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Enjoying the Summertime Heat at El Segundo's Refreshing Ocean



Dockweiler State Beach offers an escape from the heat. The fire pits are a popular gathering place for weekenders enjoying the beach into the night. The beach is wide and long and starts from Ballona Creek and extends South to the area just before the Chevron plant where El Segundo Beach is - a rocky section of beach where most of the surfers can be found. Photo by Peter Thornton. ♦

City Council Looks Far Ahead in Strategic Planning Meeting

By Brian Simon

The El Segundo City Council tried something new last Wednesday morning with a completely revamped format for its first strategic planning session of the year—featuring an outside facilitator (management consultant Sara A. Peterson) moderating the nearly five-hour meeting and focusing on long-term, big-picture goals as opposed to the one-year-at-a-time methodology employed in the past. As emphasized at the top of the gathering, this was not a budget discussion. That will occur on August 3 when the Council convenes a second time at the El Segundo Public Library. Last week's discussion sought to bring the Council and department heads together on a unified direction and vision.

The ability to finally strategically plan for the El Segundo's next three to five years and even beyond stems mainly from upbeat fiscal forecasts showing the city in expected surplus territory for the foreseeable future. Conservative estimates provided by Finance Director Joseph Lillio project that the city will be in the black between \$2 million and \$3 million annually starting the next fiscal year and continuing through 2020-21. The positive news already figures in sizable increases in PERS liability and workers compensation costs as well as step increases for salaries. Modest growth in different revenue categories will continue to help the cause, but a major uptick in transient occupancy taxes thanks to the recent passage of Measure B is the pivotal piece to put the city over the top.

Mayor Suzanne Fuentes admitted that the outlook would have been very different had voters not approved the ballot item in April.

The forecasts also assume the city will now maintain 20 percent (of whatever is the lower total of annual expenditures or revenues) in reserves and set aside additional economic uncertainty dollars. Councilmember Don Brann questioned the reserve policy, noting that usable funds could have helped during

the recent down times. "I don't see the city as being a bank," he said, explaining that the municipality's role is to provide services and not sit on monies.

Despite the overall optimism, City Manager Greg Carpenter reminded the Council that the financial forecasts are "based on what we know today" and can easily change. Looking at potential factors that might alter the assumption

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Weekend Forecast

Friday

Sunny
75°/62°



Saturday

Partly
Cloudy
73°/61°



Sunday

Sunny
72°/61°



School Board View District's Long-Range Facility Master Plan Presentation

By Duane Plank

The Tuesday night meeting of the El Segundo Unified School District School Board featured a special presentation concerning the District's Long-Range Facility Master Plan (LRFMP). Co-presented by Todd Spore of the Texas-based architectural firm PBK, and Dave Bannon, a principal of the firm GB Architects, the 47-minute presentation, including inquiries from Board members, detailed the executive summary preliminary draft for the District sites for the next ten years.

The agenda for the presentation included the implementation of the proposal process, as well as goals and objectives; a campus "executive summary" that detailed the existing site floor plans at each campus, town hall community feedback, new proposed site plans, and financials. The presentation culminated with a

summary prepared to address the next ten-plus years of possible expenditures and recommended financial planning for the District.

Covering each school site, beginning with the High School and concluding with Arena High/ Eagles' Nest/District office facility, plans were laid-out to the Board for improvements, upgrades and additions to the sites. In the lead-up to the Tuesday night presentation, town-hall community feedback from stakeholders was gathered. The presenters detailed what the consensus from the stakeholders was. What did they like about the proposed plan? Should any part of the proposed plan be revised? Was anything missed, should something else be considered as an addition to the Master Plan? The plan had been developed with the collaboration of, among others,

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Police Reports

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City Council

from front page

were miscellaneous tools, a stereo and a cell phone.

An injury report was taken at 0717 hours from Eucalyptus Drive and Holly Avenue. A male juvenile sustained a head injury after falling off of a skateboard.

A theft by false pretense report was taken at 0836 hours from the 300 block of Main Street. Unknown suspect(s) called victim and falsely stated he owed money for a late electric bill. Victim paid suspect(s) \$998 in MoneyPak Cards.

A theft by false pretense report was taken at 0833 hours from the 100 block of Main Street. Unknown suspect(s) called the victim and falsely stated he owed money for a late electric bill. Victim paid suspect(s) \$979 in MoneyPak Cards.

A grand theft report was taken at 1525 hours from the 800 block of McCarthy Court. Taken was a wedding ring.

A violation of a court order report was taken at 1540 hours from the 400 block of West Palm Avenue.

A misdemeanor hit and run report was taken at 1837 hours from the 800 block of South Nash Street, vehicle versus vehicle.

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

An online petty theft report was taken at 0940 hours on 06/20/16 from Imperial Avenue and Hillcrest Street. Unknown suspect(s) removed the battery from the victim’s vehicle.

A grand theft report was taken at 0804 hours from Center Street and Pine Avenue. Unknown suspect(s) removed the wheels from the victim’s vehicle.

A petty theft report was taken at 0627 hours from the 700 block of Bungalow Drive. Unknown suspect(s) removed two wheels from the victim’s vehicle.

A false checks report was taken at 1011 hours from the 2300 block of Utah Avenue. Unknown suspect(s) altered the name of the victim’s checks and deposited them into a fraudulent account.

An identity theft report was taken at 1406 hours from the 500 block of Whiting Street. Unknown suspect(s) opened a credit card in the victim’s name.

Thursday, June 23, 2016

A felony vandalism report was taken at 0124 hours from the 200 block of East Walnut Avenue. The suspect damaged the victim’s front door of his residence.

A traffic accident (without injuries) occurred at 0908 hours at Maple Avenue and Penn Street, vehicle versus vehicle.

One female adult was arrested at for 1156 hours from the 300 block of North Sepulveda Boulevard for trespassing at a public business.

Traffic accident (with injuries) occurred at 1203 hours from the 800 block of South Sepulveda Boulevard. Vehicle versus bicyclist.

Friday, June 24, 2016

One female juvenile was detained at 0049 hours from the 400 block of Main Street for

misdemeanor DUI.

Attempt grand theft auto occurred between 06/23/16 and 06/24/16 in the 300 block of Sierra Street. Unknown suspect(s) attempted to steal a vehicle.

Traffic accident (no injuries) occurred at 0913 hours in the 200 block of Maryland Street, truck versus parked vehicle.

Traffic accident (no injuries) occurred at 1420 hours in the intersection of Aviation Boulevard and El Segundo Boulevard, vehicle versus vehicle.

Traffic accident (with injuries) occurred at 1420 hours in the intersection of Aviation Boulevard and El Segundo Boulevard, vehicle versus motorcycle.

Traffic accident (with injuries) occurred at 1825 hours in the intersection of Douglas Street and Rosecrans Boulevard, vehicle versus vehicle.

One female adult was arrested at 2015 hours from Coral Circle and Douglas Street for one outstanding RBPD misdemeanor warrant.

One male adult was arrested at 2318 hours from the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Illinois Street for possession of an illegal weapon.

Saturday, June 25, 2016

One male adult was arrested at 0324 hours from the 500 block of Sheldon Street for identity theft, impersonating another person, burglary, receiving stolen property and petty theft.

Attempt petty theft from a vehicle occurred between 06/24/16 and 06/25/16 in the 500 block of Penn Street.

Sunday, June 26, 2016

A contributing to the delinquency of a minor report was taken at 0035 hours from the 1100 block of East Acacia Avenue. Subject(s) provided alcohol to persons under the age of 21.

A recovered stolen vehicle report was taken at 0723 hours from the 2000 block of East Mariposa Avenue. Recovered was a 2011 Ford Econoline van reported stolen out of LAPD Olympic Division on 06/10/16.

A recovered stolen vehicle report was taken at 0748 hours from the 2000 block of East Mariposa Avenue. Recovered was a 2011 Ford E150 van reported stolen out of LAPD Southeast Division on 06/10/16.

A found property report was taken at 1248 hours from the 400 block of North Sepulveda Boulevard. A checkbook was found at the location.

One female adult was detained at 1510 hours from Lairport Street and Maple Avenue for one outstanding Inglewood PD misdemeanor traffic warrant. Subject was subsequently cited and released in the field.

A burglary (vehicle) report was taken at 1635 hours from the 2000 block of East Park Place. Unknown suspect(s) gained entry into the victim’s vehicle by smashing a window. Taken was a laptop computer. •

tions, Mayor Pro Tem Drew Boyles warned about the adverse impacts if El Segundo were to lose one of its top 10 employers. Lillio added that experts believe a mini-recession may take place in 2017-18. At the same time, future economic development opportunities (e.g. the Raytheon development) could also improve the city’s bottom line.

One of last Wednesday’s highlights was a roundtable discussion in which the group envisioned what El Segundo could look like in 10 years to residents, businesses and visitors. City Treasurer Crista Binder suggested different and more sophisticated community events to appeal to the changing demographics. Looking a future influx of retail and Wiseburn’s new high school on the east side of town, Police Chief Mitch Tavera thought a department substation in that area will be necessary to handle the growth. He also believes El Segundo will eventually build high-density residential housing east of Sepulveda. Fuentes expressed concern that such a situation would result in “two El Segundos,” while Boyles worried about increased service demands from putting “a lot of people in a small area.”

The Mayor identified a high-speed fiber optic network as a way to allow more people and young students to work out of their homes. Councilmember Carol Pirsztuk saw infrastructure improvements as a way to help businesses expand, and called for the city to drive cultural interaction in order to maintain a small town feel while understanding that the younger generation is “connected to their devices.” Boyles predicted one-third fewer cars will be on the road and sees El Segundo as leading the way in environmental responsibility and being fiscally responsible in implementation. Brann spoke of the importance of making sure the Los Angeles Air Force Base stays put, and also hoped to see a branch-off of Westchester Village here to allow local seniors to stay in their homes as they age. Councilmember Mike Dugan called for El Segundo to be known as not only business-friendly, but the best place to raise a family with the beach nearby, great weather and (hopefully) water and infrastructure problems solved a decade from now. He also wants El Segundo to be “recognized as a center for technological advancement beyond aerospace.” Planning Director Sam Lee reiterated the concept of having a single point of contact at the City rather than being handed off to different departments.

The group also zeroed in on the city’s strengths and weaknesses, while considering opportunities and also potential threats that may loom. “One of the internal strengths are the people here,” Fire Chief Chris Donovan said. “The threat is that we lose that.” Tavera spoke of the challenge of how to improve the organization while competing with infrastructure improvements for monies.

Pirsztuk mentioned a “paradigm shift in our city” that will require letting go of the past. Boyles stressed the importance of becoming a more performance-driven organization with clear metrics available to measure where anyone stands at any given time—as opposed to relying on just anecdotal evidence. “We don’t know businesses are leaving town until after their license renewals come around,” he said. He also noted that while it’s a strength that 90 percent of the city’s revenues come from commerce, it is also a potential threat if “something turns” (e.g. increased crime to deter businesses from coming here). Boyles added that more State regulations continue to make it less appealing for businesses to stay in California—using the departure of Toyota as an example. Brann said there is a local culture change in process and was concerned about breakdowns in neighborhood relationships due to escalating real estate costs. Speaking of the city itself, Fuentes admitted, “We haven’t developed our people [personnel] properly.” Dugan elaborated that “we may not fully understand what people [citizens] are asking us” and that the city may need to look outward and not just inward. Other topics touched upon included investing in the infrastructure, developing a new general plan, and building on the growing arts movement in town.

In comparison to today, the past few years showed the city in survival mode in order to merely scrape by and balance budgets. To do so, the previous Councils implemented personnel reductions across the board with increased workloads to those remaining; hired temporary consultants to fill some key positions; delayed equipment and vehicle replacement as well as numerous infrastructure repairs; and made do with out-of-date technology.

Going forward, the city will look to be proactive rather than reactive—with seven guiding principles established by the department heads to advance the organization, develop its people, optimize resources, enhance community outreach, improve service delivery, invest in infrastructure and sustain fiscal health. As a group last Wednesday, the Council identified five areas as the primary focuses for the August session. The list includes understanding and exceeding customers’ expectations, developing a world-class workforce, continually improving processes, ensuring public safety and preparedness, and leveraging technology (with a look at the IT assessment and recommendations for a game plan moving forward). Department heads will brainstorm on how their goals for the next few years can support larger organizational objectives while developing metrics that can provide baselines to accurately measure success. With all the information gathered, the Council will then get down to the budget brass tacks. •

School Board

from front page

community members, teachers, administrators, a School Board member, and District staff.

At the High School, some of the items looked upon favorably by the stakeholders included: the proposed improvements to the Girls’ gym; the new engineering lab; and that the Art and Band rooms would be housed in a new building. Possible revisions to the plan included adding more seating to the main gym to accommodate the whole school for assemblies and spectators, and adding more parking. Among possible new considerations to the current plan: adding air conditioning to some of the buildings, and adding some perimeter fencing.

The community feedback regarding the Middle School found the stakeholders liking, among other items, the possible addition of a gymnasium, as well as the addition of extra parking. Possible revisions cited included looking for a better “ingress and egress” for student drop-off, and the fact that the perimeter fencing would create a “fortress like” environment. Other considerations brought up by the stakeholders included

the utilization of the new science building, and the necessity of more “shade-space” on campus to shelter the student’s on warm days.

Center Street Elementary respondents favored the proposed covered patio and outdoor learning area. Their feedback “overwhelmingly liked the proposed changes and additions presented in the plan.” Upgrading the art room was one of the proposed revisions to the plan. And there was concern raised about the student “drop-off” circle because of volume of students and vehicles that pass through, and the need for air conditioning in the cafeteria.

The Richmond Street Elementary site was next covered. The addition of a new building, with additional classrooms was a hit with stakeholders, as was the proposed office security modernization. Possible revisions in the plan included rethinking parking options and the drop-off area, and adding more shading to the existing lunch tables. Other considerations that were voiced included traffic issues on Mariposa, and the possible addition of gender neutral/family restrooms.

Finally, the presentation looked at the needs for the Arena High/Eagles’ Nest/ District Office site. Restrooms at the pre-school, the growth of Arena to better serve the District, and addition of a Data Center were well-received proposals. Parking restrictions and parking space additions were items that may be revised, as well as addressing the accessibility at the front of the site to satisfy Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

In comments made prior to the meeting, District Superintendent Melissa Moore noted that there has been a “great deal of stakeholder involvement” in the development of the plan. She said it started “with a vision and goal-setting... what do we want by way of the educational facilities for our student’s in the future? As we look at the needs ten years from now, we need to look at the careers of the future, and what may be required (including) different learning spaces.” She said that focus groups helped evolved school sites great needs, and then spawned into the development of the best “next-steps.”

She noted that a couple of exciting new proposals for the District sites included the construction of a gymnasium at the Middle School, and the addition of a new arts and PE building at the High School, which would free-up space for a dedicated Engineering Lab.

She mentioned that, with the way District funding is now disbursed in California that “we have taken our resources, and made sure that every dollar counts.”

If all goes well, the LRFMP will return to the Board for their approval at the meeting scheduled for August 23. On a side-note, she said that the Imperial Street School property is still in escrow, and a “best-case scenario” would see the property closing in late September. She mentioned that the Board has held no discussions on how to spend the money, which they won’t do, she said, “until the money is in the bank.”

Dylan Farris, the District’s Executive Director of Human Resources and Maintenance, said that the LRFMP is an important District document. **See School Board, page 18**