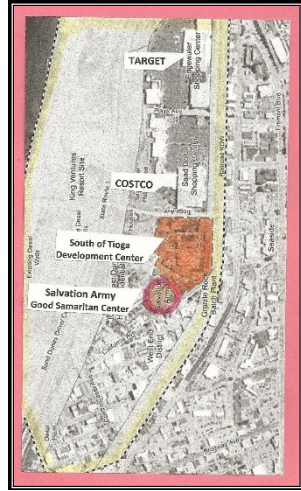


HOMELESS IN PARADISE

May 18-24, 2018

HUMPTY DUMPTY HOUSING - Part 13



WILL THE GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER SURVIVE SAND CITY'S REDEVELOPMENT?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

PREDICTING the long-range outcome of a city council's decision is like betting on a boxing match: OK or KO?

If OK, no one is knocked out.

If KO, one party wins and the other loses.

Metaphors aside, unanswered questions arose during the public hearing portion of the May 15 meeting of Sand City's city council, at which members of the public presented concerns about the pending "South of Tioga Redevelopment Project." Leading the list was affordable housing.

I asked, "If okayed, what happens to the Salvation Army's Sabu Shake, Sr. Good Samaritan Center at 800 Scott St., Sand City? Will it become a Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY) sore spot that's condemned?"

Sand City has been working with DBO Development on plans for transformation of 10+ acres of property east of Highway 1 into the mixed-use project. Once the project's approval has been completed, estimated groundbreaking can start in 2020, with a potential completion date of around 2025.

South of Tioga has been predicted to triple Sand City's population, increase traffic, and raise both housing costs and roof heights, all matters of concern that council is considering based on public input.

Wiggle Time For Wonder Working?

I suggested City Council "Approve the resolutions to proceed with the development contingent on an inclusionary provision for a gateway buffer zone connecting South of Tioga to the Good Samaritan Center, either as a park, or low, low-income housing development that services both the work force that will live in Sand city and homeless and/or handicapped persons, under a Sand City Housing Authority. Call it something like Good Samaritan Gardens or Good Samaritan Village."

Situated between Costco and the Good Samaritan Center, the South of Tioga project will feature at least one hotel, with hundreds of residential units and some retail stores. Boundaries are Tioga Ave., California Ave., East Ave. and Merle St.

Speaking For The Homeless

The Monterey Peninsula's homeless community relies on the Good Samaritan Center for more than just meals and hot coffee.

Shower and laundry facilities are available to help the homeless stay clean and maintain human dignity.

The men and women of Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Programs (I-HELP) rely on the Good Samaritan Center, as do many women who are guests of Gathering for Women, where they receive vouchers for use at Good Samaritan Center.

Although CeliaSue Hecht has received gas vouchers and some lunches from Gathering for Women, the freelancer remains an independent writer/editor/traveler who was recently in Bakersfield before returning to the Monterey Peninsula.

She says in her current ad on Craigslist:

"I have a wonderful 11-year old dog, and she and I are both tired of sleeping in the car, where it is cramped and cold and not a home.

We have been without a home for almost four years now.

Just like the other 500+ women over 50 in this area without homes, we cannot find affordable housing anywhere. . .

I have had a decent job for two years now, although it is with a non-profit that just lost its funding, so my income is less than \$600 a month now which is devastating and impossible to live on.

I am happy to work (am a Writer/Editor Professional with 35+ years of experience doing newsletters, articles, books, PR, etc).

We would be happy to rent your granny unit or yurt or lot to put up a shed or camper.

Enough is enough!"

For further information about CeliaSue or to read her "Wish List" please visit

<https://monterey.craigslist.org/rew/d/senior-woman-and-dog-need/6585607541.html>

<https://silverliningsandgraymatters.wordpress.com><<https://cshechtwriter.journoportfolio.com>>

Or call 702-225-8206.

Sand City's mayor, Mary Ann Carbone, who served in soup kitchens for 35 years, assured me city council is fully considering all suggestions before giving a final vote to the South of Tioga project.

She said, "The Salvation Army's Good Samaritan Center isn't going away."

In boxing parlance, that's A-OK!

Visit www.sandcity.org.

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Proximity of Salvation Army's Good Samaritan Center to the South of Tioga Redevelopment Project is shown on this map (courtesy of Sand City and amended by Wanda Sue Parrott). Unlike many local homeless people who rely on the Salvation Army's Good Samaritan Center in Sand City, freelance journalist CeliaSue Hecht, shown here with her dog Cici, takes showers and does her laundry when staying in motel rooms rather than their van. Photo courtesy of CeliaSue Hecht;

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