

**Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District, Public Financing Authority Boards,
City Council and Successor Agency**
League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area Observer Report
By Observer Carol Kusleika
May 24, 2018

Council leadership consists of:

Mayor: L. Dennis Michael

Mayor Pro Tem: Lynne B. Kennedy

Council members are: William Alexander, Diane Williams, and Sam Spagnolo,

Council meetings are held the first and third Wednesday of the month. Council members are respectful to the public and to each other. The Council members have the City's best interests in mind during their decision making process.

I attended most of the council meetings from June 2017 to May 2018.

Accomplishments This Year:

Rancho Cucamonga was selected out of 100 cities by **Johns Hopkins University Center to join the National "What Works"** cities initiative for good health, jobs, and safety through a data and evidence approach.

Rancho Cucamonga received a certificate of achievement for **Excellence in Financial Reporting for FY 06/30/16** for clear, transparent, and accurate financial reporting to the City from the Government Finance Officers Association, a national organization.

The City developed an "**Open Budget**" website to promote local government transparency so that data can be exported; various screens are used to understand the data with a dashboard to help citizens view finances of the city.

The City approved a **Fiber Optic Master Plan** to generate the speed and band width needed for economic growth and development. The city is partnering with a private company to establish high speed internet.

Rancho Cucamonga replaced, simplified, and streamlined its RC2GO app for residents and businesses to report problems in the city.

Rancho Cucamonga received the **League of California Cities' Helen Putnam Award** presented to the city's Community Services Dept., for enhancing public trust, ethics, and community involvement in the development of the **Los Amigos Park**.

Rancho Cucamonga **firefighters were invited to Washington, D.C. by Homeland Security** to share what they know about an active shooter.

Certificates of Recognition were given to the RC Police Department's **Medal of Valor Award** recipients Deputy Shawn Wallen and Detective Albert Ixco for actions during the December 2015 terrorist attack at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino- ***the highest honor for non-military personnel given by President Trump.***

The City received the **CA Park and Recreation Society's 2018 Award of Excellence** for planning and development of **Los Amigos Park**.

Land Use and Housing

The City approved a donation agreement with the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District for the transfer of approximately 62 acres of city-owned land lying north east of the city for **wildlife and plant life conservation purposes**.

Rancho Cucamonga is still experiencing considerable growth. Through building code, zoning, and development modifications, the following projects are in progress:

A **214 unit multi-family development** on 12.1 acres of land located at the **south west corner of Church St and Terra Vista Parkway** with 14-24 dwelling units per acre.

A **140-unit affordable senior housing development** on 4 acres of land within the Low Medium District (4-8 dwelling units per acre) of the Victoria Planned Community located at the terminus of Firehouse Court and west of Day Creek Blvd.

The development of 289.4 acres of land at the **southwest corner of Day Creek Blvd and Base Line Road** for a mixed use project consisting of **380 residential units, a 71-room hotel and two restaurant buildings totaling 12,000 square feet.**

The development of land that contains slopes of 30 percent or greater with a tract map modification and tree removal permit to **subdivide 24.19 acres into 6 parcels for the development of 175 attached condominium units to exceed the maximum 30 feet building height, remove 180 trees in the mixed use district located on the north side of Foothill Blvd. between Red Hill Country Club Drive and the Pacific Electric Trail right-of-way – south of Banyan; and east of Sycamore Inn – 2 to 3 story units.**

North Eastern Sphere Annexation Project which is the future development of 4,388 acres of land with 300 acres in the city limit. The north 3,176 acres are designated as a “conservation priority area”, and 1,212 acres in the south as “development priority area” between Milliken and Day Creek, north of Banyan.

Amended **the Empire Lakes Specific Plan to increase Planning Area 5** for the construction of a 232,058 square foot for warehouse logistics, and office building on a property consisting of 5 parcels with a combined area of 515,690 square feet (11.84 acres) which is currently an abandoned parking lot and vacant pad at the northeast corner of 4th Street and Utica Ave.

The council approved an “**historic landmark designation**” for a **single-family residence** in conjunction with a 20-lot subdivision of about 5.43 acres of land within the low residential district of 2.0 to 4.0 dwelling units per acre located at the northwest corner of Hermosa Avenue and Victoria Street

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS: Natural Resources and Sustainability

The City entered a power purchase agreement for Renewable Resources with Antelope Expansion 3b, LLC for the purchase of 5 Megawatts of Solar Photovoltaic Energy.

The City adopted Ord. 922 which modified parkway landscaping requirements and adopted the state model water efficient landscape ordinance.

The City adopted Ord. 911 for a “**Local Agency Management Program**” for an onsite wastewater treatment system.

Under the “RC Green Business Recognition” Program, “Tu Organics Salon” was recognized for recycling waste materials, energy efficiency and its goal to reduce harsh chemicals in the environment.

The City adopted Ord. 915 to add chapter 15.38 to the RC Municipal code to establish an **expedited permitting process for electronic vehicle (EV) charging stations.**

Library

Friends of the Library donated \$25,000 to the libraries to support its Adult Literacy program and the Children’s Summer Reading program.

CA State Library awarded the City \$10,000 by for a new Media Lab for the Archibald Library.

Human Health and Interest

An interim **Ord. 920 was adopted** that extended an urgency ordinance for 10 months and 15 days to **prohibit all commercial cannabis uses in the city and prohibit outdoor marijuana cultivation on private residences and indoor cultivation in private residences.**

The City adopted Ord. 913 that **amended the definition of smoking in the RC Municipal code to include Electronic Smoking Devices** and to prohibit electronic smoking device use wherever smoking is currently prohibited in the city.

The City approved the allocation of a federal Block Grant of \$849,028 for the library, Foothill Family Shelter, House of Ruth, and Inland Fair Housing

RC announced the **Healthy RC Mental Health Symposium** with one issue of discussion to be cyber bullying.

The City gave a verbal update on the **So Cal Gas Co leak and cleanup located on Archibald near La Gloria and Jadeite Streets.**

The 2017 Holiday Lights police video and recommendations for the 2018 Holiday Season. The new ordinance decreased foot traffic and decreased the wait time to see lights from 3 hours to 45 minutes and allowed emergency vehicles to travel through. A guest registry portal was set up so it would be easier to know who was allowed to be there; trash was reduced from 22.5 tons in 2016 to 5 tons in 2017. The ordinance allowed the temporary closure of streets to pedestrian traffic and restricted it to **vehicles only** with no stopping in portions of the Holiday Light section of the city from 4PM-11PM, Dec. 14 – Dec. 24. The season was considered a success.

What issues brought out the public?

The So Cal Gas Co leak update located off of Archibald near La Gloria and Jadeite brought out a number of citizens with health, noise, pollution, dead trees and vegetation complaints.

Consideration of the **Haunted House** ordinance brought out operators of the haunted houses with the result that passing the ordinance was postponed.

The development of 24.19 acres into 6 parcels with 175 attached condominium units to exceed a maximum 30 foot building height and the removal of 180 trees on the north side of Foothill Blvd between Red Hill Country Club Dr. and the Pacific Trail right-of-way south of Banyan, and east of the Sycamore Inn brought out numerous complaints about loss of open space, wildlife habitat, and an impaired view.

The development at Day Creek and Baseline with 380 residential units, a 71 room hotel, and two restaurants brought out complaints of loss of open space for pollinators, high density, crime, theft of mail, investors buying and renting as B&B's, and foreign investors.

The ordinance to define smoking to include electronic smoking devices such as e-cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and hookahs and raising the legal age to 21 brought out the public in support of the ordinance.

The North Eastern Sphere Annexation Project brought citizens out due to fear of high density housing, and the loss of open space but it is not a developer-driven project.

Teamsters Union came out in May 2018 regarding their dissatisfaction with its negotiations with the City. Members held signs stating "Negotiation Not Dictation". Several members spoke to the City Council stating that the City wasn't negotiating in good faith but the union does not want a fight with the City.

Observations:

Rancho Cucamonga continues to grow. Management of the city requires the balancing of the push for more housing to accommodate a growing population and the pull back by residents that are resistant to change. Per Zillow Home Value Index, the median value of a single-family home in Rancho Cucamonga is priced at \$500,000. High density housing is now a necessity. The combined development of both residential and commercial buildings helps to offset the costs of the residential units. Sales tax brings in the greatest amount of revenue. There is still considerable vacant commercial building space which is predicted to be resolved with the increase in population, but if the rate of building exceeds the growth in population, there could be an increase in unoccupied commercial buildings. However, the fact remains that growth is inevitable and builders want to build, but we are living in a time of limited resources, especially water, and the increase in traffic is already being felt. Hopefully, the city planners have taken these issues into consideration as building permits are approved.

Did I need to alert the League President?

No - one lady continues to pray at the council meetings which she is allowed to do under her allotted time during Public Communications. It is harmless and her intentions seem sincere.