



Citizens Advisory Committee to the Las Vegas Redevelopment Agency Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR HILL called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR HILL and MEMBERS JONES, CURRAN, STILWELL, WILCOXLAVIN and WEST

EXCUSED: MEMBERS PALACIOS and CAMACHO

ALSO PRESENT: JEFF McGEACHY, Sr. Economic Development Specialist, JOHN RIDILLA, Deputy City Attorney, and JACQUIE MILLER, Sr. Deputy City Clerk

2. Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Minutes:

This item was read subsequent to Item 5 being read.

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations in accordance with the State of Nevada Executive Department Declaration of Emergency Directive 006: The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov and The Nevada Public Notice Website – notice.nv.gov.

3. Public Comment: Comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters on the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

This item was read subsequent to Item 1. There was no public comment.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of January 28, 2020

Motion made by John Curran to Approve

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

For-Daniel Hill, Asha L Jones, John Curran, Desiree Stillwell, Jana Wilcox Lavin, Kelcey West; Excused-Craig Palacios, Robin Camacho;

5. Presentation by Jeff Dorocak, Deputy City Attorney, regarding Ordinance Nos. 6710 and 6719 which pertain to Encampment and Sidewalk Cleaning

Minutes:

This item was read into the record and then DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JOHN RIDILLA requested that CHAIR HILL go back to read Item 2.

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAK reviewed a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was included in the backup, regarding ordinances pertaining to encampments, which was adopted in November 2019, and sidewalk cleaning, which was adopted in January 2020. Both aimed to address homelessness and trash on the streets, and for this Committee's purposes, MR. DOROCAK stated that the Redevelopment Agency (RDA) zone is covered by these ordinances. The ordinances were developed through the efforts of the Office of the City Attorney, the Office of Community Services, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Operations and Maintenance at the direction of the Office of the City Manager and the Office of the Mayor.

MR. DOROCAK explained that there has been a decline in homelessness in Las Vegas and throughout the valley; however, chronic homelessness continues. There is the suggestion that an accurate count of the homeless population cannot be obtained and is worse than what is reported. Throughout the streets of Las Vegas, there are sanitary conditions that are a result of homelessness including rats and debris. He showed slides with photographs of encampments with the trash that individuals possessed before leaving the sites. The build-up of debris has caused fire hazards and water drainage issues.

The Department of Operations and Maintenance spends approximately \$3 million annually on regular cleanup and sanitation issues that arise from encampments. He shared a map of locations that have experienced routine cleaning due to encampments that are sporadic throughout all wards of the city. The RDA zone is a major component of these efforts so it does not negatively affect the City of Las Vegas' economic situation. MR. DOROCAK reviewed numerous slides of encampments located in storm drains, along public sidewalks, in public roadways, and in residential and commercial areas. A map was displayed of encampment hot zones, which he believed were back up in number.

There are many public health safety concerns associated with homelessness. There is infrastructure maintenance involved as well as neighborhood livability, property value, and commercial viability issues in the downtown area. As a solution, the City considered an encampment or camping ban, which is not an unusual concept as 187 other cities throughout the country have done this. There were some issues out west as the Ninth Circuit Court prohibited the City of Boise from doing a city-wide ban because the city not only did this but also did not have any public homeless facilities, which prevented those without a home from having anywhere to go if they were denied by private homeless facilities. Ordinance No. 6710 was passed in November of 2019 and generally prohibited camping, lodging, and similar activities in public rights-of-way in residential areas and the Downtown Master Plan districts. Efforts were built into the ordinance to ensure it was not inhumane and would not get thrown out of court. The Department of Public Safety would have to notify individuals where to go to rest, that the Courtyard Homeless Resource Center (Courtyard) is available, and where else they can go. He noted there are numerous exceptions within the ordinance and showed a slide with the differences between the City of Las Vegas and the City of Boise. Questions were raised regarding why there are no portable toilets and showers throughout the downtown area; however, these would create more trash and possibly more crime.

On the front end, the City made efforts to provide basic services to the homeless population through the Courtyard, which will be expanding by 2021, as well as outreach through the use of three MORE (Multi-agency Outreach Resource Engagement) teams that go out daily and engage with the homeless population. The Courtyard is a \$20 million regional effort currently underway, and MR. DOROCAK shared a slide highlighting some of the services to be provided at the facility.

He reiterated the approval date of Ordinance No. 6710 which passed in November of 2019 and went into effect February 1st. Since going into effect, approximately eight citations have been issued and some have been reduced from an encampment violation to a lesser violation. This ordinance was followed up with an ordinance to permit sidewalk cleaning in areas that were not affected by the other ordinance. Ordinance No. 6719 was passed in January of 2020 and effectively covers all sidewalk areas in the city including the RDA zone in the downtown area.

MEMBER CURRAN wondered what was different about the City of Las Vegas encampment ban that received national attention. MR. DOROCAK stated that many other cities had their ordinances in place for years before social justice and homelessness became a bigger topic as it has over the past decade. Because of public concern, the City tried to be preemptive by having a notification process, etc. In regards to the City of Boise,

MR. DOROCAK noted the City of Las Vegas is distinct in that the encampment ban is not city-wide and the Courtyard is available for resources.

MEMBER CURRAN also asked about the eight citations. MR. DOROCAK said enforcement is at the discretion of the marshals and Metro (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department). The number of encampments decreased in January and February after the ordinances were passed; this was confirmed by the Department of Operations and Maintenance. Once COVID-19 broke out, there was CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidance not to move encampments because this could spread the coronavirus; this led to the increase in encampments. MR. DOROCAK believed the number of encampments was back to the levels they were previously. As things improve, he hoped more efforts could be made to get individuals to the Courtyard or to relocate.

MEMBER WILCOXLAVIN asked about the fine. MR. DOROCAK informed her that any ordinance passed by the City of Las Vegas is a misdemeanor unless stated otherwise, which means up to six months in prison or a \$1,000 fine; however, the penalty is at the judge's discretion. Additionally, a Fresh Start Specialty Court is being developed, which allows the opportunity for individuals to obtain the services they need.

MEMBER WILCOXLAVIN asked if data is being shared across all other municipalities that border Las Vegas to see if there are any migratory patterns. MR. DOROCAK indicated he has not seen anything to this effect; however, members from each jurisdiction, as part of the Continuum of Care, manage the federal grants and the Point-in-Time Count. He did not believe anyone from any other jurisdiction was keeping track of encampments prior to and after passing the City of Las Vegas ordinances, but the municipality has kept track of its own numbers through the Department of Operations and Maintenance.

6. Discussion for possible action regarding approval of the 2021 meeting schedule for the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Las Vegas Redevelopment Agency

Minutes:

CHAIR HILL referred to the proposed meeting schedule that was included in the backup, noting that the 2021 meetings would be held in January, April, July, October.

Motion made by John Curran to Approve

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

For-Daniel Hill, Asha L Jones, John Curran, Desiree Stillwell, Jana Wilcox Lavin, Kelcey West; Excused-Craig Palacios, Robin Camacho;

7. **Discussion regarding topics for future agenda items.** Comments made during this portion of the agenda by individual members shall refer solely to proposals for future agenda items and any discussion shall be limited to whether or not such proposed items are within the purview of the Committee and/or whether such proposed items shall be placed on a future agenda. No discussion regarding the substance of any such proposed topic shall occur and no action shall be taken.

Minutes:

CHAIR HILL said that the Committee members weigh in on what they would like to see presented or discussed at the meetings. He reviewed items on the list, which JEFF McGEACHY, Sr. Economic Development Specialist, distributed and submitted as backup. The Chair noted that topics included on the list were the Business Improvement District, Light FC and the HUNDRED (Historic Urban Neighborhood Design Redevelopment) Plan, which would carry them through three meetings. He asked for preferences regarding choosing a topic from the remainders on the list for the fourth meeting. MEMBER JONES suggested the Innovation Center at the Bank of America Building, and CHAIR HILL concurred.

8. **Citizens Participation:** Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee. No subject may be acted upon by the Committee unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record.

The amount of discussion on any single subject, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:
None.

9. **Adjournment**

Minutes:
The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jacquie Miller, Sr. Deputy City Clerk

Daniel Hill, Chair

Minutes prepared by:
Ashley Foster, Deputy City Clerk

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE OF NEVADA EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE 006
The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov
and
The Nevada Public Notice Website – notice.nv.gov