



council notes

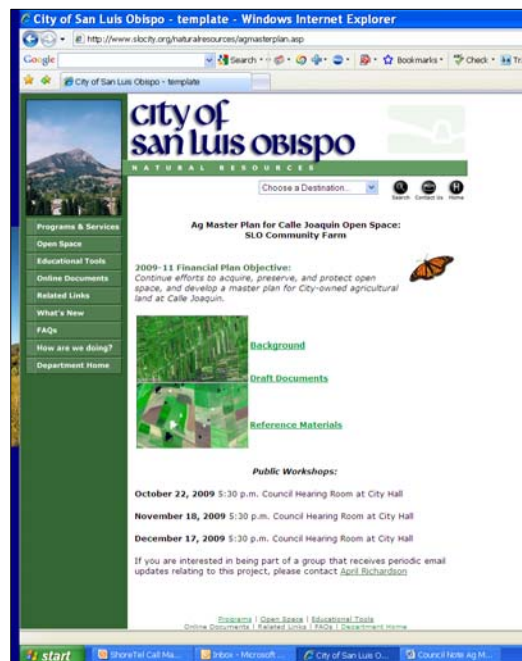
DATE: September 18, 2009

TO: City Council

FROM: Ken Hampian

Natural Resources Launches Webpage for Ag Master Plan for Calle Joaquin Open Space:

The Natural Resources program launched an informational webpage for the Ag Master Plan. The page allows visitors the opportunity to become part of an email group that will receive updates on the plan and reminders about the community workshops. The first public workshop is scheduled for October 22, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Hearing Room. From the site, <http://www.slocity.org/naturalresources/agmasterplan.asp>, viewers can also access background information, draft documents, and reference materials. For more information about the project, please contact Neil Havlik x7211.



Historic Preservation Training: On August 17th and 18th, Winter and Company, a consulting firm from Boulder, Colorado, brought a hands-on training session regarding Historic Preservation and the Design Review Process to the Cultural Heritage Committee (CHC), Architectural Review Commission (ARC) and Community Development Department staff. Several interested members of the public participated in the training on both days. Winter and Company came highly recommended from the City of Monterey where the consultants helped the city identify historic

the city identify historic features and design review approaches for the Cannery Row area. Staff arranged the training in order to explore key concepts with the advisory bodies in preparation for the creation and review of a historic preservation ordinance – a goal the Council identified as part of the 2009-2011 financial plan.

Members of the ARC and CHC were provided an overview of design review in historic districts on Monday evening. The following day, the training topics included: determining compatible changes to historic structures; defining key features of historic districts; discussing infill design principles – how to define compatibility for new buildings in historic districts; taking a walking tour of the Downtown Historic District; and participating in two case study table exercises.

Mr. Winter discussed how the buildings in historic districts may have been developed over a span of years and that often the task of defining “compatibility” for new buildings in historic districts begins with understanding what building style or particular time period is significant to the district. Other factors that influence compatibility relate to the characteristics that define buildings in the district – these factors can include items such as the pattern of building orientation to the street; streetscape features; building form and scale; and other details such as window style and placement, cornices, awnings, and building materials.

The training included a discussion of historic preservation incentives used in some cities, including Mills Act, technical assistance grants, and regulatory relief. The group discussed how other areas handle historic resource designation and protection. The materials presented a hierarchy of options when reviewing new buildings in historic districts, with the resulting goal that the process will be fair, predictable, and efficient.



CHC, ARC, and staff members work through an exercise.



Participants on a tour of the Downtown.

New Cal Poly Bus Stops: As part of long term plans for circulation on campus, Cal Poly recently closed a portion of South Perimeter Road in front of the University Union and constructed new bus stops along Grand Ave near the intersection of Perimeter Road, just in time for Fall Quarter. The two new Performing Arts Center (PAC) stops replace those at the Vista Grande restaurant, PAC parking lot, Mustang Stadium, the Graphic Arts building, the University Union and in front of Mott Gym. In addition, two new bus stops were constructed at the Kennedy Library, which has been envisioned by the University as the ultimate location for the

campus “transit hub” These new bus stops will be used by SLO Transit routes 4, 5 6A & 6B along with some San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority (SLORTA) routes.

New Performing Arts Bus stops (PAC)



New Kennedy Library Bus stops



For additional information or questions concerning SLO Transit please contact John Webster at 781-7121 or jwebster@slocity.org

Stormwater Management Update: The City is now enrolled under the State General Permit for Municipal Stormwater. What does that mean? Well it means we must start in earnest on implementing the commitments in our stormwater management plan. Staff is meeting on a monthly basis to address overlap, shared resource opportunities, work on coordination, assist each other with various endeavors, and make sure everyone knows and is maintaining the documentation they will need at the end of the year to pull together the annual report. Staff still has much to learn, but is taking a positive approach to incorporating this work into the City’s processes.

One of the more costly items on the horizon has been the development of a Hydromodification Management Plan. This plan regulates how development minimizes or mitigates changes to the historical drainage and infiltration of a site. Staff was to have in place by the end of the year interim measures and develop a final plan within 3 to 5 years. The cost estimate for development of this plan was in the \$400,000 range. At the urging of the Low Impact Development Center, the Regional Water Quality Control Board staff developed a new option for the local cities – the regional approach. The State Water Quality Board has approved \$600,000 to start this endeavor off and regional staff is looking for additional funds. The Regional Board has agreed to head this effort up. Each agency will need to commit to participating in this regional approach in the near future unless they prefer to go it on their own. As the mechanism to implementing the regional approach becomes clearer, staff will keep the Council apprised of the details. It appears at this time there will be a considerable cost savings to the City to participate and, in lieu of developing interim and then final language, final language is to be developed in about 2 years. Contact City Engineer Barbara Lynch if you have further questions.

Urban Foresters: On August 29th, Ron Combs spent some time with the Downtown Urban Foresters to provide Tree Pruning lessons. The Downtown Urban Foresters are a group of volunteers from the DA that supplement the City's tree crew by helping to take care of young trees. Early trimming will reduce structural problems that can lead to limb drop in older trees, and help shape the trees to minimize truck clearance issues. Contact City Arborist Ron Combs if you have further questions.



*Note neatly trimmed trees behind the group.
Photo by Deborah Cash*

City Clerk's Office Streamlines Record Keeping System: The City Clerk is known as the “keeper of the record” and is charged with providing access to all official actions, such as minutes, resolutions, ordinances, deeds, agreements, and more. However, especially in the case of finding agreements, the process for the Clerks has been inordinately time-consuming, sometimes taking days before being able to find and copy requested documents.

Historically, different City Clerks used different record keeping systems and the result over the years was a hodge-podge of record-keeping systems, databases and color-coded spreadsheets. Depending upon the request, a clerk could search in five different places and still not be sure of finding the correct document. Thankfully, those days are over!

So, what's changed? The Clerks like to call it “Audrey's Legacy”—a project that began in earnest three months before her retirement. With the help of interns Anthony Mello and Leah Wells, the Clerks went through every single agreement in their vault and entered nearly 1,400

documents in their MuniMetrix database system. New files were made, new labels were created and affixed, and every agreement was described and cross-referenced. Sue Chippendale finished the project by going through each file and creating an alphabetized list containing every contractor's name for easy reference.

The result? With the new database and filing systems, what used to take days of searching is, literally, taking only minutes. This more efficient, time-saving system took a lot of work to implement, but is proving to be well worth the effort. Thanks, Audrey!



For further information, please contact the City Clerk's office at 781-7100.

Fourth Annual 9/11 Ceremony at Laguna Lake Golf Course: Members of the community gathered at the Laguna Lake Municipal Golf Course on Friday, September 11th, for a ceremony commemorating the eighth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Mayor Romero welcomed the crowd of 130, which included students from Laguna Middle School, members of the Police and Fire Departments, and members of the American Legion – Post 66.



Bob Bryn, representing the Laguna Lake Men's Club, spoke on the history of the memorial flag pole, which stands in front of the entrance to the Laguna Lake Golf Course, and its significance for the 9/11 remembrance. This year, Police Chief Deb Linden honored Officer Moira Smith, a member of the New York Police Department, for her heroic efforts during the events on September 11, 2001 at the Twin Towers. Paul Brown, Commander of American Legion – Post 66, dedicated this year's flag pole plaque to Officer Smith. The proximity of the golf course to the Laguna Middle School allowed several students to partake in the day's remembrance. The Laguna Middle School Chorus performed the Star Spangled Banner and America the Beautiful, while the Laguna Middle School PTA donated and served refreshments for the event.

The 9/11 Ceremony was coordinated by Harry Yasumoto, Laguna Lake Golf Course staff member, with assistance from Bob Bryn, Wilbur Neben, Todd Bunte, Linda Fitzgerald, Sharon Olson (Police), and Linda Kirby (Fire). Assistance for the event was provided by the Parks and Recreation Department. The Police Department also offered planning support, by managing the distribution of the news release to the media.

Sunset Magazine Blogs on Emerson Community Garden Bee Study: The community garden site at Emerson Park has been included in a native bee study by Dr. Gordon Frankie of UC Berkeley for the past two years. The study is beginning to publish results of the potential to attract a native bee population to assist in pollination. The Emerson Community Garden has greatly benefitted from the study in the donation of hundreds of native plants from UC Berkeley, as well as gained national attention as one of the urban garden study sites. The Sunset Blog, Fresh Dirt, features a story on Emerson Garden on-line at:
<http://freshdirt.sunset.com/2009/09/attract-native-bees-to-your-garden.html>.



next slo city council meeting

Tuesday, October 6th

Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
Council Chamber

Other Important Dates to Note

Wednesday, September 23rd

Parks & Recreation Volunteer BBQ
Ludwick Center
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 24th

Good Morning SLO
Grace Church
7:30 am.

SCLC Meeting
(Romero/Marx)
Council Hearing Room
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 26th

Employee Recognition Picnic
Sinsheimer Park
11:30 a.m.