

Minutes: Concerned Citizens of the Dutton Meadows Area (formally the Save Dutton Meadows community) group meeting

April 6, 2021, 6pm, via Zoom.

Website with our collected info: devinadouglaslaw.com/duttonmeadows

- 1) We named ourselves (tentatively) Concerned Citizens of the Dutton Meadows Area
- 2) Check in re: sending in public comments
 - a) Please remember to get public comments in to Adam Ross (aross@srcity.com) if you haven't already.
- 3) What do we need to do from here?
 - a) Meeting with City officials
 - i) Devina, Art and Ron to try to get a meeting with Bill Rose, the Planning Division Director, as suggested by Magali Telles.
 - ii) Devina, Art and Ron to try to get a meeting with Vicki Duggan, the planning commissioner.
 - iii) Reach out to Mariah Hart (ack! I didn't write down what group she's with) as soon as the contact info is provided.
 - iv) Everyone can send emails/make calls to the planning commission, city council, and water boards.
 - b) More group members.
 - i) Down the road we may need volunteers to pass out more flyers about the situation.
 - c) Handout/flyer summarizing the issue(s)- Devina to create
 - d) Petitioning- Fred, Matt and Devina
 - i) Need to identify suggested modifications to the proposals. Ideas brought up by the group:
 - (1) The Roseland area feels too crowded. Houses are being approved on small lots, and are crowded together.
 - (a) SUGGESTION: the developer put in small homes so there is more open space around the homes
 - (2) Not enough parking within neighborhoods. The City needs to recognize:
 - (a) that the average home is likely housing more people these days (as (1) more adult children are staying with parents at home longer, and (2) with this downturn in the economy folks are having to move in with others to afford to stay in the area,
 - (b) ...and people have so much "stuff" these days that garages are being used for "stuff" storage, not parking, thus spilling over into street parking
 - (c) ...and the residents have more vehicles per home these days.
 - (d) (See the parking nightmare near the Tuxhorn/Dutton Meadows/Pebblecreek area.)
 - (e) Thus, SUGGESTION: the developer be required to provide more parking per home.
 - (i) AND That parking needs to NOT affect the use of bike lanes
 - (f) Garages need to be designed with a footprint large enough that they can hold the relevant number of cars PLUS "stuff"
 - (3) Climate change issues:

- (a) we need more trees.
 - (i) Trees provide shade which can help lower an energy demand and cooling costs in the summer. It was noted that other, more wealthy areas of town, seem to have a lot more trees, making them aesthetically pleasing.
 - 1. SUGGESTION: the developer be required to put 3 or 4 trees on every lot.
 - 2. SUGGESTION: the City previously had a "Releaf" Program to plant trees throughout the city. Let's get that same type of work done within the Hearn/Dutton Meadows area to improve our area.
- (b) Asphalt radiates a lot of heat,
 - (i) SUGGESTION: require the developer to paint the streets grey or white to reflect light during the summer.
- (c) There were water restrictions put in place last summer. The last thing the city needs is more housing to further strain our water needs. (And with surcharges on water use, Roseland area residents are also hit proportionately harder in the wallet.)
 - (i) SUGGESTION: develop more efficient water reclamation programs *before* adding to the water demand.
 - (ii) SUGGESTION: wait until we are out of a drought *before* approving more housing.
- (d) the city needs more climate change infrastructure.
 - (i) SUGGESTION: the City needs more climate change infrastructure in place first.
- (4) The City needs to manage its stormwater issues better.
 - (a) SUGGESTION: the developer needs to be required to contribute to helping Santa Rosa upgrade its stormwater collection/handling infrastructure.
- (5) There needs to be better access to the Dutton Meadows subdivision. The access to the subdivision from Hearn needs to NOT go through Sally Ann/Aloise.
 - (i) SUGGESTION: the developer needs to develop the road that goes directly from Hearn into the subdivision, extending Dutton *before* putting more housing in.
 - (ii) QUESTION: there is a belief in the group that the developer has not even acquired the property needed for this road. Is that true? If so...
 - 1. SUGGESTION: require developer to acquire that land before building the housing.
- (6) Traffic issues. As previously discussed, Hearn gets a LOT of traffic, causing significant delays, and back up onto 101. Increased population of our area adversely affects traffic, and can endanger resident safety if we need to evacuate, or if ambulances need to get through.
 - (a) These issues were identified in the (approx.) 2013 study done with regards to the 3-phase overpass project.
 - (b) That study also recognizes bike/pedestrian safety issues as only one side of the overcrossing has a sidewalk.
 - (c) That study also recognizes that traffic was backing up on 101 *in 2013*.
 - (d) That study also recognizes the climate change/pollution/health issues caused by increased idling of traffic.

- (e) SUGGESTION: Delay approval of any new development in the general Roseland/Dutton Meadows area until that overpass project has been completed.
 - (7) School overcrowding. It has been reported to us that our schools feel the schools are too overcrowded as is. 90% of school funds are going simply to pay salaries, leaving little left over for actual classroom costs.
 - (8) SUGGESTION: do not add population to our area until school facilities/resources have been improved.
 - e) Creating partnerships with other groups
 - i) Comments from Jorge Inocencio, the SW Santa Rosa CAB rep
 - (1) He noted that money tends to be a driving factor within the City re: approving developments
 - (2) A lot of things were promised to the residents of Roseland by the City when Roseland was annexed, but those promises have failed to be honored.
 - (3) He's happy to work with us to share our thoughts with the City.
 - f) We want to submit a group opposition letter in regards to the Meadowood Ranch Project. Devina to draft.
 - i) A neighborhood meeting on this project is set for 4/7.
 - ii) Zoom link: <http://www.zoom.us/join>, meeting ID: 939 1893 3852
 - iii) A different Project manager is in charge of this project. Send comments to Kristinae Toomians at KToomians@srcity.org
- 4) Anyone have updates of their areas of on-going research?
- a) School issues- Fred. See above
 - b) Water/wastewater issues- Matt submitted a request for info, waiting on a reply.
 - c) Traffic- Arthur and Deb
 - i) chief consultant for State Senator McGuire has reported to us that (s)he heard back from Cal Trans about the Hearn Overpass: "Expanding the on/off ramp intersection is not on their immediate radar, as they don't have funding for it."
 - ii) City/County info related to the 2013 report for this project posted to the group site. It's a good read! It really helps our case.
 - d) Transportation groups-
 - i) City Bus: Mary Jane reports that there really aren't issues with the bus turning from Hearn onto Dutton. That said, now, due to COVID, the bus is making the turn 1x/hour. Once things open back up, the bus service will be increased and the bus may be running that route 3x/hr.
 - ii) SMART- no real issues have been identified
 - iii) Mary Jane talked to Paul, with Traffic Engineering, at the City, and he has reports on the Average Daily Turns on Hearn, etc, and, in a nutshell, there are times traffic on Hearn averages 35 cars per minute.
 - iv) It sounds like Paul also believes there will be work done in the next 2-3 years to build out Hearn further.
 - e) Climate change/Pollution- Fred. See discussion above.
 - f) Police -Devina and Arthur
 - i) Gist of the response we've received from the SRPD: "we generally are not involved at pre-development level. That would likely be another department like Planning and Development at the city level. The city continues to grow, however the PD numbers

don't seem to be able to catch up with staff. It is a problem we have always had, as do most law enforcement agencies.”

- g) City Goal/mission statements- Matt in the process of gathering statements from these reports which support our cause.
- h) Timeline- Adam Ross tells us there is no known formal timeline yet.
- i) Portrait of Sonoma- Whitney reports there is nothing additional out of that report which could be helpful to our cause.
- j) Wildlife- keeping our eye on this, but no real issues to report yet.
- k) Homelessness issues- keeping our eye on this, but no real issues to report yet.
- 5) ID'ing the “issues” which were raised 2 years ago-
 - a) Matt sent FOIA request. No formal response yet.
- 6) Review of the Referral Documents to see if those docs ID any other areas of concern we hadn't thought of.
 - a) Matt sent FOIA request. No formal response yet.
- 7) Protest time? Not yet.
 - a) But Devina to create flyer summarizing issues, as mentioned above.
- 8) Start considering if we are going to want to take more formal legal action- Due to potential conflicts of interests, this issue will not be addressed in any depth in this group meeting, but can spin off into another group, if need be.
- 9) Next meeting: April 21?

As always, feel free to email materials to Devina at Devina@DevinaDouglasLaw.com if you have info you wish for her to add to the website.