

Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Tuesday, Sept. 19th-Joint Planning Commission/City Council meeting- This meeting was an update on the efforts to have a compliant 5th cycle Housing Element (this is the one we need to complete before we complete our 6th cycle which is the one that all cities are currently working on). The main topic of discussion was the zoning overlay ordinance for our former Fort Ord property that the Planning Commission and the City Council will be reviewing in October. Right now, that property is not zoned for residential/multifamily use, so we'll need to change that if we're looking to place our affordable housing in that location. For now, the focus is on the 5th cycle, but many of the steps we're taking may also "count" towards our 6th cycle Housing Element, too. I believe the city is hoping to have a compliant 5th cycle Housing Element by November and a compliant 6th cycle Housing Element by the Dec. 15th deadline. With these quick timelines, we'll continue to have this be a big focus in the city, so it's important that everyone stays engaged with this impactful topic.

Wednesday, Sept. 20th- 20th Anniversary Women's Leadership Council luncheon with Assemblymember Dawn Addis- The Women's Leadership Council, which is an organization associated with CSUMB that supports scholarships and emergency awards for women, held their 20th anniversary fundraising luncheon at Embassy Suites. I was grateful that Assemblymember Dawn Addis invited me to join her at her table for this event. Past recipients of the Women's Leadership Council awards gave talks, which illustrated the importance and lasting affects in our society when women are well supported. Both women who spoke, talked about how the awards made a difference in their lives. In addition, they talked about their kids and the successes they were having in college and post-college. Simply, when we support women, it pays off in spades as the women find success which in turn helps them to influence their kids to also find that same success. The Leadership council always has a "Community Woman of Distinction" which for this year was Sylvia Panetta. Similar to the other women, she also spoke about the success of her kids (kind of hard not to). I believe it's another illustration that shows when you are able to have successful and supportive families, it just increases the odds that the kids will also find similar success. Overall, it was an uplifting experience and I was happy to share the table with Assemblymember Dawn Addis and her other invited guests.

Friday, Sept. 22nd- ReGen Monterey Board Mtg- As vice-chair for the ReGen board of directors, I ran this meeting since our chair was out of town. We began acknowledging three employees for their work with the district. One of them has worked on our sorter line for 25 years and the other two have worked for 30 years, one as a heavy equipment operator and the other as a supervisor in the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

Next, we had a presentation from our Public Education and Outreach Coordinator, Eric Palmer who spoke about the social media outreach he does for ReGen. It was so interesting to learn his approach to posting, as he balances both the educational aspect with the positive values that ReGen wants to promote. It would be so easy to post pictures and stories that are more “doomsday” rather than positively focused, but he really works to put positive spins on all of his social media work. He also does a great job of humanizing what we do by focusing on taking pictures of our employees at work, while educating the public on how to properly dispose of their waste. He’s got a great eye, so his pictures both tell a story while still being visually stimulating. I’m not a huge social media person, so it was good to learn what he’s doing. I’m grateful that he’s using these tools to outreach and educate the public and many felt the same!

Our next presentation was about safety at the district. As you might imagine, working around all the waste/recycling materials in these environments provides lots of areas where accidents can easily happen. I was happy to learn that we have been improving with our number of OSHA reportable incidents and the team continues to be innovative with their approach to teach and engage all of the employees on the importance of safety.

Our last presentation was about results from an employee survey that was done. Turns out many employees really like where they work and feel that their jobs make a difference. Overall, very positive results!

Saturday, Sept. 23rd- Coastal Clean up with Sustainable Del Rey Oaks- Several volunteers, including myself and my husband, spent 4 hours cleaning up over 82lbs of trash from Work-Memorial park and the surrounding areas. Everything from cigarette butts, plastic bags, food wrappers, and paper products were prevented from washing down into our creek and storm drains. I want to thank SDRO for establishing Work-Memorial park as an official Coastal Clean up site, organizing the volunteers, and dealing with the paperwork that went along with this effort. Also, a big thank you goes to Safeway who donated snacks, coffee, volunteers, and for allowing us to give them back our 22 bags of trash for their disposal. Way to go SDRO and Safeway!

Sunday, Sept. 24th- Democratic Women of Monterey County Fundraiser- I was happy to spend a lovely afternoon in Carmel Valley as the Democratic Women put on their fundraiser and highlighted several hardworking women in our community. The event was hosted by Anna Velazquez, Mayor of Soledad. Our former Del Rey Oaks Mayor, Alison Kerr, also worked hard in preparing for this gathering and volunteering at the event. Besides the fundraising and sharing a meal with like-minded community members, the event provided the Visionary Leadership Award to Sylvia Panetta (who had many of her family members in attendance!). Other honorees included: Senator Anna Caballero, Dr. Laura Solorio, Tanya Costa, and Rosalyn Green.

Tuesday, Sept. 26th- City Council Mtg- We began this meeting with three important proclamations. Here are the topics of the proclamations and some of my additional thoughts:

- **Happy 70th Birthday, Del Rey Oaks!** I know we all feel so fortunate to live in such a unique and special place on the peninsula. Del Rey Oaks sits in a beautiful location within our watershed, which incorporates diverse habitats from forests, scrub brush, grass lands, the Arroyo del Rey creek, and acres of wetland habitats. We have wonderful residents who deeply care for our community and for each other. The next changes we see in our city, might very well be the largest the city has known. I look forward to working together with the community as we continue to plan and build for a sustainable future.
- **National Hispanic Heritage Month-** I am so grateful for our Hispanic members of our community, and the rich diversity that they bring. Many of you know that I teach at MPC, which is now classified as a Hispanic Serving Institution. I feel lucky to be meeting so many students who enrich our classroom with their culture and unique perspectives. I am always learning from them and am thankful to them for enriching our discussions.
- **Stormwater Awareness Week-** As we know, everything drains to the ocean around here, so I really want to thank Sustainable Del Rey Oaks for their efforts at cleaning up trash and recycling along our roadways and within Work-Memorial park during the California Coastal Clean up this past Saturday. Thank you for keeping our water ways a bit cleaner!

After these proclamations, we had a badge ceremony for our reserve officer, Chris Salopek. Chief Bourquin presented the badge and provided us with officer Salopek's vast background and history in law enforcement. I also learned that he lives in Del Rey Oaks! We are lucky to have him work with our law enforcement officers as he greatly assists in much of the detective work.

The other two items on this agenda were tabled for another time. Community Human Services was not able to make our meeting, so the presentation for Pat Lintell will happen at another time. In regards to the new business item which was to be the appeal of the city building official's determination regarding the square footage of the building at 121 Calle Del Oaks—this was also tabled after additional information was sent to city hall which needed to be reviewed. I'm very much hoping they'll be able to settle this outside of the appeal.

Monday, October 9th- MST Administration Committee Mtg- During this meeting is where we got the official state and federal legislative updates from our transportation lobbyists. We also reviewed the MST monthly performance data that focuses attention on three areas of importance- "People", "Planet", and "Profit."

Monday, October 9th- MST Board Mtg- Please see the MST board highlights in our agenda packet.

Wednesday, October 18th- Special City Council Mtg- This council meeting was held to review and approve several items that will bring us into compliance with our 5th cycle Housing Element which is long overdue (reminder...our 6th cycle is due by Dec. 15th!). For this 5th cycle, we are focusing our efforts for affordable housing on two portions of the property in the former Fort Ord. Currently, this property is not zoned for housing, so the actions we took this evening, provides the ability to build affordable housing on sites 1 and 1a within Fort Ord. In addition, we certified the Environmental Impact Report for the 5th cycle and approved amendments to our General Plan and to the DRO municipal code. Given the state's comments on prior submissions, we should be able to submit these documents and get their final approval for compliance very soon. Council member Bill Ragsdale-Cronin mentioned he's on for cupcakes when we get final approval. Let's hold him to it 😊