

FROM THE MAYOR – MAY 2016

I've had the privilege to serve with over a dozen different Council members and Town Councils and I can't think of a time when we've worked on such a variety of issues and opportunities as your current Town Council has over the past few months and the same goes for each of the volunteer Boards of the Town that do so much.

Here's an update on some of those issues and where we stand on them –

Revised Animal Control Ordinance – the Council received a heavily revised Ordinance at the end of April for First Reading review. While many of the concerns expressed by citizens have been addressed in the revision, there are still parts of the new Ordinance that will require discussion between the Council, staff and citizens. The major discussion will center on what to allow/not allow in subdivisions (both with and without an HOA) given that many homeowners never envisioned that their neighbor might be able to add a goat or a chicken on their property. I'm certain that we will be able to find a conclusion to the review that satisfies most, but not all. This Ordinance will be included on the April 9th Council agenda and likely beyond that.

Road Repair – repairs and upgrades to Town East and several other blacktop roads will begin very soon. Our three-year prioritized repair plan for all of these road types will involve a heavy amount of work which will result in new surfaces that will be able to withstand drought conditions and heavier use at higher levels. The unfortunate part of the plan, as I've previously indicated, is that we can't repair ALL of the blacktop roads this year.

Land Acquisition for Parks/Public Use – the members of the 4-B Development Corporation continue to work with Town staff and external experts on identification of strategic tracts for athletic fields and park space. An updating of the Town Master Trail Plan is also appropriate as new neighborhood layouts have brought some necessary deviations to the previous layouts for the trail system.

Residential Development at Town East and Belt Line – this application was tabled at the March meeting of the Planning & Zoning Commission so that the developer could modify their proposal with fewer homes as part of the modification. The issue may well be on this month's P&Z Agenda, but I wasn't able to confirm this at the deadline for this article. Please keep in touch with this impacting issue via the Town website under the Agendas and Minutes section.

Comprehensive Plan Update – this is a big disappointment for me as we have made virtually no progress on finalizing this essential document over the past few months. The Council and Staff must make the successful completion of a quality and truly strategic document a high priority as it is the backbone of future changes to Zoning Ordinances and land use strategies.

Collins Road Expansion – external engineers are finalizing initial designs for improvement of the Tripp/Collins intersection based on the design selected by the Council and we should see these designs in the next few months. The southern span of Collins/SH352 from US80 to the southern Town border is about to enter the design phase with TxDOT as the Town works on right-of-way acquisition where required. We anticipate that construction on this portion of the road could begin late next year. The time line for construction of the northern segments of Collins is still being finalized.

SH190 – planning at TxDOT for this long-discussed toll road continues based on the last design and route preferences indicated by the Citizen's Committee and the Council. We are told by TxDOT that we can expect a Public Hearing held by them on the project late this year. Still no commitment for funding or time line for construction of the highway.

As we enter the summer months and vacation time begins, I encourage you to stay aware and involved of what's going on in our beautiful Town by checking the Town website. We are all certainly going to stay quite busy at Town Hall during the coming months as there's much to do when it comes to keeping Sunnyvale unique and special.

MEET THE MAYOR FOR MAY (held at Town Hall)

- Thursday, May 5 – 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Saturday, May 14 – 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
- Saturday, May 28 – 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

I welcome the opportunity to meet with individual citizens or groups at other times more convenient to you. To schedule time, call me at home at 972-226-3757.