

LANCASTER NEIGHBORHOOD VITALIZATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 7, 2012

4:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Sturtevant called the meeting of the Lancaster Neighborhood Vitalization Commission to order at 4:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioners Banks, Grooms, Harris, Moulton, Vice Chairman Derryberry, Chairman Sturtevant

ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS: Assistant to the City Manager, Public Safety Manager, Recording Secretary, Recreation Supervisor II

INVOCATION: Billy Willis, Lancaster Baptist

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Chairman Sturtevant

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR – *AGENDIZED ITEMS:*

David Paul spoke about Item NB 1. He stated he was grateful to live in America and he loves the people in Lancaster. Then there is the Section 8 lawsuit. He stated, “As a resident, if I’m not able to find out whether my neighborhoods are Section 8, what rights do I have”?

CONSENT CALENDAR:

CC 1. Approve the Lancaster Neighborhood Vitalization Commission meeting minutes of January 3, 2012

On a motion by Vice Chairman Derryberry and seconded by Commissioner Harris, the Lancaster Neighborhood Vitalization Commission approved the January 3, 2012 minutes by the following vote: 6-0-0-0; AYES: Banks, Grooms, Harris, Moulton, Derryberry, Sturtevant; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

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NEW BUSINESS:

NB 1. Report From the Deputy Executive Director of the LACDC on Housing Authority Matters - LACDC Deputy Executive Director, Emilio Salas

Emilio Salas gave an update on how the dissolution of the Redevelopment Agencies in the Los Angeles County will affect their process and funding. The cuts due to loss in budget are:

Redevelopment	100%
CDBG	40%
Section 8	25%

The Housing Assistance Funding is handling the loss of monies through staff reductions, merging divisions together, and limiting customer service hours for case workers. Their office will have a 25% reduction of staff and will maintain the same or higher level of workload.

The County is noticing that most municipalities in their jurisdiction are struggling with the funding loss.

There is an appropriation of funds for "Special" Vouchers for homeless veterans. They have received 600 applications for this type of vouchers. Currently the County houses 427 homeless veterans, 20 in Lancaster.

Currently, the County will have sufficient funding for the 22,000 vouchers on file however they will not be able to absorb additional cuts. He stated that the use of current technology has assisted with the inspection process and they have the capacity to maintain at this level.

He stated that the success rate is approximately 40% which means a significant amount of staff time is spent on unsuccessful candidates.

NB 2. Report from the Director of Housing for the City of Lancaster regarding the impact of the dissolution of the City of Lancaster Redevelopment Agency – Housing Director, Elizabeth Brubaker

Elizabeth Brubaker stated that the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency is no longer in place. There are no redevelopment agencies in the State of California. The City of Lancaster has created a successor agency with a board to handle these items. The Redevelopment Agency has transferred assets to the Lancaster Housing Authority. The Housing Authority has no income coming in and no funding at this time.

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Since the homes were transferred to the Housing Authority in order to sell the homes, all real estate listing will now have to be redone and then placed back on the market. The purpose of this was to allow the sale of these properties to continue. The Housing Authority can sell to any buyer that meets the income requirements based on the Los Angeles County median.

She explained that we also lose the Enterprise Zone and can apply again in one year. Elizabeth stated that by losing the Enterprise Zones, we are limited in providing business incentives to new business interested in starting and/or moving to Lancaster.

Chairman Sturtevant invited Elizabeth Brubaker to return to the Commission in three (3) months to give an update on the Housing Authority status.

NB 3. Presentation from Antelope Valley Partners for Health regarding the services and programs they currently offer to residents in the City of Lancaster – Antelope Valley Partners for Health Executive Director, Michelle Kiefer

Michelle Kiefer gave a presentation on the Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH) which was founded in 1999 as a non-profit community based organization promoting health and wellness. This is a collaborative effort by residents, businesses, faith based organizations and government entities.

One of their goals is to decrease the obesity in children. Through this collaborative effort, they launched a “Project Get Fit” program at five (5) of the City of Lancaster’s Wellness Homes. The core part of the program is through exercise and education. AVPH will provide the resources necessary to assist the kids in the program to a healthier lifestyle.

Other programs and resources available to the community through AVPH are: The Antelope Valley Community Clinic, Network, Resource Training Center (NRTC), Antelope Valley Best Babies Collaborative, United We Mentor, Save-A-Smile Dental Program, Healthy People Initiative.

AVPH continues to develop partners and collaborations that will address the health needs of the Antelope Valley residents. They will continue to provide wellness opportunities for the residents to participate in community events such as the Warford Walk and Bicycle Rides. They are actively working with the City in the development of the Trails and Bikeways Master Plan.

Michelle stated that they are always looking for volunteers. There is a particular need at the Wellness homes for individuals with specialty skills and knowledge as well as house sitters while the children are there. You can register to volunteer through their website at www.avph.org

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NB 4. Presentation from Neighborhood Impact regarding the programs and services they offer in collaboration with the City of Lancaster – Neighborhood Impact, Concepcion Harris

Concepcion Harris gave a presentation on how the Neighborhood Impact Homes began as a collaboration of resources in the community.

Within the Piute area, the City of Lancaster conducted a “Lookin Good Lancaster” program to get the resident involved in cleaning up their neighborhood. It was determined that certain neighborhoods within the community had needs that the schools and city could not maintain. In 2008, relationships began to form with the kids and adults in the neighborhood. Eventfully, Neighborhood Impact homes were placed in these neighborhoods.

There was a collaborative effort to get the schools support and involvement in order to succeed. Through additional collaboration with Antelope Valley Partners for Health, Wellness homes and Community Gardens were placed in the neighborhoods.

They currently have a basketball program which has 85 kids enrolled. Concepcion stated that many volunteers are needed to maintain these programs. Without the churches volunteers it would be difficult to continue to make this positive impact to the community. She also stated that they offer tutoring services and “Pet Pals” at the homes.

NB 5. Staff will provide information for neighborhoods that can be the focus of LNVC efforts in collaboration with the Lancaster Sheriff Department and Community Based Organizations. Commissioners will vote on a neighborhood(s) based on staff findings – City Staff

Patricia Garibay gave a presentation regarding two (2) neighborhoods in need of revitalization. The presentation consisted of each neighborhood demographics, resources needs and staff recommendations.

The neighborhoods of Joshua and El Dorado are 1.5 square miles and have had minimal improvements over the years. The Commission, Sheriff’s Department and staff will establish goals and develop a strategy based on the needs of the neighborhood. The Unite Program will be able to focus the program on the neighborhood and gauge the community participation.

Commissioner Harris stated that there really isn’t a nice park in the area, just a shared park with the school and little league. He asked for a copy of Patti’s presentation to be distributed to the Commission.

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Vice Chairman Derryberry stated that while he worked at the "CARES" Program at El Dorado School, the parents were very involved in their child (ren) lives. Felt we would get participation and feedback from parents in the neighborhood.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Derryberry and seconded by Commissioner Grooms, the Lancaster Neighborhood Vitalization Commission approved the El Dorado Neighborhood by the following vote: 6-0-0-0; AYES: Banks, Grooms, Harris, Moulton, Derryberry, Sturtevant; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR – NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

We request any person who would like to address the **Lancaster Neighborhood Vitalization Commission** on non-agendized matters to complete a speaker card and you will find speaker cards on the back table of the Council Chambers. Additionally, we respectfully request that you fill the cards out completely and print as clearly as possible, so that if necessary, the Commission or City staff will be able to contact you either by phone or mail.

Individual speakers are limited to three (3) minutes each. When you approach the podium, please notice there are three lights. The green light comes on when you begin; the yellow light will come on when you have 30 seconds remaining and the red light will come on when your 3 minutes are up.

We ask that you be considerate of the allotted time, to allow other speakers to have their 3 minutes as well. Following this procedure will allow for a smooth and timely process for the Commission meeting and we appreciate your cooperation.

State law prohibits the Lancaster Neighborhood Vitalization Commission from taking action on items not on the agenda and your matter will be referred to staff.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR – NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Lynde Williams – She liked the idea of the "Neighborhood Selection Program". She lives in a blighted area and wanted the commission to understand that some residents do not have the funds to fix up their homes. She suggested they incorporate the community in which they are revitalizing, talk them and find out their needs. Also, get the word out through public transportation as everyone does not have cars, cable or internet. She made the recommendation that the Commission "think outside the box".

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The Lancaster Neighborhood Vitalization Commission meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m. by Chairman Sturtevant. The next meeting will be held March 6, 2012 at 4:00 pm at the Lancaster City Hall, Council Chambers.

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ATTEST:



COMMISSION SECRETARY

APPROVED:



LNV COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES
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I, _____, _____ of the City of Lancaster, CA, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original Lancaster Neighborhood Vitalization Commission minutes, for which the original is on file in my office.

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, CA on this _____ day of _____, _____.

(seal)