

Neighborhood Improvement Team Meeting

General Meeting, Rancho Medanos Jr. High School

May 17, 2017, 6:30-8:30pm

City Staff Present: Joe Sbranti, Garrett Evans, Fritz McKinley, Hilario Mata, Laura Wright, Angelica Sandoval Marin, Maria Aliotti, Kolette Simonton, Lisa Vela, Jill Hecht, Romeo Herrera, Hector Rojas, Jordan Davis, Stacey Shell, Chief Brian Addington, Lt. Phil Galer, Myla Rivers, Jason Moser, Ramona Anderson, Cameron Fernandez

City Clerk Alice Evenson

City Council Member: Antonio Banales

Community Advisory Commission Member: Ed Borjon

Number of Residents attended: 15

*QUESTIONS/ANSWERS (answers marked with ** in blue)*

- Perfect job monitoring crosswalks for children. Thank you!
- Red light runners are out of control. Why aren't they being caught? They're dangerous! Why don't we have the red light cameras?

**We appreciate your comments. It shows how much work the police department has. The PD's motor officers are spread between schools and traffic. They City has cameras but they are not for giving tickets out. They are mainly used to prevent and solve crimes. Some agencies, in the past, have used the red light cameras but have run into legal issues. The PD's Traffic Unit consists of a Sergeant, two full time officers and a part-time officer. Within the first three months of this year they've issued 1,505 traffic cites, which is approximately 17 cites a day. Most tickets were issued for lack of insurance, next was for running stop signs, and 5th or 6th was red light runners. Statistically the City has had approximately 1.9 vehicle collisions per day. The PD circulates the speed trailers and there are also permanent speed readers on some light poles throughout the city.

- I think red cameras violate peoples' rights.
- Traffic lights are not synchronized for flow of traffic. Drivers lose patience and drive crazy when they have to wait for a long time at lights

**The City has new software coming that will regulate the flow of traffic better. Regulation will start on Railroad Avenue and will branch out to the major arterial streets.

- There are major potholes on Loveridge Road from the Winco Shopping Center to Pitt-Antioch Highway. They used to be fixed but not anymore.

**This area will be the next target for the pavement rehab. The City needs to pull a permit through the Railroad District for rehab of this area.

- Why doesn't the city put a retaining wall on W. Leland Road by the golf course? The fence at that portion has looked so bad for a long time.
- I think a retaining wall is a great idea. Speeding is out of control there.

**There are no plans for a wall at that location, but the city did receive a Safety Grant so a high friction aspect has been added to the asphalt as well as rumble strips. There are difference things that can improve safety like illuminated arrows and radar feedback signs but Federal funding takes time.

**One of the accidents at the location was because someone was avoiding an officer. No roadway design can help avoid criminal actions.

- Why wasn't the fence ever repaired?

Maria Aliotti deals with and will follow up with the golf course regarding the fence repair.

- My complaint is in regards to the falling wooden fences along W. Leland Road from Range Road to Bailey Road. I think the City would be more inviting if those fences were repaired.

**Maybe this is something the Future Build Program can work on. Future Build is a job training/pre-apprenticeship program for the construction trades. It is a sixteen week, unpaid program where people learn construction, electrical work and solar work. It is a program that benefits the community.

- I live on Dover. Can the city add "Do Not Block Intersection" signs to the intersections of Burton/W. Leland and Dover/W. Leland? It's very difficult during school/commute hours to make a left turn.

**The PD will have a motor officer go out to the location to monitor at times. The traffic engineer will look into adding a protected left turn/left turn arrow to the intersection.

**Please remember to also use the GoCity app which can be found on the City website. Citizens can enter complaints/concerns regarding anything from street lights, falling fences, and tall weeds and the complaint will get routed to the correct department and/or person. For complaints that don't get addressed within the fourteen day timeframe an email is sent to the City Manager.

- Thank you for monitoring the crosswalks and traffic at the elementary schools, especially by the fire station on Loveridge.
- Thank you for replacing the play structure at John Henry Johnson Park.
- With all of the car arsons going on I am thankful for all of the fire stations in our city and all the PD does for our city.
- Is it possible to put a "Keep Clear" warning at the intersection of California Avenue and Newport Drive? Sometimes it is very difficult to pull out, especially during commute hours.

**Thank you for coming out and letting the City know what is going on around the city, at these meetings. Without you citizens giving us feedback the City would not have known the play structure at John Henry Johnson Park was deteriorating, or know it is difficult to make that turn onto California Avenue from Newport Drive. Our City Traffic Engineer will certainly look into some sort of signage at that intersection.

- On E. Leland Road, westbound to Railroad Avenue, there is a segment of street with no sidewalk. Will the City be adding a sidewalk there?
- In front of the firehouse on W. Leland Road the street dips. Will this be filled in?

**About fifteen years ago the City filled the dip in and now we are finding the same problem. The City is looking into a solution for this area.

- How is the City handling the homelessness issue? I think the City should open a public park up for homeless to sleep and park their vehicles. Maybe open a shower facility. I think this will prevent homeless crimes and Pittsburg can take the kind & gentle approach.
- I don't like being approached by the panhandlers and I don't think the City should take the kind & gentle approach.

**The Police Department has a full time officer dealing with homeless issues. There are care centers/warming centers in Concord and Walnut Creek. There was one in Antioch but that has recently closed.

- The City recently installed air quality equipment. When will we be able to see the data?

**Once the testing is finished the City will find out the data.

- How can the data be accessed, through the City website? Where is the equipment located?

**The data can be accessed through Bay Area Air Quality Management District. The equipment is here, it is installed, and it is being tested at this point. The equipment is installed by the Los Medanos Garden. It is in a good, safe location. There was a list of criteria for the location that BAAQMD was looking for and that seemed to be the perfect spot. The City's Public Works division poured the pad/laid the concrete for the equipment. BAAQMD and the City want the community to know what is in the air.

- How was the decision made to bring the equipment back to Pittsburg?

**There was equipment placed in this City many years ago. The decision to bring it back is based on the Air District's data collection as well as projects coming into the City raising concerns.

- Will the restrooms at the launch ramp ever be rebuilt?

**A grant was recently submitted for the renovation of the restrooms as well as new lighting in the area. The City should hear back in the next couple of months.

- With the new BART station coming in on Railroad Avenue, will there only be parking in the lot on Railroad Avenue at California Avenue?

**Railroad Avenue BART station will have its official opening in May 2018. The lot on Railroad Avenue/California Avenue will mainly be a "kiss-and-ride" lot with only 262 parking spaces. It will not have the 2000 parking spaces the Antioch and Bay Point BART Stations have. This station will mainly be for drop-offs and pick-ups. There will be a parking lot on Bliss Avenue with improvements along the intersection.

- Will the entrance to BART be on Railroad Avenue? That would be a long walk from the parking lot on Bliss Avenue. Will there be a walking bridge from the Bliss parking lot?

**The entrance will be on Railroad Avenue. A bridge would be ideal but would cost more than the station itself. The City is working with BART on a walking path from the Bliss Avenue parking lot. The City would also like to create four pedestrian/bike trails to the BART station for those wanting to walk or bike to the station. The City is aggressively applying for grant to do this. A traffic and ridership study will have to be redone every year.

- How will riders get from the new to the old BART trains and vice-versa?

** There will be a transfer station about a half mile east of the Bay Point station. Riders will exit the “new” train, walk across the platform and get on the “old” train. Those riders will be the first ones on so they are guaranteed seats.

- What is “clean” diesel? I’ve seen the trains doing test runs.

**Clean diesel is 60% cheaper to run than the electric BART train. There is no smell and no black smoke. The diesel goes in clean and filters twice before coming out.

- Can the City please remind construction companies to wet the dirt to limit the dust from the construction?

**Call the City’s Planning or Building Division when this is happening, so the construction company can be contacted immediately.