



October 2022 newsletter

In Person

October General Meeting

Monday, October 24, 6:30 p.m.

Cultural Arts Center

235 Forest Avenue (upstairs)

Via Zoom

November Board Meeting

Saturday, November 5, 9 a.m.

A Successful Citizen's Initiative: How it Happens

As we battle over the importance of a "Yes on Measure Q" vote, Village Laguna offers an optimistic and encouraging perspective. On Monday, October 24, at the Cultural Arts Center (formerly BC Space, upstairs at 235 Forest Avenue), Village Laguna will be showing a special video filmed and edited by Erin Slattery in 2011. Recorded at Tivoli Terrace on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the overwhelming voter approval for the citizen-generated height limit initiative, the program recounts the serious, outrageous, and (looking back) humorous aspects of that effort. Speakers include some of the original signers and promoters of the initiative—Arnold Hano, Roger McErlane, Ralph Benson, Phil Rundel, Verna Rollinger, Larry and Rosaura Ulvestad—with intros and commentary by Gene Felder, John Monahan, and Carolyn Wood. A historical presentation of contemporary Laguna events and articles gleaned from newspapers is presented by Ann Christoph. Look forward to vignettes of many dear friends.

In this election season, when, more than ever, the survival of the "village" is at stake, it will be encouraging to join together and renew our commitment and optimism that activism can really work to achieve meaningful results for our city. We'll meet at 6:30 p.m. and the video will begin at 7.

Extended Q and A with Our Candidates and Q Spokesman

On September 29 we met for a discussion of the issues with our endorsed candidates for City Council, Mark Orgill and Jerome Pudwill, and Gene Felder for Laguna Residents First. Gene talked about the No on Q PAC's many misrepresentations of the initiative and the amount of money it has reported collecting (\$157,688)—much of it from out-of-town sources in addition to the predictable local realtors and developers. Village Laguna now has signs supporting the two candidates and Measure Q. If you contact villagelagunainfo@gmail.com, you can arrange for someone to deliver one to your door. Donations directly to the candidates and to the initiative campaign can be made through their individual websites.



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News Briefs

1. The City is in discussions with the County to take over South Laguna's county-owned beaches for a lump sum of \$22 million. Residents at the Council hearing looked forward to better lifeguard service, an easier task of restoring the estuary, and monitoring of illegal breaches of the sand berm across the creek.
2. Aided by a friendly threat of eminent domain, the Council is buying what is widely considered a more suitable site for a South Laguna fire station, the property holding a dental office at 31796 Coast Highway. An initial debt of \$6.1 million is intended to be repaid when the Te Amo site across the street is sold.

Promenade Workshop Disappoints

People on both sides of the aisle were greatly disappointed with the first of two scheduled public workshops on the design of the permanent Promenade on Forest Avenue. The consultant, defending the scope of work identified by the

Council last June, was interested only in the types of materials preferred for paving, planting, and lighting and whether to remove all signs of the existing street. Participants who suggested that the City might be getting ahead of itself—that there were bigger issues to be discussed—were fiercely attacked by Councilman Blake.

An item on the October 4 Council agenda called attention to one of the many aspects of the project that haven't been fully examined, the fact that the maintenance of the Promenade has been costing \$150,000 a year on top of the \$374,628 cost for the rest of downtown. Other unexamined issues that come to mind are the traffic impacts, the replacement of lost parking and the creation of parking for the additional customers that can be expected when people are eating both indoors and out, and the significant and permanent impact on the aesthetics of lower Forest Avenue.

Village Laguna's request that night for a thorough planning process including public participation, environmental review, and cost/benefit analysis was met with a response from the City Manager to the effect that, with the award of the design contract, that train had definitively left the station.