

NSJNPTF
October 25, 2007
6:30pm-9pm
MLK Library
MINUTES #6

1. Welcome and introductions were made.
2. The agenda was introduced and explained.
3. Kim Walesh of the City of San Jose, Office of Economic Development, presented the topic – “Future North San Jose: Linking Economic Trends Community Design”.

A Task force member commented on the lack of reference to after hour activities and residential/community amenities.

- *Staff provided a response that spoke to the retail and community facilities that the task force is addressing.*

A Task force member commented that about employees moving to other areas where housing is more affordable.

- *Staff asked for information on how employees travel to work.*

The task force member commented that most drive and some use public transit.

A Task force asked about the financing of the amenities that are being discussed. In addition, how are the uses such as parks financed?

- *Staff explained that there are different methods for each facility and site.*

A Task force member commented that the concepts were wonderful but was concerned about the city's ability to finance these things given the current shortfalls and lack of funds the city faces now.

- *Staff suggested that the corporate sector needs to hear that these uses are important to employees and the surrounding community.*

A Task force member commented that schools are critical to our success as a community and how the schools can be used to leverage and promote the area. Also, is there an opportunity to promote more transit use?

- *Staff responded that the current transit system is there for use and is underutilized. Also, making an effort to be involved in the schools is a first step.*

A Task force member commented that if we don't make NSJ competitive we will lose companies to other areas.

We need to focus more on urban concepts.

We need to be mindful of the realities of financing these visionary concepts, we need to consider how we get there in small increments, it is not possible to get there immediately

Are we looking to make sure the corporate community will be there once, or if, we do get to where we want to go?

A Task Force member commented about traffic concerns.

The planning we are considering now needs to consider those who are not in North San Jose right now and we need to make sure it is relevant today and in the future.

In respect to trends, the smaller companies tend to be spin-offs or former employees of the larger companies. This issue needs to be considered in terms of space available for employees and the trend is to smaller work stations and more open spaces in the interior. In addition there still has to be space for parking, cars are still the primary mode of transportation, especially considering the requirements that exist in development for parking spaces per square foot of development.

San Jose needs to make sure that San Jose is careful not to make our area non-competitive with further restrictions or policies that deter investment in San Jose.

- Staff responded that the parking requirements are intended to meet the needs of the users and currently there are no plans to impose caps. There is some discussion about parking fees due to the traffic impacts of cars.

Do we have any means to improve transit use?

- Staff responded that there are plans for trails, bike and pedestrian studies, and also mixed uses in certain areas to reduce travel/trips.

4. The next topic of Urban Design Guidelines was presented by Redevelopment Agency staff.

Staff provided direction to the Task Force to bring back pictures or images of “places” they would like to see in North San Jose. Also, there was direction to be ready to respond to the three questions/principles at the next meeting where the task force hears the urban design guidelines presentation.

5. Public comment was opened:

A question was posed as to – what is the height of the project on the Wyse site, and is it acceptable?

- Staff responded that if it adheres to the current guidelines than yes, the project is acceptable.

A question was posed about why are we not developing more types of uses that provide housing for seniors?

The greenbelt alliance commented that environmental issues need to be addressed more and are being spoken to more as a result. Also items such as carpools, smart growth, and others should be discussed.

Does the city see that parking requirements might be reduced and/or parking structures being smaller in size?

A task force member commented that buildings built recently are already obsolete given the current needs of the market.

A request to have VTA attend a meeting and make a presentation, the task force supported the request.

Has there been an impact of the urban design guidelines on the current projects that are on file.

- *Staff responded that the guidelines that were developed to date were used “real-time”.*

A comment was made that there was no mention of police, fire, parks, schools, and entertainment options.

A Task Force member requested a tour of North San Jose.

- *Staff responded that one will be coordinated.*

6. The meeting was adjourned.