

North San Jose

Neighborhoods Planning Taskforce

Taskforce Kickoff

Orchard Elementary School
Pod C
921 Fox Lane, San Jose, CA
Wednesday, July 25, 2007
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Chuck Reed, Mayor
- Kansen Chu, District 4 Councilmember
- John Weis, San Jose Redevelopment Agency
 - Overview of Rincon de Los Esteros
- Introductions of Taskforce members
 - Absent: Arthur Boudeville (Renaissance), Don Bragg (Irvine), Legacy, NSJ Industrial Co.
 - Alternate: Laura Carns for Mike Bertram (River Oaks)
- City and Redevelopment Agency Staff
- Noted Attendees:
 - 50-60 (City staff not included): SCVWD, AWTF, HMM, SCUSD, Fairfield, Essex.
 - Council Office: Mayor, D2, D3, D4, D8

2. North San Jose Policy Background

- NSJ ADP Adopted June 2005
- 7million sq ft. of industrial required before moving to the next phase (4 total).
- 12 rezoning applications, 20 acres of parkland.
- Rezoning applications approved, 3 scheduled for August.

3. Taskforce Interest Identification

- Accountability and ensure accuracy of projects.
- Forward look: Ensure NSJ is a good place to work, play, and live in the future.
- Community awareness: Projects should connect to neighbors and community to gather input.
- Want light industrial to come back and provide incentives to encourage it to return to North San Jose.

- Environmental and social injustice. Improve communication, and discourage discrimination.
- Ensure needs of Rosemary Garden are kept in mind and act as conduit for info to Rosemary Gardens. Ensure traffic, air quality program and services such as retail are brought to community.
- Ensure good planning; plans must be “doable” and addresses as a whole beyond city; achieve balance of development and public services.
- Identify sites for schools and parks and address traffic concerns.
- Represent mobile home communities and ensure future generation has a nice place in which to grow.
- Develop an urban core plaza where residents can have social connections.
- Provide affordable housing and well-planned communities with good schools and parks.
- Build desirable place to do business to attract developers and residents to area. Provide a competitive marketplace balancing the partnership of the City and the residents.
- Create long, stable development and growth to avoid transient lifestyle. Improve quality of life issues such as parks, trails, good retail, and public safety to give people reasons to stay.
- Retain existing neighborhood values.

4. Work Plan Development

- Brainstorm and Prioritizing Topics Session (items in bold considered priorities):
 - **Police, Fire & Support Services**
 - **Traffic/Congestion**
 - **Schools**
 - **Parks**
 - **Community Centers**
 - Water Supply & Flood Control
 - **Financing**
 - **Grocery Stores/Retail**
 - Hospital/Health Care
 - Parking
 - Environmental Impact
 - Creation of urban core
 - Stadium/Sports field
 - Youth Recreation
 - Environmental Impact
 - **Design Guidelines**
 - Freeways/Transportation
 - Coordination with multiple agencies
 - Coordination across neighborhoods, including Alviso
 - Co-existing with existing industries
 - Environmentally-friendly construction
 - Agnews’ Fate/Use
 - Community Amenities close to residents and business owners
 - Streetscape/Walkability
 - Aquatics
 - Pedestrian and Bike Safety
 - Trees

- Discussion on Prioritized Topics:
 - **Traffic/Congestion:** Reduce commute in spite of increased traffic in the area; understand how new streets impact new retail locations; traffic studies need to focus on small, neighborhood streets; address how increase in traffic affect neighboring cities; explore ways to increase VTA ridership.
 - **Financing:** What is the level of funding sources, at what probability/assurance of receipt; how does financing work (where is it coming from, where is it going, and how do we ensure accountability that money is collected from developers); Ensure that the developers funds are properly used for what they are designated/mitigated in appropriate ways and ensure developer fees are equitable; Review of RDA and understand RDA's historical and present financing policies/procedures.
 - **Urban Design Guidelines:** LEED standards should be imposed; Ensure NSJ is unique in design and that intelligent design is invoked; Design should reflect some characteristics of existing neighborhoods.
 - **Parks:** Extend Guadalupe Trail; Identify park locations and understand how they will be funded; Understand existing parks and their status/needs of improvement; Explore how parks reflect urban character.
 - **School:** Asses how many schools NSJ will need and identify locations, source of funds, and levels of quality. Plan for new and growing families and asses whether a new school district will be needed to accommodate to increase in students. Population study for school districts.

- Public Comments:
 - There should be transparency in negotiations between City and school districts.
 - Concern that high density will lower quality of life in NSJ.
 - Positive feedback from public in Councilmember Chu's effort to gather community comments to NSJ Vision 2030 and taskforce efforts.
 - Suggestion for neighboring cities (Milpitas and Santa Clara) to understand projects' impacts.
 - Suggestion to "Think Big" in order to attract more residents and companies to SJ.
 - Consider flood control and support water conservation plans.

5. Taskforce Framework and Schedule

- **Time:** 6:30pm – 8:30pm
- **Meeting Location:** North San Jose
- **Attendance Policy:** No more than 3 absences; Alternates encouraged.
- **Expectations:** Encourage interaction and communication between neighborhoods and neighbors. Serve as leaders to represented neighborhoods. Understand the projects and policies.

- **Decision making criteria:** Emphasis consensus building and consensual decision making. The formal recommendations of the Taskforce would require either consensus or general agreement.
- **Taskforce Assignments:** 1) Read NSJ- ADP. 2) Communicate one-on-one with fellow taskforce member whom he/she has not yet met. 3) Visit a neighborhood or city, take a picture, and ponder why he/she feels that place is an ideal environment.

6. Closing Remarks

- Next meeting's tentative date: August 23, 2007. 6:30pm – 8:30pm. Location TBD

7. Adjourn