

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

June 15-21, 2018

HUMPTY DUMPTY HOUSING - Part 17



COASTAL VIEWS: PARKLETS AND A PLAT OF DUNE, OR ROAD KILL AND TWO OLD TRASH BAGS

By Wanda Sue Parrott

REPORTING the full local housing crisis is impossible in 750 words.

If I squeeze, however, highlights condense into such factoids as the Safe Parking Program.

It's not a Monterey County Board of Supervisors' 2018-2019 budgetary priority; however, the experimental One Starfish Safe Parking-style plan that lets occupants of 15 vehicles camp overnight in District 4 Supervisor Jane Parker's parking lot in Marina wasn't hacked from last week's budget-cut proposals.

It's still intact pending further outcome that raises the question:

If it is cut, will Lapis Road again fill up with vehicles whose occupants have to park somewhere?

Former Lapis Road campers moved to Griffin Street in Salinas.

Now, they're not welcome there any more than they were in Monterey, Seaside or Marina, so Salinas City Council is contemplating a parking ordinance banning oversized vehicles.

So, where do they go next? Do owners abandon inoperable four-wheel homes?

At 7 p.m. last Sunday, Lapis Road remained clear except for two overstuffed black trash bags by the side of the road and one turkey buzzard devouring a dead ground squirrel.

Traveling South To Sand City

A visit to Sand City's city council meeting on June 5 introduced me to an anxious developer and several colleagues whose beautiful presentation was designed to evoke council's Aye votes for the Orosco Group's proposed redevelopment of about 10 acres known as "South of Tioga" project.

It seemed council's three Aye votes would give the green light to Don Orosco to proceed with drawing up resolutions applicable to individual parcels of the overall planned development.

Please correct me if I'm wrong, but it appeared that if city council voted Nay, Don Orosco might have been left holding the proverbial empty bag, which would explain why he appeared nervous.

Three items on the pared-down agenda were:

Approval of the modified Environmental Impact Report; approval of the modified Vesting Tentative Map; and approval of a modified Field Environmental Impact Report to protect Dune Scrub habitat areas adjoining South of Tioga to preserve California native flora.

No mention was made about home-needing humans who camp or sleep near Sand City's beaches.

From Private Rooftop Dining To Seamless Affordable Housing

In issue were one 216-room hotel and two chic multi-use structures designed to transform Sand City's blight-spotted, 20th-century industrial-type zoning into a 21st-century community personified by parklets, a plat of dune, and nearby public community center with new community arts council to be funded by Orosco.

Understating the fact Eminent Domain (condemnation proceedings) will probably be invoked to force unwilling property owners to sell, the savvy group's pitch soared to a future rooftop restaurant exclusively for tenants of the residential building it crowns.

Fifty-two deed-restricted affordable housing units that must be maintained for 55 years were included in the vesting tentative map that grants the developer rights to include up to 356 units, of which 52 must be:

Extremely low-income unit, 1; Extremely low-income senior (age 55 and older) units, 3; Very-low-income units, 5; Low-income units, 7; Moderate income units, 18; Work-force units, 18.

One residential building will feature five stories of 231 multi-family units and a parking garage and the other will have 125 residential units (50 percent condominium and 50 percent multi-family).

When I heard that the affordable housing units would be integrated "seamlessly" into the overall upgrade, my stomach hiccupped the same way it did when Donald Trump's called the White House "a dump."

So I stood up as a member of the public and went on Sand City record by defending those who needed, but did not have , a spokes-voice:

"You've done a wonderful job with your presentation," I told the Orosco Group, "but let's remember that Monterey County needs 1,000 to 5,000 units that rent for \$300 to \$500 per month, and they're needed NOW!"

I blew them a good luck kiss.

Council's unanimous Aye vote sealed Sand City's future and gave me pause, because Rick Hadlock, Pacific Grove homeowner quoted in last week's column about missing children, asked via e-mail:

"Are you liberal, conservative, or a fence sitter?"

"None, yet all," I concluded. "As a Unitarian Universalist, I try to serve as 'the hand of justice, restoring a world worthy of our children.'"

Next week, we return to children. Meanwhile, check the 2018 Monterey County Grand Jury Report, 18-page Section 5: "[WHO'S IN CHARGE? Stepping up on Homelessness: The need for strategic leadership and comprehensive planning](http://cgja.blogspot.com/2018/06/monterey-county-civil-grand-jury-whos.html)" at <http://cgja.blogspot.com/2018/06/monterey-county-civil-grand-jury-whos.html>.

Trust newly re-elected Sheriff Steve Bernal. He knows the homeless-on-the-highway routine.

###

Caption: Twin haiku by Wanda Sue Parrott

Photo: Courtesy of Clip Art

*owners slept in me
no one lives here any more
homeless not welcome
once was family home
no one lives here any more
homeless not welcome*

r community, how many of you would offer yourself and your

Copyright 2018 by Wanda Sue Parrott

Contact amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com or call 831-899-5887