

Save Dutton Meadows community group meeting

March 8, 2021

Attended by:

- Devina Douglas (Rising Moon)
- Matt Pierce (Rising Moon)
- Andrea Rojas (Aloise)
- Tulio Vasquez (Aloise)
- Maria Vasquez (Aloise)
- Ron Suess (Rising Moon)
- Jane Suess (Rising Moon)
- Art Deicke (Deep Harbor)
- Solita Deicke (Deep Harbor)
- Duane
- Fred Kreuger

Quick introductions

Update on actions taken by group members prior to the meeting.

- Devina Douglas has assembled materials on a website for easy access:
www.devinadouglaslaw.com/duttonmeadows
 - Contact her at Devina@DevinaDouglasLaw.com if you have info you wish for her to add to that site.
- Devina has also started assembling an email list of concerned neighbors. Contact her if you think there are folks we should add, or give her info to others who wish to contact Devina to be added to this list.
- Art Deicke has started reaching out to Councilmember Eddie Alvarez.
 - It appears Alvarez will be in sitting in at our next meeting, which has been set for 3/12 at 6pm, via Zoom.
 - Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83663354823?pwd=K0dVakNwTDNScjRkYXRza01PZWNBZz09>
 - Meeting ID: 836 6335 4823
 - Passcode: 474507
 - Phone dial in: +1 669 900 9128

The next City-initiated meeting on Dutton Meadows is set for 3/19/21

- We are strongly encouraged to get public comments in by then, (send comments via email to aross@srcity.org) however the process is on-going, so if you miss this deadline, but want to comment, send in comments whenever you can.

Topics of concern by group members

- As a general matter, one member commented what with regard to all infrastructure concerns “we are entitled to have the city maintain the same level of service that other areas of town receive, and that are consistent with the level of service the city has previously promised us.”
- Traffic
 - Traffic on Hearn is already very bad
 - Previous traffic studies done several years ago (we believe it was part of the 2009 Environmental Impact reports) rated the intersections on Hearn as an “F.”
 - With the addition of the new developments in our area (especially those off Dutton Meadows,) traffic has only gotten worse since then.
 - One study found that during peak traffic time periods traffic on Hearn slows to 3.5 mph.
 - Neighbors have reported that it can sometimes take 25 minutes to get from Dutton meadows Road to Santa Rosa Ave during peak traffic.
 - The area of Hearn near the intersections of West Ave and Sally Ann has become very dangerous.
 - There is 50 feet between these roads
 - The turn lanes to access both these roads consist of the same physical space, resulting in traffic confusion, backups and near-accidents.
 - If Sally Anne and Aloise are intended to be the main thoroughfare into the new developments, what measures will be taken to control these intersections in a manner that allows more safety, and clear right of way solutions?
 - We do not believe Aloise is wide enough to accommodate increased traffic through the area.
 - The current proposal does NOT connect Dutton to Hearn, so the ingress into the development would be through Sally Anne and Aloise.
 - Devina and Matt took a video on Saturday, 3/6. With cars legally parked on either side of Aloise, there is not enough space for two cars to pass between the parked cars. (The video is posted in the website.)
 - The proposed development will increase traffic, and Aloise will become a collector. As a result, the narrow road will become exponentially more dangerous, especially for bicyclists.

- We have concerns that if someone in our area suffers a medical emergency during a peak traffic period, medical personnel cannot get into and/or out of our area in a timely manner.
- The City needs to conduct another traffic study before approving any new development.
 - But they cannot do an accurate traffic survey now due to the COVID shelter in place orders drastically affecting road usage right now.
- What is the status of widening the Hearn/101 overcrossing to accommodate better flow onto/off 101?
 - Currently, way too much traffic backs up onto 101 at the southbound-101 Hearn exit.
- The City seems to be moving towards a vision for our city which seeks to accommodate alternative transportation options.
 - What is being done to address the potential for class-1 bike lanes on Hearn, Dutton, and Dutton Meadows?
 - There are bike lanes planned for the new development area. Will there be parking allowed in those bike lanes?
 - Will that render the lanes essentially useless?
 - If no parking is allowed in the bike lanes, is there still enough street parking that the cars associated with the homes in the new development aren't spilling into our area.
 - The city needs to be realistic about the amount of street parking that the homes in our area take up. For example, when it approved the houses within our current subdivision that have the 2 1-car garages, they HAD to have realized that no one would actually be parking in one of those two garages as those garages are too hard to get even a small car in and out of.
 - Is the city planning on putting bike lanes on Sally Ann and Aloise?
 - If so, would there be parking within those bike lanes?
 - The bike lane proposed in the Dutton Meadows plan right now are essentially useless unless folks can safely ride their bikes outside the subdivision.
 - Further, there is no room to put bike lanes in on Aloise right now. The road is far too narrow.
 - Hearn is also too narrow to accommodate the installation wider, class-1 bike lanes.
- Also relevant, traffic also affects health and climate change issues.
 - Too much idling of cars creates too much exhaust. Lots of kids bike/walk to school through our area, adversely affecting their health.

- Other infrastructure concerns
 - It is the group’s understanding that the Dutton area General Plan was initially put into place nearly 20 years ago (2004).
 - But there have been many changes to the City, as a whole, since then.
 - Roseland has been annexed into the city
 - The population of the Roseland/South or Roseland area has grown substantially.
 - Multiple subdivisions approved and built, and currently there are multiple subdivision under construction.
 - SW Santa Rosa did not have a representative on City Council at that time.
 - Should the city continue to work to achieve the goals of a plan that old, and that potentially out of date with the current situation the City finds itself in?
 - For example, the Northwest Parkway will likely never be what the City originally thought it would be.
 - We have concerns over naming issues misleading the city.
 - Are Police levels adequate?
 - (While not addressed at the 3/8 meeting, Devina now notes that her house was broken into in late 2017, and when the Police responded, *both* responding officers commented that they had been assigned to our area for quite some time, but “never even knew [our] subdivision existed.”
 - The police were already so overburdened that they told us they would be doing no real investigation, but instead were just there to get us a police report for us to submit to our insurance company.
 - Further, several neighbors complain that our mailboxes keep getting broken into, and the police just don’t care.
 - Further, there seems to be a strong criminal element along the bike path that runs alongside the train tracks.
 - Further still, Devina receives notifications from Ring and Nextdoor, and has noted many instances of neighbors reporting “gunshot”-type noises.
 - Even further still, several neighbors have commented at various times over the last few years that their cars have been broken into, and small items stolen.)
 - This begs the question: if our area is not safe now, does the city have the police presence available to patrol and even larger area and with a higher population.
 - Water
 - Water allotments?
 - Given the drought situations this year and the near drought situations last year, can we be assured the City will be able to supply us with water?

- Because if only phase 1 and 2 go in, and the portions which WOULD open up the traffic, connecting to other outlets, are never built, we will be burdened with excessive traffic issues.
 - As a long-term goal, should we be advocating for the City to acquire a portion of the property currently reserved for “Dutton Meadows subdivision” as a public open space?
- General Concerns
 - Are there going to be “affordable housing” units as part of the proposed development.
 - The Dutton Meadows subdivision plan went before the City just a few years back (1 or 2 years ago,) and was denied by the City. What has changed since then that would make the City believe it should move forward with this development now?
 - There has been NO change in improving infrastructure, but instead with the new developments off Dutton Meadows, there is increased *strain* on our infrastructure.
 - There appears to be a lack of historical knowledge within the City’s Planning Department. We need to make sure they are aware of issues residents of our area have raised in the past which have not yet been addressed.
 - One member noted that David Brown stamped the plans presented to us with an expired engineering stamp.
 - Does this affect anything?
 - Was it just a mistake?
 - Recently, the City designated one local park in each area as a “safe space” for homeless to sleep/camp. The area in our zone is at Southwest Community Park.
 - This is affecting the sense of safety we feel using our parks

Action items

- We feel there is not enough time to prepare a fully informed response to the Dutton Meadows plan, so we have (as of the time of preparing these notes,) asked for an extension of the Public Comment period. Adam Ross has responded saying there really is no “deadline” for public comment, as it is an on-going process. But please ensure your voice is being heard anytime you have a concern!
- We need to expand our constituency to ensure all who want to be heard on this issue are heard.
 - Ron Suess had volunteered Jane Suess to go door to door to spread our message.
 - Devina will prepare talking points summary for Jane to pass out.
 - Andrea has volunteered to post about our group on NextDoor.
 - Devina will provide that same flyer she’s preparing for Jane.
- Once it’s created, Devina will also post that flyer on the website.
- We want to reach out to other existing Community Action Groups (the Hughes Ave and Burbank Ave Community Groups,) to get them onboard. Fred has contacts within these groups. He will make contacts with them.

- Ron Suess to track down contact info for the School Superintendent who made a statement last time this development was evaluated by the City.
- Fred Krueger to speak with his wife, of the Roseland School District about how this affects them.
- City Council meetings are held twice a month, via Zoom. Please feel free to attend and make a public comment about your concerns at any City Council meeting.