

Update #58 October 10, 2020

We've grown to 157, recently adding two more recipients. Welcome!

Here is the latest news.

City Council Meetings History

The October 13 City Council meeting agenda still does **not** contain an item on the financials report that was requested of staff by Council way back at its June 23 meeting, to be reported "*no later than three months.*"

Three months meant Council's September 22 meeting. At that meeting, with no such information, staff tried to convince Council that staff first needed a \$240,000 contract with a consultant, to have the consultant derive the financing information. With the public weighing in and asking how a quarter of a million dollars could be committed *before* they had the information requested in June, Council wisely agreed and didn't approve staff's request.

Instead, after almost 3 hours of discussion, including the public comments, the Mayor made a motion, which passed unanimously and required staff to return in October with said financial information. That unanimously passed motion meant either the October 13th or 27th Council meeting.

It is not happening this coming Tuesday, and that does not surprise us, because there is so much unknown about financing the complicated project. One might think that after almost four years of pushing this project, someone somewhere somehow would have pulled this funding stuff together so decision-makers (the City Council) could know what the project will likely cost and not have to rely on staff's constant faith-based (we believe, we think, we hope) statements that all will be okay.

Tuesday's Council Agenda

Although there is no financial information agenda item, there will be a City Manager's report -- but we doubt Bernal will have anything to say on the Mixed-Use Project's financing information. That said, after years of surprises with this Taj Garage project, we'll **still be tuning in to the meeting** on the 13th ... just in case! If anyone is also interested in doing so, click [HERE](#) to view the agenda, including instructions on how to "attend" virtually.

On the agenda, the City Manager's report should be about 12:30 pm. Also, note that Oral Communications will be held at or around 5:30 p.m. If anyone has any ongoing thoughts about the wise and sensible return to plans for a renovation of the existing library before we lose more Measure S funding (which diminishes as every month proceeds) then Oral Communications is a good place to say so! Especially as the city is in dire budget difficulties and no one knows how it will be able to manage a behemoth multi-storied project. After almost four years, the library continues to be held hostage to the mixed-use project. It is time to set it free!

Downtown Commons Advocates (DCA)

These folks have been busy meeting and strategizing. Three DBTL members are part of the DCA Steering Committee, so we continue to collaborate, along with other Steering Committee members from several downtown business owners, CFST and Sierra Club. It's a terrifically productive group! Click [HERE](#) to go to DCA's website.

Tomorrow (Sunday) one can view the creative graphics talents of DCA member Lisa Ekstrom in the print edition of the Sentinel, in the form of a quarter page ad that DCA collaboratively created.

Reimagine Santa Cruz

Although DBTL has known about the ongoing energetic work of Reimagine Santa Cruz for about a month, we hereby formally welcome a new kid on the block and we mean that **most sincerely!!** This active group, which takes a big picture of the entire city of Santa Cruz, is also supportive of renovating/rebuilding/renewing the downtown library at the Civic Center, creating a Downtown Commons, providing

affordable housing and addressing transportation solutions. See their very creative and engaging web site by clicking [HERE](#).

And that's a wrap! We'll be back with Update #59 before the October 27th City Council meeting.

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<https://dontburythelibrary.weebly.com/>