

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Harness, Hinesly, Morales, Smith

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Gonzalez

#### CALL TO ORDER

The joint meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

- 1.1. City Council Members Attendance  
City Council Members Harness, Hinesly, Morales and Smith were present; Council Member Gonzalez was absent.
- 1.2. Board Members Attendance  
Board Members Froese, Keel-Worrell, Kizirian, Rojas and Villarreal were present.
- 1.3. Adoption of Joint Meeting Agenda

The Joint agenda was adopted by the DUSD Board Members.

#### FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Leroy Barkley.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

- 3.1. Unscheduled

None

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 4.1. Fire Fighter Academy

Debbie Martin-Deeter, Valley Regional Occupational Program, was present to give a report to the joint Boards of the progress made for the planned Valley ROP program in which Dinuba is participating. She explained that the program is designed to train high school age students for future work as emergency personnel. Martin-Deeter reported that she and Battalion Chief Doyle interviewed instructors for the Dinuba program.

Martin-Deeter reported that the Sanger Fire Department wrote a regional grant which included Sanger, Selma, Kingsburg, Reedley, Orange Cove and Dinuba Fire Departments to participate in the program that would recruit and retain firefighters both permanent and volunteer. The four-year \$1.1 million grant has 2.5 years left and \$1 million yet to be utilized.

Discussion followed as to the involvement of the school districts and the number of students.

Martin-Deeter explained that the program is two-tiered; junior students would be assigned to the metro and senior students to wild land program. All must be members of a Fire Explorer Program prior to enrollment in the ROP program and there is also a GPA requirement.

Board Member Rojas asked if both male and female students are equally enrolled. Martin-Deeter said it is favorable but it is left to the high school counselors to decide.

Board Member Kizirian asked how it would impact the high schools. Martin-Deeter said each department has to speak to the number of students allowed to enroll in the program.

- 4.2. First Tee Program

Finance and Community Services Director Nunes reported that the First Tee Program will soon begin at Ridge Creek Golf Course. She reported that one of the major goals of the RCR project was youth programs such as the First Tee program. When it was first proposed several years ago, First Tee staffing made it unavailable but that has recently changed.

Nunes explained that Equipment must be developmentally appropriate for the students there is room for 48 students. The program will be conducted as part of the City's After School Program and through Physical Education provided by the school district. The curriculum is set and there are 9 core values and 9 healthy habits included. Staff is being trained in the curriculum and the After School Program will begin first. The students will participate once weekly on the course and once weekly they will be instructed by a golf pro. The age group of the students ranges from 7 to 17. Nunes explained that studies have shown that student grades actually improve when enrolled in the program.

Nunes reported that the program will begin soon just after the holidays. She offered the School District use of City equipment for the program. She shared that once students are enrolled in the First Tee Program they are able to use the Dinuba and Fresno courses for the program. She said the students enrolled in the program as part of the After School Program will have transportation to and from Ridge Creek Golf Course.

#### 4.3. Elementary School Attendance Boundary Changes

Fiscal Services Officer Peggy Garispe reported that the District decided in 2011 to transform the JFK campus a K-6 campus. She said the District held several meetings for parents but received very little comment on the proposed boundaries. Garispe said the objective of the Board is that no student should have to bypass a school to get to school.

Discussion followed about the parameters of school boundaries and the student count at the schools.

President Worrell reported that school staff has put much effort into determining the boundaries.

#### 4.4. Safe Routes to Schools

Maintenance and Transportation Director Henry Moreno reported he attended a workshop for federal grants and he found that California is entitled to \$3 to \$4 million for Safe Routes to Schools projects. The grant includes personnel, crosswalks, education, streets and sidewalks. Moreno used the Cities of Lemoore and Chula Vista who each received large grants for their SRTS projects. He reported that the money can also be used for bicycle trails. Moreno added that the application period will come to a close in approximately 2.5 months so if there is an interest in making application it needs to be done quickly.

Board Member Froese asked Moreno if it is a joint use grant. Moreno replied that it is a joint application process between city and school district. He added that Measure R funds are also available.

Council Member Harness asked how Lemoore used their grant funds. Moreno replied that they used it to pay a coordinator and to pay adults to cross students.

Mayor Smith stated it's important to educate the students and he shared his experience with students crossing the street one morning as an example of the need for educating students.

Moreno said it would be helpful to have past accident history for use with the grant application.

Discussion followed as to the grant application timeline and placing it on the Board agenda for discussion.

Mayor Smith pointed out that it's important to identify projects for the grant application.

Public Works Director Beltran said two projects that quickly come to mind are the Euclid lighted crosswalk project and the Kamm and Greene project. She shared that the bid opening was held earlier in the day for the El Monte Way and Hayes lighted crosswalk project. She also shared that an application was submitted for the Northway and Palm Drive lighted crosswalk project. Beltran said the City focused on those areas and were successful in award of grants for those projects.

Beltran reported that City staff member Elva Patino also attended the meeting Moreno reported he attended. A couple of years ago the crosswalk at Gerald on Crawford was installed and a lighted crosswalk at Saginaw is an area staff has discussed. Beltran shared that education is a huge part of the joint effort and careful promoting and will involve several people working together to educate the students and parents. Beltran shared that she is open to ideas for educating students and parents.

Board Member Froese asked why there are so few bike lanes in the City. Beltran said the City applied for Bicycle Plan funding recently and staff intends to implement bike lanes in the future. She reported that there are Measure R funds available for bicycle lanes.

Moreno said that there is a thin line between what routes can and cannot be used as Safe Routes to school.

Discussion followed and it was determined that Superintendent Hernandez and City Manager Todd would meet soon to discuss the next steps in the process.

Director Beltran asked the Boards to consider what projects are most pressing because the timeline for application is short.

City Manager Todd asked if we approach it quickly, is the same amount also available next year. He added, education seems to be very important.

Director Beltran said given the state's decision to cut funding she is not sure if it will be available next year.

Board Member Froese asked what the cost of a lighted crosswalk is and Beltran shared that they average \$80,000. She added that the costs rise when engineering and the application process are factored in.

Discussion followed about crossing guard staff at schools and lighted crosswalk light colors.

#### 4.5. Road Widening – Impact of Road Improvement on Transportation

City Engineer Uota reported that the Road 80 / El Monte Way (Avenue 416) widening project began nearly two years ago. There were 85 parcels to acquire and there are currently 3 left to acquire on Avenue 416. Uota shared that the widening on Avenue 416 will likely affect bus transportation of students causing some delays. He shared that Avenue 416 is almost completely 4-lane now so there won't be as much widening work to do there as there was on Road 80.

Uota shared that construction on the bridge crossing the Kings River west of Dinuba has begun and the widening of Avenue 416 from the bridge to Road 56 will begin in 18 to 24 months after the bridge is completed. Uota reported that Fresno County is responsible for the widening project from the bridge to Highway 99. Uota shared that there will be room for bike lanes but they are not currently included in the plans due to budget constraints.

Board Member Froese asked who's paying for the construction of the bridge over the Kings River and Uota said some of the funding is through Measure R and some outside funding.

Board Member Rojas asked about the plans to widen El Monte Way from Alta Avenue to Road 92 and Uota explained that it's not programmed but may be in the future.

#### 4.6. Information Sharing

Board Member Froese shared that he is involved with the Family Literacy Program at Wilson School and at a recent event there were approximately 250 participants. Froese said many people want to learn English and, he added, it's a good opportunity to come together to help them.

Mayor Smith apologized for not attending the Red Ribbon event sponsored by the School District.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The joint meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.

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Mayor Smith

ATTEST:

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Linda Barkley, Deputy City Clerk