

Panil meeting summary December 8, 2021

The meeting was hosted by Bill Manley

There were 19 people in attendance at height

The NCPC portion of the meeting does not occur this month. Joe Devries, Coordinator for Neighborhood Services Division informed PANIL that because of staffing shortages, our NSC would be re-assigned. So we had no report or interaction with OPD at all in this meeting.

Redistricting is under way. Valerie Winemiller and Ronile Lahti from PANIL have been active in the discussions in the effort to ensure our neighborhood is fairly represented in the new district boundaries. PANIL will send an official comment to the city decision-makers.

Upper Broadway Advocates, a group that presented their activities in the October meeting, has issued a petition to address the blight of the vacant parcel of “The Ridge” development on the corner of Broadway and Pleasant Valley Road. This has been vacant for almost five years now, surrounded by chain link fence with no effort to landscape and no apparent progress on development. PANIL will review the petition and likely support it.

## **Main Meeting Topic:**

### **Getting Around In Oakland – OAKDOT**

#### **The City’s Department of Transportation**

**Speakers:** Ryan Russo, Director, Kerby Olsen, Staff and Mobility coordinator, and Neal Patel, from Lyft.

Mr. Russo, started off by summarizing the goals and activities of the department. The department came into existence under the administration of Mayor Schaaf. He highlighted the 4 main goals/principles of the Department:

- Equity
- Safety
- Sustainable Infrastructure
- Trustworthy Governance

One of the most pressing problems was the conditions of streets. In response, the City is undertaking a major repaving effort. The Department has been working aggressively, increasing the miles of repaving by almost 25% annually over the last four years. In our area, Monte Vista Ave. was recently repaved. Howe and Ridgeway are slated for repaving within the next five years. The DOT website has a priority repaving list for the City.

On the issue of safety, Mr. Russo noted that 95% of the injury accidents occur on the major arterials, such as International, Broadway, MacArthur, Telegraph, and High Street. To remedy, the City looks to “street calming” efforts, better signal controls, and bulb-outs for safer pedestrian crossing. The city works with the School District to set aside safer “drop-off/pickup” areas around the schools. A member of the audience asked about putting a delay for pedestrians crossing Pleasant Valley at Gilbert. Mr. Russo stated that when traffic lights are first installed, the settings are at defaults which don’t include a

delay, but a service request through the 311 hotline can trigger action. The city receives about 8000 such requests annually.

Asked about traffic enforcement, Mr. Russo stated that the department is not authorized to deal with moving violations and can only cover parking, which moved from the OPD to Transportation with the reorganization. New license reading technologies allows much more effective enforcement – no more chalk on the tire. While the Department cannot issue moving violations at this time, there is legislation in Sacramento that will enable cities to utilize cameras to enforce speeding and light violations, that will take the burden off overwhelmed police departments.

The presentation was turned over to Kerby Olsen and Neal Patel. A month ago, PANIL sent out a survey on potential locations for a bikeshare depot near the center of Piedmont Avenue. About 30 responses were received and all four locations suggested had favorable ratings. The highest favorable votes went for the parking lot location by CVS, but most bicyclists favored the 40<sup>th</sup> St. location adjacent to Blue Bottle coffee. Several people commented they did not want it front of the the 41<sup>st</sup> St. mural. PANIL send a reminder about the survey. Work would not begin until at least late Q1 of 2022. This station would complete a network of about 80 such stations around the City. Once one registers with Lyft, the bicycles can be utilized simply with presentation of a Clipper card. Kerby briefly touched on the scooter share program, that currently has three smaller vendors providing scooters. The use of scooters requires a vendor specific application on a cell-phone.

There was some discussion of the parklet program. With the pandemic, the City allowed merchants, mainly restaurants, to utilize parking spaces as extensions of the customer area. In consideration of difficulties of small businesses, the spaces we provided at no cost. This program is expected to end in March of 2022. DOT is recommending some nominal charge and clear guidelines for the program. Those interested should convey their concerns on the program to their councilperson.

Bill thanked the presenters. The meeting concluded at 7:30.