**City of Visalia**

**Citizens Advisory Committee**

**Wednesday, October 5, 2016, 5:30 PM**

**City Administrative Building**

**Minutes, Regular Meeting**

1. **Call to Order and Welcome, by Chair Kristi Bruce, at 5:31 PM**

**Members Present:** Mary Beatie, Debbie Bowen, Kristi Bruce, Jim Burr, Norbert Duarte, Joe Elben, Tom Gordon, John Gonzalez, Suzanne Monroe, , Joel Rosales, Don Wright. **Alternates Present**: Chris Telfer.

**Members Absent**: Cynthia Sarkesian, David Lange, David Winters, Perry Montgomery.

**Staff Liaison Present:** Eric Frost**,** Deputy City Manager

**Guest:** Visalia Mayor Steve Nelson

1. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment; no public members present.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Chair referred to minutes of August 3, 2016 regular meeting as distributed. Motion made and seconded to approve, and was unanimously approved.
3. **Mayor Nelson’s Comments:** CAC Chari Kristi Bruce introduced and welcomed the Mayor. He discussed Measure N, it’s objectives with transparency and layers of accountability. This was the favored method or replacing lost general fund revenues as recommended by two advisory committees and ultimately approved for the November ballot by the Council. He favored this rather than utility tax or other methods. He compared the total annual city tax burden per family between Tulare and Visalia, as follows; Tulare = $1,300 vs. Visalia = $630. He further reported that the State is taking about $40 million from Visalia over several years.

Members explained the staff’s current method of seeking CAC’s last-minute review and/or approval of items just before submitting to Council (some consider this “Rubber-Stamping” rather than useful CAC input). Mayor Nelson favored an approach other than additional subcommittees as currently considered by CAC. He feels any sub-group, by nature, tends to provide filtered feed-back to the main body. He suggested greater transparency by (1) arranging earlier (mid-term) meetings with staff to review progress reports thereby allowing full CAC input prior to the completed reports, and (2) for the staff’s benefit, Council expressed their needs for an active CAC. Members indicated this cannot come from the CAC without sounding self-serving. He indicated staff would be advised by Council the next day, and Eric offered to create a meeting calendar for CAC review during the next meeting.

1. **Review of Measure N:** byEric Frost. Eric offered explanations of (1) the initial plan and (2) the layers of accountability. He explained that if the measure is approved by voters, would involve two distinct ordinances. He discussed them and responded to questions.

1. **Review of New and Expanded Committee Assignments:**  Don Wright and Jim Burr presented the concept for the third time of establishing one new subcommittee on finance and expanding the CDBG Committee to include all housing issues as carried over from the September meeting. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Don Wright, seconded by Jim Burr to accomplish the changes. Upon a roll-call vote requested by Burr, the motion failed by 7 no votes, two yes and one abstention.

Further discussion established a consensus by members to create and peruse the mitigation method of working with staff as suggested by Mayor Nelson and described in Item 4 above.

1. **Sub-Committee Reports:**
2. **Non Profit;** Sub-Committee Chair, Suzanne Monroe, reported on final grants awarded to deserving entities. A partial report is as follows:
* Seven grants were funded at 100% of request
* Two agencies received two grants each.
* Eleven new proposals were submitted

Again, several members complemented Suzanne Monroe and expressed concern for a suitable successor as her terms expire.

1. **Public Opinion Survey;** Committee Chair was absent – no reports were available

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1. **CDBG Funding;** Chair Tom Gordon had no report - nothing received from staff.

1. **Good of the Order:** Vice Chair Norbert Duarte, Secretary Jim Burr and others discussed issues with the City Land Use Planning and perceived incompatibility of parcels adjoining others with conflicting uses.
2. **Adjournment:** Chair adjourned meeting at 7:35 PM

**Respectfully submitted**

Jim Burr, CAC Secretary