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www.LRCivicCouncil.org

Public Meeting of the Ladera Ranch Civic Council September 17, 2018

A regular meeting of the Ladera Ranch Civic Council was held September 17, 2018 at the Rancho Santa Margarita Water District Building on 26111 Antonio Parkway. The meeting convened at 7:00 PM with the following members present.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members Present: Chair, Stephanie Ramsey
Vice-Chair, Gary Kephart
Secretary, Margaret Novak
Councilmember, Joe Brenneman
Councilmember, Michael Ellzey
Council Members Absent: Treasurer, Amir Arbabi
Council Administrator: Carlo Tomaino

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Ramsey.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments made by any individuals in attendance.

ELECTION ITEMS:

1. CERTIFICATION OF CIVIC COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive and file the 2018 Civic Council Election results.

Councilmember Novak provided a summary of the 2018 Election results, which were collected via SurveyMonkey (online). All responses were vetted to ensure the respondent's address was in Ladera Ranch and that there were no duplicate votes. There were seven candidates running for four open voting seats. Attached are the results, which indicate the top four candidates include (1) incumbent, Stephanie Ramsey, (2) Heather Redd, (3) Chenin Boutwell, and (4) Ed Gow.

PRESENTATION(S):

2. REPORT FROM THE ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (OCSD)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive a report from the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

Lt. Mark Gonzales presented a summary of Part I crimes in Ladera Ranch for August 2018, which have declined as compared to August 2017.

It was noted that Ladera Ranch's National Night Out event went very well, and that Brittany Plano is the community's new Crime Prevention Specialist. Separately, Chair Ramsey noted that she and Councilmember Novak completed the OCSD Citizens Training Academy, and strongly encouraged others in the community to consider participating in the 9-week training program.

Councilmember Novak inquired about OCSD's insights about the homeless discussion for south Orange County. Lt. Gonzales indicated the County Supervisor's office would have the most comprehensive updated, but that a Homeless Outreach Team was working to collect data our region in the County. The count in June 2018 identified ~380 homeless within the eleven south Orange County cities. Two months later, an updated indicated there were ~400 homeless. Less than 10 homeless individuals were identified in all of the unincorporated communities in south county.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

3. CIVIC COUNCIL COMMITTEE UPDATES

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Provide, as desired, updates related to the activities of the Ladera Ranch Civic Council Subcommittees.

General Civic Council Updates:

Chair Ramsey met with SDG&E regarding the recent rate increases. SDG&E explained that they pay \$400 million in annual subsidies resulting from the increase in solar, which accounts for approximately 10% of their customer base. If Ladera Ranch residents have concerns, they should write to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) about the rate increases. SDG&E does not have a local industrial base like Southern California Edison (SCE) has in San Diego. SDG&E has been mandated to replace wood poles in rural areas to steel. Many areas within Orange County are in the Coastal Zone, which influences zoning approvals and cost. SDG&E is currently evaluating their tiered rate structure and will be recommending a time of use structure in 2019. They have 45% in renewable-based energy sources, and Governor Brown recently passed legislation to convert California to 100% renewables by 2045.

Chair Ramsey shared that she conducted her quarterly Meeting with the Presidents of LARMAC, LARCS, and LRCOC. LRCC and LRCOC agreed to co-host a voting booth for children at the Harvest Festival. Councilmember Brenneman added that all residents need to “get out and vote” in November 2018.

Chair Ramsey noted that the first Ladera Ranch “State of the Community” event in the last five years will be held on Thursday – October 11, 2018. The Civic Council and Chamber of Commerce were partnering on the effort to co-host the event, and preparations are well underway.

Traffic/Public Safety – Councilman Gow

Councilman Gow received an email from the County indicating the remaining County-owned roadways will be repaired and paved by year end. Separately, the County Traffic Commission has postponed their decision regarding proposed improvements at the Roanoke/O’Neill intersection to February 2019. County traffic staff intend to follow-up during an upcoming Civic Council Public Meeting at the beginning of the year.

Education/CUSD Committee – Councilmembers Redd and Kephart

Councilmembers Redd and Kephart attended the last CUSD Board Meeting. The Aliso Niguel and Santa Ana Football Game was a major discussion item. Councilmember Kephart is still exploring a potential LRCC Student Member role and provided example criteria used by CUSD for their Students’ participation.

Local Governance – Councilmember Novak

Councilmember Novak indicated that she plans to start reconnecting with other local unincorporated communities in south Orange County in 2019. The goal is merely to maintain a relationship with them at this point. Councilmember Kephart and Council Administrator Tomaino were both on the Civic Council in 2016 and a public survey of interest in governance was conducted. Councilmembers physically traveled door-to-door to solicit feedback/input from Ladera Ranch residents since the original survey turnout was very low.

Budget/Fundraising Committee – Councilmember Novak

No update.

Communications/Technology Committee – Councilmembers Botwell (Social Media) and Brenneman (Media)

No update.

Land Use/Economic Development Committee – Councilmember Brenneman

No update.

4. REORGANIZATION OF CIVIC COUNCIL

Resolution: Select and approve LRCC Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and assign Committee Chair roles.
Motion: Councilmember Ellzey
Second: Councilmember Kephart
Vote: Passed – Unanimously

Council Administrator Tomaino provided direction for the process of reorganizing the Civic Council, now that the election results are confirmed.

Chair Ramsey commended outgoing Councilmember Ellzey on his extensive background and the input he provided throughout the course of his term. She also thanked outgoing Councilmember Arbabi for his efforts with traffic improvements throughout the community and work with the County of Orange. Councilmember Ellzey said it was an honor to serve the community and that he wants to stay involved. Councilmember Arbabi thanked the Council for their collective efforts and asked the new Councilmembers to maintain momentum and support for Chair Ramsey.

Chair Councilmembers Novak and Brenneman nominated Stephanie Ramsey as Chair, and she accepted. Unanimously approved.

Vice-Chair Chair Ramsey and Councilmember Novak nominated Joe Brenneman as Vice Chair, and he accepted. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer Chair Ramsey and Councilmember Kephart nominated Councilmember Novak as Treasurer, and she accepted. Unanimously approved.

Secretary Councilmembers Brenneman and Gow nominated Heather Redd as Secretary, and she accepted. Unanimously approved.

Councilmembers Councilmembers Kephart, Gow and Botwell remain Councilmembers at large. Unanimously approved.

CIVIC COUNCIL ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

There were no updates or comments provided.

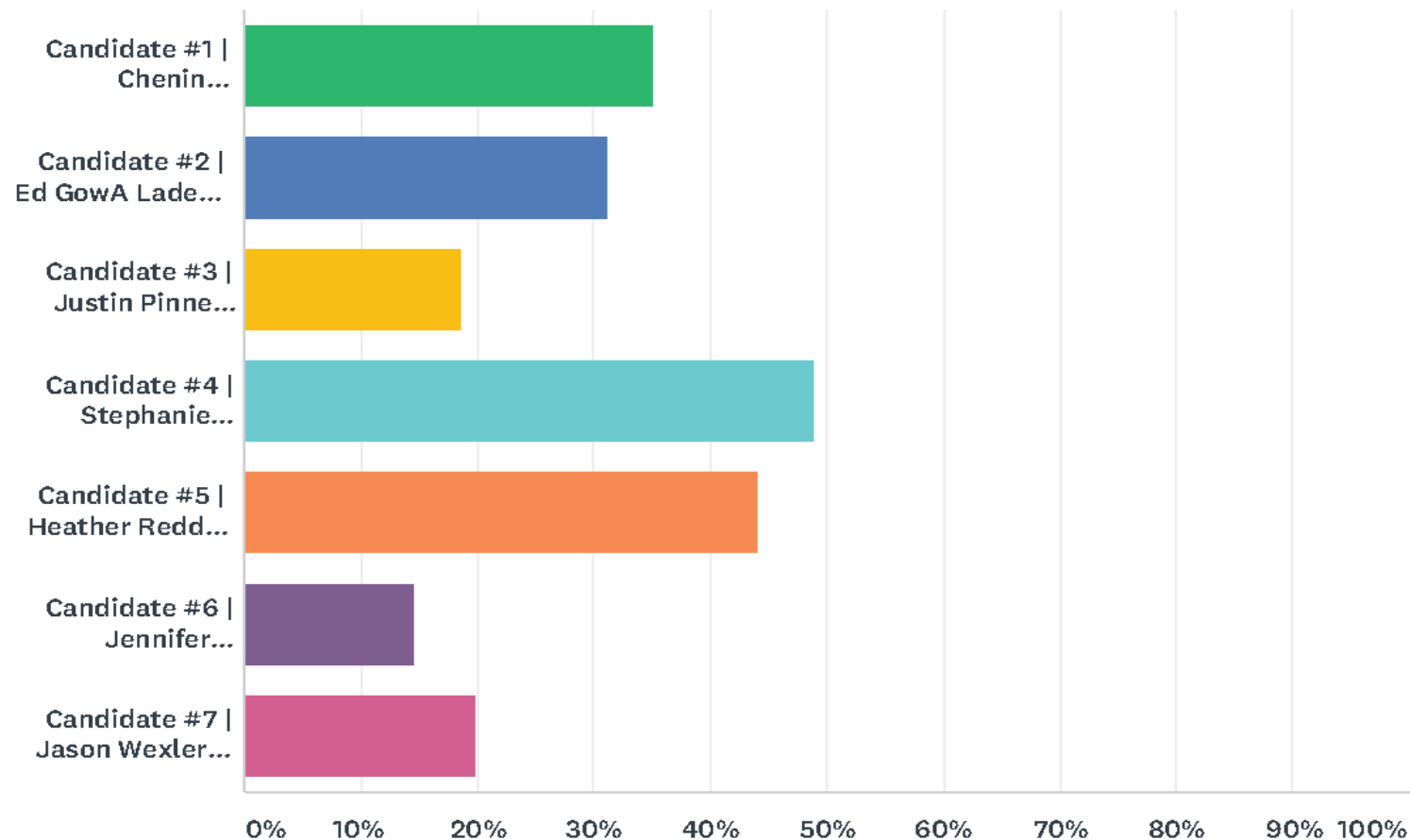
CIVIC COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Administrator Tomaino asked a point of clarification regarding the next meeting on November 2018. Chair Ramsey confirmed the next LRCC Working Group Meeting on October 1 at U.S. Bank.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:31 PM – Adjourned to November 19, 2018.

Q3 Please review the Candidate statements below (provided in alphabetical order of last name), and select up to four (4) check boxes maximum to cast your ballot for the LRCC's 2018 Election.

Answered: 247 Skipped: 0



Q5 Please use the space below to provide feedback to LRCC about "hot topics" on your mind and/or affecting your neighborhood. We look forward to continuing to work on your behalf to address these items, and appreciate your participation in the process to ensure our voices are heard with the public agencies providing services to Ladera Ranch!

Answered: 78 Skipped: 169

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Difficulty keeping retail space full	9/15/2018 7:47 AM
2	19 foliate way	9/12/2018 3:03 PM
3	Retail and restaurant choices Keeping schools at a manageable size and distributed between the 3 elementary schools	9/12/2018 11:10 AM
4	Traffic,drop off and pick up at SJHHS....we may decide not to send our daughter next year with all the issues we hear. SDGE rates	9/12/2018 10:04 AM
5	The impact of the possible toll road connector for I5 and the 241.	9/12/2018 9:44 AM
6	I expect the LRCC to fill all of the empty spaces in Merc West. Open a grocery store if you have to ;-)	9/11/2018 11:28 AM
7	Keep up the great work!	9/11/2018 11:18 AM
8	I am a big believer in getting communication out to our residences. I also would like to keep our town the small town feel, but we are not a bubble like some think and need to bring in some bigger world relief/ideas.	9/10/2018 9:13 PM
9	How people drive around here. Angry and entitled.	9/8/2018 11:30 AM
10	Better school security	9/8/2018 9:31 AM

Overarching “Hot Topic” Responses to Q5:

- 32% - Vacancies in Retail/Commercial Centers
- 27% - Traffic/Safety/Toll Road/General Circulation
- 13% - Pesticides Use (Prefer “Not-Toxic” Approach)
- 12% - Education/Security/Class Size/Growth
- 8% - Social (Teen Activities/Embrace Diversity)
- 4% - SDGE/Utilities
- 2% - More Robust Communication
- 2% - Other General Comments