LWVSFC Action & Advocacy *Report to the Board*

November 16, 2021

Midtown Campus Project

A&A members discussed the October 23 Midtown Block Party format and attendance. Some expressed skepticism about how useful the public input from the event will be, largely because the paper surveys distributed were primarily about demographics. The group also noted that the possible relocation of some City departments to the Midtown site was given very low priority at the public sessions in 2018 and does not even appear on the list of priorities in the online survey but appears to be under serious consideration by the Midtown team. [Note: At the 11/10 Governing Body meeting, Daniel Hernandez emphasized that no decision on relocating City functions has been made.] The survey can be accessed at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfuatUhGUG_ZvNjjPwaJ4dzuk9sGsu7POt59LfR7qIsHKP-sQ/viewform>.

We continue to monitor public engagement activities as well as project team presentations to the Governing Body and the discussions among the Mayor and councilors. See <https://www.midtowndistrictsantafe.com/all-events/> and <https://www.cultureconnects.site>

for information on project status and upcoming events and activities.

The committee will draft questions to the Governing Board related to 1) how public input through engagement activities will be incorporated into the Community Development Plan; 2) how the Community Development Plan and the Development Plan and Land Use Amendments will interface given that they are being drafted concurrently; 3) why the prospect of moving some City services/departments to Midtown is under consideration although it was a very low priority among participants in the 2018 public activities; 4) bond and current revenue status.

We may ask for specific financial data with a subsequent communication.

CHART

Members were notified that the CHART team of facilitators has been selected. Bios are on the CHART website <https://www.chartsantafe.com>. A public kick-off event is scheduled for 11/14 and the first Cultural History program will be 11/18 (registration required). The opportunity to provide input via a set of open-ended questions is open on the CHART website through December.

We expect the promised group discussions will be scheduled soon and will look for opportunities for all LWVSFC members to participate.

County

No report.

SFPS

Mary Ellen Gonzales reported on two Board meetings. The main issue discussed at our November meeting was whether the League can support all or part of a proposed resolution titled Staffing Crisis. Members discussed a draft statement and authorized Mary Ellen to submit the statement before the 11/4 SFPS Board meeting. The statement is posted on the A&A page of our website and is here:

**LWVSFC Comments for SFPS Board re: Staffing Crisis Resolution**

Regarding SFPS Board Resolution 2021-2022-4, Staffing Crisis, although we cannot comment on specific items in the proposal, the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County supports the following:

The League believes that the State of New Mexico should provide adequate funding to attract and retain a well-qualified education workforce that reflects the diversity of New Mexico’s students, and that educators’ salaries should be competitive with other professions requiring similar skills.

The League also supports efforts to increase the availability of safe, decent, and affordable housing for moderate and low-income households, through strategies including public and private partnerships.

The League has no position on any further components of the Resolution.

*Submitted by Mary Ellen Gonzales*

*SFPS Board meeting 11/4/21*

Submitted by Chris Furlanetto, November 14, 2021