

BE HEALTHY SV TOWN HALL PART 1

Date: 14SEP2021

Location: Discovery Garden Pavilion, U of A South

In Attendance:

Various attendees from around the area

Meeting Notes:

We had about 3 hours of great discussion and brainstorming. I was honored to be invited and fill the role of a panel member. Obviously not every topic or idea is something that the City can support or approve but never the less they are all great ideas and good feedback from the citizens of Sierra Vista who want to do everything they can to offer as many healthy living options as possible.

We talked a lot about the **West End** and what it may look like or have the space for once the road construction is complete. We also talked about what needs the West End may or may not have. Some of you have been part of groups like the West End Commission so you may be able to speak to the needs of that area better than I can. Of note we discussed how other cities are having success with offering outdoor open spaces that can be used for people to just gather, perform, play games, watch movies, or just relax. We talked about how we have seen things like outdoor domino tables, shuffleboard, backgammon or small performance stages have been doing well in other cities. The question of “Does the West End want/need more access to grocery stores/healthy options?” was brought up. Some thoughts were since places like the Dollar stores/convenient stores don’t offer much in the vegetable or fresh fruit department and weren’t very receptive when approached with the suggestion, then maybe when new businesses similar to those come into town maybe we can suggest that they offer something like that if even on a small scale. The question of if there is some kind of **community fridge** or **pantry** in the West End was also brought up. I thought that the Good Neighbor Alliance had something like that but when I called them they said they could take small donations of unopened goods or fruit/veggies but they are very limited on space. We discussed that maybe once the West End construction is done and there is any large parking lot type space available then maybe it could be used as an additional drop-off/pickup site for the **POW WOW/Bountiful Baskets**. That same location could also maybe be used as a Transit Stop for people wanting to go to and from Safeway, Fry’s or Food City on certain days of the week. I know during **Senator Mark Kelly’s** recent speech at the League of Cities and Towns he stated the **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act** would bring \$39.2 billion to public transit and he mentioned Sierra Vista by name. So maybe that can be a good way to use that funding. The Thursday **Farmer’s Market** in Veteran’s Memorial Park is a community favorite but maybe there can be one setup in the West End once or twice a month as well for those who can’t make it to the Thursday event at

the park. We also discussed how other communities have taken warehouse space and created art districts and tourists attractions by simply giving people a space to be creative in. We specifically talked about the Wynwood neighborhood in Miami, FL, the Meow Wolf/Omega Mart in Las Vegas, NV, the uptick in Selfie Museums and Container Park type setups that are a great venue for food trucks and live outdoor entertainment (which would also appeal to the residents of the Fort if it was on the West End.) I also put out the information for the **Brownfield Grant** meeting at City Hall on Wednesday September 22 from 5-630pm.

Along the lines of Farmer's Markets we discussed people being able to sell **roadside goods** such as fruits, vegetables, eggs etc. and what permits they may or may not need in order to do so. We mentioned the recent roadside setup of someone selling hatch green chiles and it was well received by the local community but apparently he was told he had to move his truck setup to Huachuca City. The group was looking for clarification on the approved way to setup something similar in our area so that the public could be educated on that process. So that is a due out for me.

We talked about any **FREE classes** that the city may have offered or are offering throughout the community so that people can get out and be active and how many of those great outdoor ideas were sparked by the Covid lockdown. We also discussed the classes available through the city for a fee put on by volunteer teachers. I brought up the new purchase of **Roadrunner Park** and that hopefully that side of the city will have more opportunities right there in the Canyon De Flores neighborhood in the near future. I mentioned the **Parks Master Plan** and that it is available on the City's website so that everyone can see the plans for all of the parks throughout the city.

The **multi-use paths** were brought up and I mentioned that there has been interest in getting funding to connect them so that there can be more opportunities for people to do 5K/10K or marathon events in the area. I also talked about how **Avenida Escuela** behind Wal-Mart will soon run all the way into the Domingo Paiz Sports Complex in part from a Grant from Wal-Mart. Opening that road will also lend to having events such as 5K/10Ks starting/ending at the soon to be City Football Field/Track (Sierra Vista Sports Division) at former Apache Middle School location. We also discussed how local businesses or units on the Fort can use the park spaces for their off-site activity days to keep active together.

We discussed how part of having a healthy community is having **equal** and **competitive pay**. I talked about the City's initiatives to get better pay for city employees and that it would be nice if other entities in the area such as the school district would do more of the same. We all agree that we want to keep our passionate and talented work force right here in our city as well as entice new ones to relocate here, especially in the medical/mental health fields.

The question was brought up asking if any of the new neighborhoods being constructed in the city would have any kind of **solar** power or electric/hybrid **vehicle charging stations** or if there was a plan to have any of those charging stations installed anywhere in the city? I said I would do some research on that so it's a due out for me.

We discussed the challenge of **home bound** Seniors and those in poor health being able to get the food/groceries they need if nobody is there to shop for them or deliver good meals. One new business coming soon to our city, Vida Feliz, will be catering to this exact demographic.

We discussed the need for **4-H** Volunteers in the local area and that they are open to any new ideas anyone may have in regards to giving classes on anything in the 4-H realm.

We had a great discussion on **small businesses** in the area and how we can best support them and ensure that they are aware of the resources available to them by organizations like the Chamber and how smaller banks such American Southwest Credit Union are small business friendly.

We also talked about engaging with the youth in our area that are interested in policy and politics such as the Buena City Council and the ones interested in the annual Girls State event sponsored by the local American Legion chapter. I feel like they would be perfect candidates to take the annual League of Cities and Towns as our **Youth Delegates** so I definitely want to look into that more. Another due out for me.

We talked about the recent **Buena Football game** and how the traffic was really bad and people were parking in the neighborhoods near Fire Station #203 and in the DMV area and walking along the road that is not very well lit in that area, which could have been a dangerous situation. I will get with Chief Thrasher and Sheriff Dannels to see what their plan is for the next Varsity home game. A due out for me also.

I wanted to share all of this with you because I feel like feedback and ideas from Town Halls such as this shouldn't just go into a notebook to die. And like I said up front, I know there are many things that we as the City Council and Mayor cannot affect directly, but I feel like we can definitely take all this information into consideration when we are making decisions or planning changes in our great city. If any of you could help me with my 4 due outs I would greatly appreciate it!

v/r

-Councilman Mark A. Rodriguez

Next Meeting

Part 2 will be a working session based off a Doodle Poll and that will be followed by Part 3 which will be to resume regular meetings on Thursday Nov 4th 9-1030am to address action items from Part 2.