to address, what the statement of the issue is, what is the vision/goal of the task force and what are the proposed actions to reach that goal. The idea is the first time the TF has these, they will prioritize them. We are not bound to the first set of the recommendations.
3. TF Member Comment: This process seems to skip out on the process of brainstorming. It would seem that we would send you individual ideas and then have a meeting that would suggest our ideas.
4. Response to the last comment: The material is just a recording of what the TF has heard so far. It would be an important tool.
5. Comment not by Fred: It is important to have the ability to ask the staff about the data, research, etc. The TF right now does not have the capacity to do so.
6. TF Member Comment: There should be deliberations on how to better address the Latino population. Perhaps there should be further outreach to the beach flats. Acknowledgment that there have already been efforts to address some of the Latino population. However, there are other ways to reach the Latino community.
7. TF Member Comment: The City needs to do a better job reaching out to the community. It is critical especially now that the TF is nearing the end of its process. It is really unfortunate that the TF has not had a large percentage of the Latino community to engage in the process.
8. TF Member Comment: Though it is late, it seems it is not too late. Is this something that the TF should explore?
9. Response: The TF is very limited unless you want to add more things to the process. The outreach was done, there was not much success, but how do we handle this?
10. TF Member Comment: Perhaps there can be a Spanish translated version of the spreadsheet that has been discussed.
11. Response: Translating takes a lot of time and money if it is to be done properly.
12. Comment: Whether it is now or at the end of the TF's process, the project needs to be translated.
13. Recommendation: Ultimately it will be the Council's job how to decide to move forward. We have several members that could personally do outreach throughout many of the heavily Latino populated areas. It would be the perfect time to do this, especially in the Beach Flats area.
14. Question: What is the Latino population in north County?
15. Response: In the beach flats, it is 86%.
16. Comment: Generally speaking, it seems to be about 50%. If I was part of the Latino community and I did not have my opportunity to put in my input, I would probably reject the report.
17. Comment: A lot of the outreach and engagement is time intensive. There cannot be just one person responsible for all of this.
18. Question: Do we have a timeline? By when do we need to ensure that we have our recommendations?

19. Response: It seems like the question is, do we want to have another public outreach meeting at the Beach Flats community center to try and get that public input.
20. Question: Do you think that moving the location of the public forum will increase the participation?
21. Response: That is why this meeting was moved.
22. Comment: I acknowledge that that was the intent here. However, we need to review our recommendations to the City. I do not know if we have the resources or the time to try and do the appropriate outreach. It should just be acknowledged that outreach was attempted but failed. Outreach is most effective when there is an ongoing relationship with the community. That does not exist right now. It is not my suggestion that the TF does another meeting.
23. Comment: Our decisions in the TF will have a major effect on the Latino community. It seems to be a mistake if we move forward with a large number of the Latino community feeling like they have not been engaged in this process.

VII. Return to Fred Keeley's Discussion

1. So far, it seems as if the TF has been all eyes and ears, and no mouth. It has been the TF's job to receive. Now the TF is pivoting to delivering. During this transition, there may be an interim step to make sure the TF creates before that first product is drafted. This is for the TF to resolve.
2. Assume this has all has been resolved. Still suggests the same process is used.
3. Except for when the TF is undertaking a roll call vote on a motion, any member of the TF at any time can call a caucus. This provides a five to ten minute time out for dialogue. It balances the formality of the meeting with a slightly informal tool. I suggest there is a limit on the number and time of the caucuses. Perhaps that no member may call more than one per meeting.

VIII. Comment and Motion Period

1. The next meeting will be the perfect time to bring personal comment.
2. Limiting the caucuses may be a severe issue, despite the concern over managed time.
3. If the TF is limiting itself to three sessions, it needs to be weary of limiting the number of caucuses. This does not mean there should be an unlimited number of them either.
4. It would be wise to limit caucuses to one per member per meeting.
5. How do you expect the TF members to interact during the caucuses?
6. Assuming the TF does have the document in front of them, they would go through the document in detail. The scale that was mentioned earlier is not a bad idea, especially to spark conversation.
7. The TF may take different directions towards the legislative process. It may be better to refine a document that has already had much more of the TF's input than not.
8. This alternative approach might not be a bad idea.
9. The caucuses should not be too limited.
10. Generally the brainstorming sessions include a white board, allowing a way to easily add/remove ideas. Is there any way to do this?
11. This can only be done if it is in a public meeting.
12. The main matter is whether or not the first draft is delivered this week or next, and with the TF's input or just what has been heard so far.
13. The draft as scheduled is preferable. It would help to know where the TF is at as of now. Perhaps afterwards, edits can be added to Basecamp.

14. I agree with this. Though, would getting a draft before there is the chance to brainstorm would stifle the TF's ability to better recommend solutions?
15. The purpose of the educational phase was to collect as much information as possible. For efficiency's sake, a host of the recommendations will be things that the TF has already considered.
16. It might make more sense to send Susie the TF's ideas before the meeting for them to be compiled.
17. Are the recommendations going to be based on what is in the spreadsheet? There are some things that are concerning, and even illegal in there.
18. The spreadsheet is just capturing what has been heard throughout the process. They are not the City's ideas of recommendations.
19. It is a good idea to have the ideas sent in before the next meeting. My understanding is that the Council wanted our recommendations, so it would only make sense that the first draft of the document includes our ideas and recommendations.
20. There might be redundancy that could slow down the process if the TF sends in its recommendations before the first draft is finished.
21. The redundancy may be actually quite useful, for it could help prioritize certain recommendations based on how often these points were risen.
22. If there were some way to have some process that is not the legislative process in the beginning would help with the TF's start.
23. Maybe have a starting point of about 20 or 30 points to branch off of.
24. Both the number of caucuses and how the first draft will look like need to be decided on.
25. If the TF follows the white board idea, it seems like it will likely discard the legislative process.
26. There are two ways to address the white board issue. The TF can have the white board exercise as it has been discussed, which will likely push the process back one more week. If the TF takes a similar approach but through the legislative process, it could also take longer. This is because some people will use the process as in depth as possible.
27. Perhaps there could be another way to avoid the white board but still allow it to be a public forum.
28. There will be a screen that projects the document that everyone has, and will display live edits for the public to see.
29. The TF will benefit from ideas that are openly discussed together.
30. Request for a motion regarding the first draft.
31. Motion to submit the TF's written suggestions to staff by Friday October 11, 2013 by 8 A.M. and that staff incorporates them some way into the report.
32. Motion passed with one nay.
33. Request for a motion regarding the caucuses.
34. Motion to limit one caucus per TF member per night, each caucus not to exceed five minutes, and calls to caucus are transferrable between TF members.
35. Motion passed with one nay.
36. While editing the draft, does there have to be a vote on every line?
37. No, only on the lines that require edits.
38. The caucus is not the only time or place for informal discussion.
39. The caucus is close to a last card to play in regards to deliberations. It should not be the first tool to be used when trying to reach an agreement.
40. Request for a motion to approve the process with a change to the caucus as motioned.
41. Motion to accept the process with motioned changes.

42. Motion passes with no nays.

Adjournment -- The Public Safety Citizen Task Force adjourned from the public meeting of October 2, 2013 at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2013, 6:00 p.m., Santa Cruz Police Department Community Room

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Public Safety Task Force meetings will be recorded for the purpose of preparing minute