

**Minutes
Regular Meeting
Graffiti Task Force
Human Resources Activity Room
300 W. Third Street
Oxnard, Ca 93030
January 17, 2007
5:00 p.m.**

A. ROLL CALL

Chairperson Holden called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. Present were: Vice Chairperson Flynn, Assistant City Manager Karen Burnham; Public Information Office: Christina Aerenlund; City Attorney's Office: Jim Rupp and Julie Doi; Public Works Department: Michael Henderson, Cyndi Hookstra, Joel Galaviz, Veronica Chavez and Phil Gregoire; Code Compliance: Rob Silverstein; Police Department: Jason Benites, Sandra Kujawa; Probation Office: Phyllis Lewandoski, Jamie Russel-Ortiz and Candice Naylor; and Beth Saringo, Recording Secretary.

Public Attendance: Will Coulon, Pat Brown, Edwin Camanag and Ernest Stein

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SUBJECTS: Approval of minutes of December 20, 2006, regular meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

ACTION: Chairperson Holden made a motion to approve the minutes of December 20, 2006 meeting. Vice-Chairperson Flynn seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pat Brown commented that the graffiti on an empty car lot on Oxnard Boulevard and the cell tower on Wooley Road and Rice Avenue have not been removed for at least one or two months now. She had reported it to Code Compliance.

D. TASK FORCE REPORTS

1. Task Force overview, community outreach, education and graffiti action kit volunteers – Cyndi Hookstra

Cyndi Hookstra reported the following:

- a. The first graffiti volunteer group coordination meeting is to be held at 7:00 p.m. on February 20, 2007 at the City Council Chambers. Flyers are going to 216 volunteers.
- b. A graffiti presentation with the Windsor North Neighborhood will be held at the Thurgood Marshall Elementary School on January 30th at 7:00 p.m. and with the Probation Office on January 18, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.
- c. The restitutions collected to-date approached the \$10,000.00 mark. Cyndi thanked the Probation Office which is very instrumental in this collection process.

2. GAP removal efforts. GAK distribution and hotline statistics – Joel Galaviz

Joel Galaviz informed the committee that the Graffiti Action Program (GAP) has started the process of leaving door hangers with a 5-day notice period to remove graffiti on properties that will not give GAP permission to remove the graffiti. He also informed the committee that the GAP crew checks the on and off ramp on the 101 Freeway once a week for graffiti removal.

3. Arrests and law enforcement issues - Police

Sandra Kujawa reported that the Police Department made 23 arrests for the month of December with two arrests in the RiverPark development this weekend.

Joel Galaviz mentioned that the GAP crews remove graffiti on the city-accepted areas only, and the graffiti in most of the areas is still the responsibility of the developers at RiverPark.

Chairperson Holden suggested staff make contact with the developer to rectify the graffiti problem and coordinate our efforts.

Sandra Kujawa mentioned that they drove by the RiverPark neighborhood and the only problem they saw was the graffiti in the frontage road by the drainage canal.

Vice-chairperson Flynn asked about the removal efforts along Vineyard north of Oxnard Boulevard. Joel Galaviz responded that the GAP crews drive down the area three times a week, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and GAP has not received any complaints, either from the homeowners or the Sheriff's Department.

Cyndi Hookstra mentioned that they are very happy with the services provided by GAP, both to the residents of El Rio and the Sheriff's Department.

4. Legal issues – City Attorney’s Office

Assistant City Attorney Jim Rupp reported that staff met after the last meeting. He stated that criminal cases should be referred directly to Code Compliance. If property owners failed to clean up the graffiti within the 5-day notice period and/or should other situations arise, they should also be referred to Code Compliance.

Chairperson Holden reiterated that homeowners who do not cooperate are going to be fined and it should be done in the soonest allotted time possible. He also mentioned that if businesses cannot or will not comply, they should also be fined.

Chairperson Holden made mention also that on the last meeting, it was decided that Joel Galaviz and Veronica Chavez would be deputized so that they would be able to issue civil citation.

5. Code Compliance issues – Code Compliance

Rob Silverstein mentioned that if homeowners do not remove graffiti within the 5-day notice period, Veronica Chavez would refer them to Code Compliance who will then issue a civil citations.

6. Community Service – Elena Salgado

Elena reported that there are 23 minors currently doing 40 to 100 community service hours.

E. TASK FORCE DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discuss the outstanding community service cases.

The Probation Officers will communicate with Sandra Kujawa regarding the community service process. They will provide the Graffiti Task Force (GTF) with a report on adults and juveniles arrested and given restitution.

Cyndi asked the persons from the Probation Office to help the committee understand the juvenile process. Cyndi said that with all the work that we are doing such as catching taggers, filling out police reports, and going to the court system to testify, we are not exactly sure what is happening to these juveniles. She said sometimes we see them appear on Elena’s list after they have been sentenced to do community service and sometimes we see them on her list if they have to pay restitution, but we do not understand or hear from the court what happened to them.

Probation office stated that this is probably because they are juveniles and that freezes up the reporting process. They will also be looking into the concern voiced by Will Coulon regarding the juveniles caught tagging especially the one on top of The Save-on Store. Generally, offenders get community service and restitution, not either/or. If it is something very small, it could be either community service or restitution.

Vice Chairperson Flynn mentioned his concerns about the City not having a handle on tracking from the arrest through the court process, we do not always know what is actually taking place, which raises some questions on: a) can a survey be done just for one month to track the arrest, b) is there a way to be able to track what exactly happens to each individual, whether they were asked to pay fines or not, and c) does this lien or penalty last only until they are 21 years old, and what will happen when they turn 21?

Cyndi tried to clarify the restitution and the payment process. She said, for adults, there would not be a problem because we can find the information through court access. For juveniles, she either gets checks from the County or a letter from Probation with a case number and a dollar amount they are supposed to pay or just a check with a name on it, all these she tracks on a spreadsheet and shares with the City Attorney's office because the Task Force wants to make certain that the restitution ordered is collected in full amount. What we sometimes have a problem doing is finding the information to accomplish that.

Chairperson Holden suggested that a mini task force meeting be scheduled in the future with him, the Probation Office, Graffiti Task Force Administrator and Assistant Chief Jason Benites regarding report tracking.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. The next regular meeting will be on February 21, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Michael Henderson, Secretary

