

Colonial Heights Neighborhood Association

October 25, 2018

Attendees: KC, Val, Danielle, Jazleen, Jan, Greg, Kathy, Steve, Chris, Terri, Cam, Renee, Dana, Jay, Amanda, Barbara, Matthew, Anya

6:30 – meeting begin, Introductions

Jay Schenirer update

Homeless problem is being addressed, but it will take time. They have up to 700 people into services so far. If a shelter crisis is called, Sacramento could receive a grant of \$5.2-5.6 million to assist in homeless services. The City is looking for properties that may work to turn into shelters. Many people do not want homeless shelters near them, so it is difficult to find a property that will work. It cannot be an empty lot, and has to have a building on it. They need 2-3 acres and the plan is to have shelters around the city. It's a difficult problem to solve.

The Greenbriar Motel is in the process of being renovated. The new owners will have 44 rooms and it will be called The Greens on Stockton Blvd. It is currently being gutted, and it will be gated. There will be no cash transactions allowed at the boutique hotel once completed.

Developers bought the vacant lot located between 8th and 9th Avenues and 2nd Ave and 10th and are developing it.

Measure U will include funds to support small businesses.

Cannabis revenue has accrued about \$10 million in taxes. Some of those taxes are from manufacturers and some from cultivation. There are approximately 200 permits that have been applied for and are in process. There is continually tweaking of the process, as there is no model.

Businesses on Stockton Blvd have difficulty in that there is no place for customers to park. Needs to be addressed. Maybe angle parking could be planned.

Jay asked the group their opinion on making flavored tobacco products (such as Menthol), including those used for vaping, illegal in The City of Sacramento in order to discourage tobacco use by minors. The group appeared to be divided in their votes pro and against.

Library Update

Amanda reported the library will be open on Election Day from 7am to 8pm. If anyone wants to volunteer at the library, the more the merrier. Book Club is meeting Saturday, November 3 and the book is The Great Alone. Bob the volunteer library gardener received offers to assist in planning the garden. Amanda stated he needs help to execute ideas. Please contact Amanda if you would like to help with that. An idea board will be hanging at the Pancake Breakfast.

The ends of the library parking lot need more lighting. There are people who hang out and gather in the dimly lit areas. This needs to be addressed.

General Safety concerns

Cars drive at unsafe speeds on 21st Ave. Cars also do “donuts” at the intersection of 54th St and 22nd Ave. Would like more police presence to deter this behavior.

Neighborhood Priorities

Greg and Anya updated the meeting. Those priorities include addressing the traffic on 21st Ave and lighting needs on SF Blvd.

At Councilman Schenirer’s request, a list of neighborhood priorities is being prepared. A list and discussion of improvements for Colonial Park was prepared and presented to Jay Schenirer’s office. The Colonial Park goals include painting a 4-square court, purchasing tetherballs, purchasing an American Flag to hang at the park, better lighting, and drought tolerant plants around the Colonial Park sign. Plants that were planted there have all died.

The restrooms at the park are a main concern. Possibly remodeling them, or just having one restroom. Moving the doors so that they face the pool versus the field, building a different restroom building, and replacing the current restroom door were all discussed as possible options. Ideas were discussed on locking and unlocking the restrooms. A timer lock like at McKinley Park was discussed. Jay reported those locks are broken very easily.

Jay told the group that he would have tetherballs purchased. Greg asked for six balls.

It was asked that the pool hours and days be extended past August as it is still warm and kids would use the pool regardless as to whether school had continued.

Other topics

Cam suggested an adult sports league be created. Maybe have the residents from each street compete.

Holiday Party will be at Toucha Class on December 13, 2018

Creative Craft Fair will be December 8. Please contact Rose Cabral if you would like to volunteer to help.

A Flood Awareness Fair is at Miller Park on October 27, 2018 from 10am-2pm

There were first time attendees at the meeting. Greg asked why they came and how they found out about the meeting.

Tahoe Park Land Use – The Grounds have another 63 homes planned to be built within the next couple of years. There are many infill projects. A transit solution was discussed.

As a neighborhood, we should turn our efforts toward improvement of the neighborhood versus damage control.

Meeting ended at 7:45pm.

Colonial Park Improvement Goals for 2019

General Improvements

Repair existing light on brick structure.

Light in south side covered area by picture of girl and storage area needs to be replaced with working vandal proof light that operates dawn to dusk.

Paint Lines on Four Square Court

The Four Square court lines need repainting.

Purchase Tetherballs

CHNA would like to purchase and supply tetherballs for the tetherball court as an experiment.

Fly a US Flag Continuously, Install Flagpole Lighting

Purchase US Flag and fly on Colonial Park flagpole. Install Solar Lighting for Flag Pole. Establish long term maintenance schedule for lights and the flag.

Drought Tolerant Plants around sign

Plants around new Colonial Park sign that were planted in 2015 have died and need to be replaced. Watering should be established, either by adjusting the existing watering or placing. Any new plant should be very low maintenance and drought tolerant. A community plan needs to be established to assure these plants will last more than a few years.

Colonial Park Restrooms

CHNA would like to increase the availability of the restrooms to families who play at Colonial Park, and groups who use the park's recreation and teams facilities like the Softball field, and the Soccer goals. Clean and open restrooms encourage families to use Colonial Park. It is the desire of CHNA that the restrooms at the park be improved, and access to the restrooms improve.

Up to a few years ago, the restrooms were open and serviced daily by Parks Department representatives. Due to homeless problems, the restrooms were temporarily closed at the request of CHNA. This closure has made it difficult for families who do not live close to the park,

to use the park, especially those with small children, and also makes use of the park the facilities by other groups, such as sports teams and exercise groups who use the Softball and soccer fields, difficult.

As conditions improved at the Park, in part due to the removal of the walls of the shade structure, and the involvement of neighbors and city staff in dealing with the transient problem, the restrooms were opened during summer wading pool hours. CHNA would like to expand the availability of the restrooms in 2019, and in the process test options to determine a sufficient compromise between safety and convenience.

The current process of having the lifeguards open the restrooms when the wading pool is open during the summer should be continued in 2019, no matter what other plans are proposed.

Open Restrooms During the Day, During the Summer

CHNA recommends that the restrooms will be open daily as convenient and practical between the Easter weekend and Labor Day weekend. The restrooms will remain closed outside of these "summer" months unless a specific request is made using traditional governmental channels, preferably through the Parks Department and the Use Permit process.

Parks Department representatives currently visit Colonial Park on most days in the morning. As part of their normal maintenance visitation the Parks Department representatives will unlock one of the two restrooms and perform the usual maintenance.

CHNA to have Restroom Keys to Lock Restroom

CHNA will be given keys to the restrooms. These keys will not be used to unlock the restrooms daily, only to lock them. This will prevent CHNA representatives from being asked to unlock the restrooms. "Only Parks Department personnel can unlock the restrooms."

CHNA representatives will lock the restroom in the evening as possible, convenient and safe. To allay safety concerns, CHNA will never try to lock the restrooms when they are in use, or when people are present who object to them being locked. In this instance, CHNA representatives will simply leave, and either return when no one is around, or leave the restroom open. *There will be no effort to "police" the open restroom, there will be no confrontations.*

The same lock and key should be used for both restrooms. Only one restroom will be opened at a time, unless there is a special event. That way only one restroom needs to be cleaned each day.

Remodel Colonial Park Restrooms

The restrooms are in serious need of a remodel, or replacement.

At minimum:

Option A:

Minor remodel of existing restrooms. New vandal resistant and easily cleanable fixtures. New paint, and /or vandal resistant paneling. Vandal proof, motion sensitive lights be installed inside the restrooms.

Option B:

Existing structure: Complete remodel with doors opening toward the playground.

Option C:

Replace existing restrooms with new facility located at east end of structure. Convert existing restrooms to storage.

Replace Existing Restroom Doors

Replace the doors on both restrooms. CHNA would prefer:

1. Durable doors and locks that are easy to repair and maintain.
2. Doors that close and lock themselves in the evening using a timer.
3. The doors not be totally opaque, yet afford more privacy and discretion than the current metal bar gates do. At minimum the ability to see in along the floor to determine if occupied.