

Willow Cove Meeting – 10/24/15

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

- Can the City build a high school by Bay Point? We have to go into Concord for school.

**Bay Point is out of the City's jurisdiction. The city and school district do not align exactly. The San Marco area belongs to the Mt. Diablo School District. There is a school site available on that side of town but not for a high school.

- Can the City put a traffic light at the School St./Railroad Ave. intersection? When school gets out that is the only exit and there is no smooth left turn. We also need a jaywalk fence along Railroad Avenue by School Street.

**The other end of School Street can be opened during an emergency. The City has done traffic studies for a signal at that location but we can revisit and do another. The City will also look into signage and jay walk fencing for Railroad Avenue.

- The street closure bars on School Street need to be painted brighter and secured at night. I almost ran into one of the bars that came loose.

**Public Works will work with the school district to make sure this issue is addressed.

- I live in San Marco area and whenever I put my zip code in it comes up as Bay Point instead of Pittsburg.

**The City shares a zip code with Bay Point. The City doesn't have control over zip codes but you are definitely Pittsburg.

- What do we do when people are doing donuts with their car? I want to call by I feel like it's pointless because they are gone by the time the police get there.

**Call dispatch. The PD has cameras throughout the city so give dispatch a description and that will allow the PD to track the vehicle with the cameras. It will give an officer probable cause to pull the car over and we may be even to tow the car.

- Marina Boulevard needs better landscaping and always has dog feces around.

**Some of Marina Boulevard is privately maintained and some is City maintained. The City has a full time maintenance person to take care of the waterfront landscaping, specifically the shack, the art area and Country Skillet building.

- Where can we take batteries for disposal?

**On the back table is a flyer. Household Hazardous Waste on Arcy Lane, off of Pittsburg-Antioch Highway, offers free disposal.

- Who is responsible for picking trash up in the vacant lot area on School Street at Harbor Street?
There is always lots of trash at the bus stop and around the fence.

** City of Pittsburg is responsible for that. The City has one employee that goes around the city picking up garbage for 8 hours a day. You can call to report trash (925) 252-4936.

- What can we do about the homeless in the creek bed off of El Dorado Street?

**Call dispatch or put a GoGov request in. The City likes to know where the homeless encampments are. The City has broken up three encampments at that location. We try to do it in a way that the homeless don't come back. Sometimes the encampments get so bad Public Works needs a backhoe to remove them. The homeless issue is widespread in all of the counties. Officer Spires works closely with mental health issues in the encampments and Officer Lambert works specifically on encampment removal.

- I've been in this community for 20 plus years. What is the crime rate standings?

**The City's crime rate standings are very good and much better than they used to be. Antioch's crime rate is three times higher than Pittsburg. Property crimes have gone up slightly but are right in line with Concord, Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill. AB109 was passed two years ago which reclassifies some violent crimes as non-violent.

- If a crime was committed and a report was taken by an officer, but I am not happy with the report, what can I do about it?

**Contact a supervisor or sergeant through dispatch. A supplemental report can always be added or attached to the original. You can also go to the front counter of the Police Department and ask for a supervisor.

- I live on Heights Avenue and there seems to be a lot of mail theft.

**The Police Department has a mail inspector working in the PD a couple of days a week. Together the PD and Post Office have been recovering stolen mail boxes. If you are not comfortable receiving your mail at home, get a P.O. Box. You know who belongs in your neighborhood and who does not. If you see someone suspicious call the PD, give a good description and we will send an officer out to investigate. With a good description we have probable cause to stop and talk to someone. The PD is finding that cluster mail boxes are targeted the most. The PD is working with the Post Office and developers at choosing better cluster mail boxes for the neighborhoods. The PD/Post Office is even putting GPS trackers in "dummy" mail to track thieves.

- What is the PDs total number of officers?

**The Police Department currently has 76 officers with 4 in the Police Academy. The PD is allotted 81 officers.

- How does the Police Department handle non-injury accidents and is a report written for accidents.

**The PD will come out for all accidents. If the accident is on private property, no report will be written, the officer will give an incident number as a courtesy to the insurance company. On city streets the officer may write a report or fill out an exchange of information form depending on the severity.

- Buchanan traffic is painful. Is there an opportunity for a 3rd lane that can be flip flopped during commute hours?

**A 3rd lane would not be the best solution for that area. The best solution would be a Buchanan Road Bypass. This has been in design for 20 plus years. The challenge is coming up with the money. The environmental impact report has already been completed.

- Antioch's new shopping center is a nightmare for coming and going with all of the traffic.

**The City is hoping the new BART station extending to Hillcrest Avenue will get people off of the street and into BART. Hillcrest has a massive parking area going in.

- Is there anticipation of a parking structure for the Railroad Station? There is never any parking at the Bay Point station.

**With the Hillcrest station going in a lot of cars will be parking there and will free up parking at the Bay Point station. Railroad will be a drop-off/pick up (kiss-n-ride) location. It's not intended for parking. The City is working with Tri Delta Transit for a better bus system, especially to/from BART and Los Medanos. There is also a multi-story office building going in on Center/Railroad so commuters can walk to work.

- There is no safe place on Buchanan to catch a bus. What about singles that need to get to work?

**The City will work with Tri Delta Transit to try and have routes within walking distance from homes.

- Does the City feel it's more important for an office building to go into the Center Street lot than parking for BART?

**Yes, and the City is also looking for potential Emergency Room or Urgent Care to go into that building as well.

- There are empty lots along Willow Pass Road and on Broadway by Safeway that are full of trash and garbage. How come the City does not clean it up?

**Those areas belong to the County. If you ever see trash that needs to be picked up call Code Enforcement or enter a Go Gov request.

- I live on Parkside Drive and I keep my area clean, but there are a lot of properties that look bad along their fences. I would like everyone else to clean up in front of their house.

**Code Enforcement will take a look at the area.

- Can you please encourage the high school student not to litter?

**The City can talk with the high school and school district and ask them to send out messaging and do some campaigning.

- Students litter their own halls on the last day of school. They jay walk and are on their phones and not paying attention when they are with their friends. When parents pick up they make U-turns at the on School Street and Harbor and almost cause accidents. They are terrible drivers.

**The PD will send out officers for traffic enforcement.

- It seems like we have enough money in the treasury and the City was asking for more in a bond in 2014. What is the City doing with the bond money moving forward and is there plans for any more bonds?

**The school district has built new buildings with bond money and it makes a fabulous difference. It elevates pride in the community. They are updating old buildings to modernize them and making enough space for the students. You can see a change in attitude within the schools.

- Compliments on the new buildings.
- The schools need to use their online calendars. Communication with the community is not good, especially on the elementary side. Messaging is not getting out there.

**The school district does not do website maintenance. Each school maintains their own website but they are always looking to find someone to help out. They need parent liaisons in every school to help communicate with other parents, to do workshops or just the overall newsletter.

- With this new Common Core Curriculum how are the schools fairing in the transition?

**With Common Core there is no set curriculum. The school district is looking at updating ours. Testing has changed and the district was not where we wanted to be after the first test last spring. We were below state standards. We've created benchmark assessments aligned with the new testing. The school district's next focus will be updating technology. We are hoping to purchase laptops for every 4 students so that students can get comfortable with technology.

- I am concerned with English and the diagraming of sentences. Math and Science is good.

**That issue is not just in Pittsburg. There is a balance of building English/grammar skills. You can always contact the school district with other questions.

- The empty lot next to Winco always looks bad and it seems to be the bags coming from Winco.

**The City has been dealing with the lot for the last six months or so. The lot is inundated with trash, styrofoam, paper, chip bags. Staff, Public Works and Code Enforcement has been getting complaints from neighbors and that the trash ends up in the storm drain. Notice of violation has been sent to

Winco, along with a second notice. The property management and business is on the verge of fines. Part of their condition of approval was trash clean up. This matter is addressed regularly and looked at continually and as of yesterday the condition of the lot had improved.

- What is the requirement for garbage service?

**Every occupied household and business must have service. If you know of a property with no service then call Code Enforcement.

- There is no pedestrian or bicycle approach to Winco.

**If the City can get the corner developed it can work on that development. The City knows this is an active bicycling community and we try to find grants for those types of things.

- On California Avenue from Harbor to Winco there is lots of trash on both sides of the street.

**The City is getting a new kite board ramp because there is good wind here. This wind also makes the trash blow around. The City is trying to put tools in place, like the plastic bag ordinance, to combat some of the trash.

- Are there any more dog parks coming?

**Buchanan Road at Highlands Ranch Park is the only one we have right now. The City is hopes to do a smaller version at the San Marco at W. Leland Road area next spring. Then the City will have one on the east end and on the west end.

- The street sign Spring Hill Drive/Palo Verde is gone.

**When you see a missing sign call (925) 252-4936. Hilario Mata will look into this.

- Is the City preparing the storm drains for El Nino?

**Every fall storm drains are cleaned out. 1998 was a bad storm season. The freeway was flooded along with other locations like Pittsburg-Antioch Highway. Public Works is working hard and making improvements so that flooding doesn't hammer us like it did before. Trees are also being worked on. They are being trimmed or removed as needed. The City is preparing for the storms and crews are taking this serious. City Council gave money to upgrade controls at Loveridge an upgraded 4 pump stations.

- Does the City have a program to take care of water cockroaches to keep them from leaving storm drains and coming into homes?

**The City does not go onto private property to do pest control but let the City know about a special issue so it can be discussed.

- Who is John Buckley?

**John Buckley was an officer that was killed in the line of duty in 1935 around Second Street. The Police Department has had three officers killed in the line of duty, two of them within the last ten years, Ray Giacomelli and Larry Lassater.

- I'm concerned about traffic congestion and want to know the plan for the City of home building.

**The City is trying to encourage more commercial companies to help balance jobs so there is less commuting. Seven years ago a Railroad Avenue Specific Plan was created which is a mixed use district combining residential and commercial building. This would get people out of their cars and walking to work, BART, etc. The City has not given up on this transit village and would also like to see a healthy choice grocery store. Each new home pays mitigation fees (\$20,000) to offset traffic impacts, which help with items such as the widening of Highway 4. The San Marco area was approved for 2900 homes in 1991. The City understands traffic is bad out there and is looking for alternate routes to alleviate that traffic.

- Who is responsible for fixing a broken sidewalk?

**It depends on why the sidewalk is broken. If it's broken because of a street tree then the City will repair, but generally it's the property owner's responsibility to repair broken sidewalks along their property.

- Who do I speak to about a sloped curb line?

**Call Engineering (925) 252-4930.

- How can the City help to get more employment and store fronts downtown?

**The City is working hard to bring businesses into downtown. City buildings are remodeled and the City does its best to get more businesses, but the City has no control over private property. Redevelopment money was taken away from all of the cities in 2009 and we no longer have that money to assist citizens. Sienna Court has no money for tenant improvements.

- The new homes being built on Harbor, it seems like they are using a lot of our drinking water to water the dirt. Can't they use recycled water? It looks like the hydrant leaks.

**The developer pays for the water for dust control and there is a meter on the hydrant to tally up the usage.

- I would love to see shops and a walking area along the Delta from Pittsburg to Martinez.

***(No answer for this.)*

- I am a homeowner on School Street. I have noticed there is a lot of speeding down School Street and it is dangerous especially with all of the kids. Can the City put speed humps on the street?

**Engineering will follow up. The PD will put a traffic trailer out there to help monitor speed. There are other traffic measures that can be put up like traffic, speed limit and school zone signs.

**These have been excellent questions and feedback. The City will post the minutes on the City website. Don't forget the City's first 5k Fun Run coming up for both adults and youth. There will be Halloween activities and bags to be given out. There are new shows at the California Theatre. Jose Conseco will be playing with the City's minor league team Pittsburg Diamonds. Season tickets are available.