

East Richmond Heights Municipal Advisory Council    October 16, 2024 MINUTES

PROPOSED

Hybrid Meeting

Recording on Supervisor Gioia’s YouTube channel: None posted.

MAC PRESENT: Members: Chair: Jon Sargent, Vice Chair: Victoria Curtis, Jinwei Zhang, Joann Pavlinec, Pam deWitt, Alternates: Bara Sapir, Royer Ruiz-Ramirez

MAC ABSENT: None

9 other persons attended in person and \_\_\_ attended via Zoom.

Topic	Presenter	Notes/Actions
	Sargent	Meeting called to order at 6:37 pm.
Minutes to approve	Sargent	Pavlinec moved, Sapir seconded <b>approval of August 21, 2024 minutes.</b> Passed unanimously.
Treasurer’s Report	Mills	\$2300 in Treasury, pending a few items from past Festival.
CA Highway Patrol	Sargent	No CHP officer present.
Contra Costa County Animal Services	Ben Winkelblack, Director	<p>Director Winkelback, a Certified Animal Administrator, has been on the job for 5 months and gave his report in person.</p> <p>Basic facts about the department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● serving 7,000 animal/year</li> <li>● Average stay is 20 days.</li> <li>● Animals must be spayed/neutered to be able to adopt (state law)</li> <li>● Measure X funding will fund 2700 spay/neuter services in the next three years.</li> <li>● Animal Benefit Fund will fund 544 spay/neuter this year as well as community outreach.</li> <li>● July 5 is the busiest day</li> <li>● 3, 998 licenses in June, a 54% increase.</li> </ul> <p>Animal Services challenges are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Down 5 field services officers.</li> <li>● Increasing animal intake.</li> <li>● Shelter is beyond capacity every day.</li> <li>● Medical costs went up 40%.</li> <li>● Veterinary costs have increased 100%.</li> <li>● Increased needs in community</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Usually responding to 300 “holdover calls.”</li> </ul> <p>Animal Services is addressing these challenges by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Adding staff (see below.)</li> <li>● Focusing on “pathway planning:” weekly meetings with partners to coordinate care of animals most in need.</li> <li>● Rolling out barcode scanning to collect health data.</li> <li>● Adding sound-deadening in the cat area.</li> <li>● Planning to house dogs differently.</li> <li>● Opening some of the kennels.</li> <li>● Making a renewed focus on animal licensing, to meet rabies requirements. 37% return to home rate. Goal is 100%.</li> <li>● Reopening “adoption galleries” in the back.</li> <li>● A vet behaviorist has toured and made facility suggestions, i.e. different kinds of beds for dogs; different ways to feed dogs; new ways to lower stress in animals.</li> <li>● There is a cat foster program.</li> <li>● Possibly starting a “Barn Cat” program.</li> </ul> <p>Staffing changes being made are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 new officers have completed training and 4 more are in the training process.</li> <li>● Chief of Shelter medicine is an open position and the Department has begun to recruit for.</li> <li>● A dog foster program person has just been hired.</li> <li>● No dedicated staff right now, for youth programs. (Some partners do “humane education.”)</li> <li>● Hiring an additional medical technician.</li> </ul> <p>Upcoming events include a microchip support event. In answer to audience questions he assured us: strays are not put in play groups; no, there is no longer a facility near Sugar City; he wants partners [i.e. Jelly’s] to succeed.</p>
Regional History Presentation	Cappelletti	Due to technical difficulties the presentation on the ODUMC stained glass windows is postponed to the next meeting.
Discussion Items		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Curtis moved, Sapir seconded: <b>“The ERHMAC increase the amount paid for taking its meeting minutes to \$125/meeting retroactive to the September minutes.”</b> Approved unanimously.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pavlinec moved, Ramirez seconded: <b>“The ERHMAC will cancel its December ERMAC meeting.”</b> Approved unanimously.</li> </ul>
Land Use Committee		No new proposals this last month.
Agenda Items/Speakers for Upcoming ERMAC meetings		<p>Sapir: Reminder to get PGE to speak.</p> <p>JinWei: Let’s make our banner</p> <p>Sapir: “We need to make the MAC sexier,” and spread the word by reaching out to PTSA’s, Houses of Worship, Schools.</p>
Adjournment		Sargent moved, Sapir seconded: <b>Adjournment.</b> Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.