NEWBERRY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8, 2019 @ 6 P.M.

COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING - 30884 NEWBERRY RD.

**MEETING MINUTES**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGANCE was led by Paul Deel

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Paul Deel, Brian Fisher, Mike Sullivan, Vickie Paulsen, Jack Unger

ABSENT: Fire Dept. Representative, Karen Gray

MEETING RECORDING(S)

This meeting was recorded. Meeting recordings are available to the public. See Jack if you would like to get a recording of any meeting.

INPUT, QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM AUDIENCE

* **CSD utilization of CSDA help -** Audience member (and former CSD Director) Robert Shaw suggested that the CSD is not utilizing help that’s available from the California Special Districts Association.
* **Land behind Family Center** - Robert Shaw also advises that the Newberry Family Center has land behind the Center that they are not using. He suggests adding it to the Civic Hub plan for use as a Park as this would help the Family Center. Brian Fisher advised that use of this land for a park would require installation of a new well. The current Family Center well would not support the needs of a park. Brian will inquire about any interest in renting, leasing or selling this property at the next Family Center Board meeting. Land was added into SPC planning matrix.

MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 2, 2019 MEETING – Motion by Paul Deel; 2nd by Brian Fisher. Motion passed; Minutes approved.

MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 6, 2019 MEETING – The Minutes were not ready for review. Will be emailed out for review before the February meeting.

GRANTS – BACKGROUND INFORMATION – Vickie shared the following notes from a Grant class that she took.

* Must know the proposed project VERY well.
* First two sentences must STAND OUT so the granting agency can immediately evaluate the proposal.
* Consider contacting the railroads and other large corporations that use our local infrastructure.
* Must match our project to the priorities of the funding agencies.
* Look at the grant applications of previous successful grantees to see what has worked before.
* Go talk to the grantors to see what their priorities are.
* Must have community support.
* Communicate how many people we are.
* Demonstrate what makes our proposal better than others.
* Once we have the details of the project that we want funded, we can talk with the California Special District Association (CSDA) to get their help.

Paul suggested that we go ahead and work on planning our new Fire Department so we will be better able to be specific when applying for grants.

Vickie suggested we go visit fire departments to gain a better understanding of fire department operation.

We will likely use Mac software (Graphic) to begin to create a hard-copy that captures the needed details such as how many equipment “bays” are needed.

Robert Shaw mentioned that the CSDA has an architect who should be available to assist.

2020 GOALS – BRAINSTORMING (All)

* Paul Deel reports that San Bernardino County Land Use Services now requires a “Champion” to advocate for new projects. Paul suggests we make a list of the past business efforts that were stopped when they ran up against stiff or unrealistic requirements from LU Services.
* We need to develop enough small business activity to possibly justify the incorporation of an LU Services satellite office within the civic hub. Currently, the County’s regulations and fees put an “iron lid” on local small business development. Paul says the County “really wants to help us” IF they can make money on us but it’s possible that County Governments (in general) don’t see “rural living” as a permanent condition that makes them money.
* Should we make a list of the “challenges” that we currently face so we can lobby the County to implement zoning requirements that are more favorable to rural business development? We should work with the County to help them advance their thinking as they continue to draft and develop their Countywide (Policy) Plan (which is online).
* Mike Sullivan suggested starting with a list of the small businesses that are already out there.
* We need economic development to be able to keep our youth in the community. We need out youth to stay here in order to build the community. Many of our youth “escape” – they leave our community because there is nothing here for them to do.
* Communication – How do we publicize and share (communicate) with our Community. Mike advises the School District utilizes many channels (Facebook, Messenger, etc.) to “cast their line into the water” as often as possible… and people still say “Oh, I didn’t know about xyz”.
* On the one hand, we need to know what business people are here and what facilities they need but on the other hand, most small businesses want to remain below the radar to remain safe away from County interference.
* If we had a list of business that are here now and potentially in the future, we may be able to describe and specify an “overlay zone” where the County would agree to less restrictive and less burdensome requirements that would give small businesses a chance to exist here.
* Can NSEDA partner with this Committee to work to list community needs and bring a list back to this Committee? Paul will take the question to NSEDA.
* Discussion of micro-kitchens and the wisdom of SB County requiring more study before approval or denial.
* A question was asked about the lack of a response to the CSDs outreach to the owner of the potential property purchase on Newberry Road. It was suggested that we informally approach another realtor or two to see if they have any information about availability. Let’s put this on the CSD agenda to make an additional realtor contact.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020 AT 6 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT