

Citizens Focus Group Meeting - Tuesday, 03-25-2014

Present: Andrea Gardner (City Manager), Marty Smith (Council Liaison), Kevin Keller (PIO), Bob Martin (Ret. City Employee), Marcie Lowery, Timothy McGinnis, Chris Mulvey, Mark Payne, Ray Torres, Ronnie Viss

Absent: Regina Vargas

This was the second meeting of the group. Andrea welcomed everyone and introduced Ray Torres and Bob Martin. Ray was unable to attend the first meeting due to a military commitment and Bob, a retired City employee, was invited to sit in on future meetings as another reference source for the group. Andrea reminded the group to seek citizen concerns from the community, and to not just bring own problems and agendas to the table. We really want the Citizen's Focus Group to represent the community and their concerns as a whole. Andrea asked for the group to start prioritizing their major concerns and that we would need to make forward progress on concerns which are discussed. She further explain the City Staff and Council relationship, as well as what would be expected of the group when presenting ideas/concerns to the governing body. The members of the Citizen's Focus Group have been added to Kevin's media release list, and should be receiving all current and future media releases from City Hall, PD and FD.

- Bi-laws were discussed and the group made recommendations on what they wished to included and exclude from them. Kevin is currently working on a rough draft of bi-laws, which will be presented to the group for review and discussion.
- Chris expressed a few Code Compliance concerns, specifically there being a lack of consistency and hoarder issues. Andrea reminded the group our Code Compliance staff works diligently to correct problems, however there are only 3 officers with 1 of them also being the food inspector.
- Marty suggested the group reach out to Civic and Church organizations for assistance in helping community members clean various areas of concern.
- Ray suggested the City needs to better promote "clean-up" events, he mentioned never hearing about them in the past. There was discussion on clean-up signs, possibly attempting to amend the sign ordinance to allow them. Marcie and Mark will take concerns/ideas to Keep Copperas Cove Beautiful (KCCB) for review. Timothy and Ray discussed having their military contacts work with KCCB on future clean-up efforts.
- Mark brought up our current parks concerns, and the need for improvements. Andrea advised the group that Council had asked for citizens input it the past for direction and learned the citizens would rather fix current problems than add new construction. Reminded members that Council needs to hear the voice of the community.
- There was discussion on Right of Way vs. Easement. The group now has a better understanding of which part of the property the resident owns vs. the City.
- BeHeardCove.org was discussed and members were encouraged to check the site out. The idea for cards with the information to be handed out by the members was discussed. Kevin is working on that, as well as marketing on the "Billboard".
- Marcie expressed concerns about Oncor light outages. The contact information to report outages was later provided to her. She also spoke about the fence ordinance. That information was also later provided to her by Kevin.

During the next meeting we will begin with a review and updates. If ready, a rough draft of the Bi-laws will be dispersed for review. An idea for a future meeting was to have Eddie Wilson come in to discuss Code Compliance.