

**VIETNAMESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
August 27, 2008
MINUTES**

Present: *Advisory Board* - Brian Do, Dac Doan, Kevin Fish, Patricia Latimer, Patrick Le, Thuy Le, Michelle Lew, Minh Nguyen, Thuy Nguyen, Diem Truong
City Staff - Lisa Au, Cindy Ho, Ashwini Kantak, Mario Maciel
District 7 - Madison Nguyen, Louansee Moua, Myvan Khuu
Consultants: Brad Isaacs, Greg Fitzgerald

Absent: Lien Cao, Don Long, Douglas Nguyen, Ha Nguyen, Hau Nguyen, Ngoc Nguyen

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM, at the George Shirakawa Center. Lisa Au from the City Manager's Office welcomed the Advisory Board, Councilwoman Nguyen, and the public. She then introduced other City staff and consultants from VisionWork Associates. Members of the media and public members requested to video record the meeting. A poll was taken and the advisory board and the public members agreed to the video recording.

Councilwoman Nguyen welcomed the Advisory Board to the Shirakawa Center and offered a tour for anyone interested after the meeting.

2. VACC Project Outline

The consultants presented a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the VACC Community Engagement process from September 2008 through June 2009. The project consists of three phases: Startup (Aug-Oct); Vision & Outreach (Nov-Feb); Preparing Recommendations (Mar-May). Recommendations for the new Center are scheduled to be presented to the City Council in June 2009.

The project will include at least 3 community meetings to gather input on needs and opportunities, vision for the new center, and the types of programs and services desired. The input will be used to prepare a set of recommendations for the future Center. These recommendations will be reviewed at an additional community meeting before being presented to the City Council.

3. VACC Task Force Explained

The current Advisory Board will end its term early, at the end of September, in order to create a new Task Force to carry the project through the next year. Applications in Vietnamese and English, along with the roles and responsibilities of Task Force members were made available at the meeting. The current Advisory Board members were invited to apply for membership on the Task Force, as was the general public. Applications are

available at the Shirakawa Center, the Redevelopment Agency offices on the 14th Floor of City Hall and online at www.sjredevelopment.org/vacc.htm. Applications are due no later than Friday, October 3, 2008. A selection committee will review applications, interview candidates and select up to 24 members of the Task Force by mid-October.

The Task Force will meet monthly through at least June 2009. Subcommittees will be formed to work on specific parts of the VACC planning process.

4. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Advisory Board is Wednesday, September 24 at 6:30 PM in City Hall, Room 1446.

5. Open Forum

The meeting concluded with an open forum, where the advisory board and community members asked questions and provided input into the proposed process. Some of the comments included:

Board member comments:

- Concerns were made regarding fund-raising for the future operations of the center. Board members asked if the City could provide funding for the operations and maintenance of the center.
- It is not reliable for the City to provide funding; service fees from the center should provide the needed revenue for the center.
- Request that meeting information be provided and posted in English and Vietnamese.

Public comments:

- Questions were raised regarding why the City is able to fund the Mexican Heritage Plaza and not the operations of this center.
- Request for the formation of a sub-group where only Vietnamese is spoken. They also requested translation services at future meetings. Staff agreed that translation services would be provided in future public meetings.
- Inquiry on the status of the \$2.75 million funding for the project and whether the funding has been transferred to a private individual for the operations of the center. Lisa Au confirmed that the project funding is still within the City. This funding includes the cost of the consultant's work; the Redevelopment Agency has an encumbrance of \$88,000 for VisionWork's contract. Funding information for this project can be found in the City's and Redevelopment Agency's capital budget books.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM, followed by a tour of the Shirakawa Center.