Verdemont Neighborhood Association Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Verdemont Community Center and Library

The membership meeting was called to order by Mary Solis at 19:00. Mary requested that Amanda Jacobs lead attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mary the introduced the officials in attendance and gave the floor to Chas Kelley as Chas had another engagement o attend. Chas indicated that the Verdemont Community Center and Library (VCCL) was coming along however the need for a phone line for internet service to the VCCL was still outstanding. Chas introduced Nathan from the San Bernardino Fire Department to the attendees. Nathan indicated that he was representing the firefighters of San Bernardino and their charity fund. He indicated that the monies they donate from the charity funds come straight from the fire fighter’s pockets. They had been donating through United Way, however were unhappy with some of the agencies that the United Way donated to, and some agencies were not local. Nathan then presented a check for $1,200 to Marlene Evans for the VCCL.

Bob Edwards then presented Chas a photo as remembrance of Chas’ past efforts for the 5th Ward in San Bernardino.

Mary then took the floor back and advised the group there is a food and clothing drive being held to help meet needs in San Bernardino. As part of the drive, toll painted items were for sale at $20 per item. They are on display at the front of the room. Mary then introduced Patrick Stein(?) from IDS Real Estate Group. Patrick indicated that his group is going forward with a project to build a 678,000 sq. ft. warehouse/distribution center in the area behind the Denny’s at Palm and the 215 freeway. The project will also assist with the intersection of Palm where it meets the railroad tracks. Patrick indicated that will be put up for bid in 2013 and construction will begin in 2014.

It’s understood that the plans will raise the Palm/railroad intersection by 9 feet and the bridge over the railroad tracks will be 20 feet high. The new warehouse site has two hills on it. The site will be leveled by donating the dirt to SANBAG who will use the dirt from the two hills to build up Palm Avenue as well as level the actual warehouse site. The warehouse itself will be painted in earth tones to be more aesthetically pleasing and to cause the building to blend in with the general view of the area. It’s estimated that it will take approximately 1 year to build the warehouse/distribution center with construction to start in late 2013 or early 2014.

Patrick said that they will have new signals installed to assist with traffic flow, not only from the distribution center, but also the current traffic. The signals will be placed at Palm and the North bound 215 as well as at Palm and the South bound 215. The lights will be coordinated with CalTrans as well. Patrick indicated that traffic studies were reviewed and traffic will actually be about 10% less than previously thought.

Member’s questions:

 We have problems now with the road degradation by the trucks in the area; will your trucks cause further degradation of the roads?

 IDS will help improve the roads.

 How will all of this be funded? Are the funds secured?

Yes, in fact, due to the size of this project, it will be completed using cash. No government funding will be involved. Sandbag is fully funded as well.

Patrick gave the floor back to Mary. Mary introduced Rebecca Kramer from S B Direct.

Rebecca indicated that S B Direct is a consolidation of several phone numbers into a one-stop phone number for services from San Bernardino. Rebecca also indicated that there are 5 agents, 3 of whom are bi-lingual, that take the calls 5 days each week. She also indicated that messages can be left afterhours. Rebecca explained that in the 3 months that S B Direct has been operating, they have received 14,000 calls, with increased call volume as the program rolls forward.

 Member Questions:

 Amanda Jacobs: Are callers information/inquiries kept confidential?

 Yes, if you wish to remain anonymous, you can.

(Unknown): I called one weekend when the water was pouring out across the street. I found out that I can call the police non-emergency dispatch number and they sent someone right away to stop the water.

Mary received the floor back and recognized Jim Penman, city attorney. Jim thanked those who voted for him in the recent election and wanted to earn the votes of those who did not vote for him this time.

Meeting adjourned by Mary Solis at 19:35.