

LWVSFC Action & Advocacy Annual Report April, 2023

Membership continues steady with 23 on the mailing list and eight to ten active members attending meetings, which are held on the first Thursday of each month.

City issues

- **Midtown:** We have continued to monitor the development of this project. Last spring, we submitted an IPRA request for records that Chris Furlanetto spent many hours reconciling with other available data. Many of these data were evident in the final Land Use Plan and Community Development Plan. RFPs are now out for two components, but interest appears to be low. The City has improved its transparency a bit, improving the website, and local reporting has highlighted certain issues, such as the disposition of the Fogelson Library. We continue to watch for expense tracking data and for the establishment of an ongoing governance structure for this development.
- **CHART:** We observed the meetings of the Governing Body regarding the CHART final report as well as committee meetings and Governing Body meetings to attempt disposition of the obelisk. In the process, we sent two letters to the Governing Body urging greater transparency and inclusion in this work, copying the local press; neither was published, but the Mayor and a City Councilor responded. We have met with the Mayor and are scheduling a meeting with the Councilor.
- **Las Estrellas:** The Governing Body has approved RFPs in principle for two parcels in the development. City staff are still working to finalize them.
- **Land Use Plan and Code update:** Chris attended one of the kickoff meetings for this City initiative and we are on the communications list for future meetings. We have been pleased with the transparency of city staff so far.
- **Charter Review Commission:** Recently we became more involved with the work of this committee, whose transparency has been dismal. Watch for updates in the Voter.
- **Meetings with City Manager:** Judy Williams and Jody Larson have been meeting monthly with City Manager Blair, establishing a cordial relationship and discussing all the issues above as well as the status of the city's audit reports. We have urged greater transparency here, but the real issue is truthfulness: the audit teams have been reporting regularly to the Finance Committee, but this has been no guarantee of accuracy regarding status.

County issues: We have monitored a few land use issues, including development of a new ordinance for short-term rentals. Currently, we need someone to follow the disposition of City Annexation Area 1B, which some residents are trying to have incorporated into the Agua Fria Traditional Village. This is a controversial and contentious issue.

Santa Fe Public Schools: Mary Ellen Gonzales continues to monitor the meetings of the SFPS Board and to provide timely, informative reports covering topics such as staffing, financial planning, and replacement of a board member. We contributed to a survey she completed for the administration earlier this year.

Matrix: We revised and updated the League's priority matrix in December and January; the Board approved it in its January meeting.

Other: We continue to seek more observers, including a monitor for the Santa Fe Community College Board, as well as regular observers for certain city and county boards and committees, especially for the City Charter Commission, a short-time commitment. Since many of these

meetings are streamed and recorded, this can be done according to a member's schedule. These activities are very rewarding, and we will take care not to overburden you. We hope some of you will give this a try!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jody Larson and Judy Williams, Co-Chairs