

City Council Special Meeting

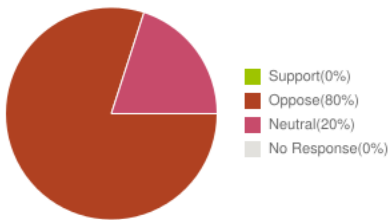
02-15-24 18:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
a) REPORT 24-0063 CIVIC FACILITIES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN (Continued from January 23, 2024) (City Manager Suja Lowenthal)	5	0	4	1

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

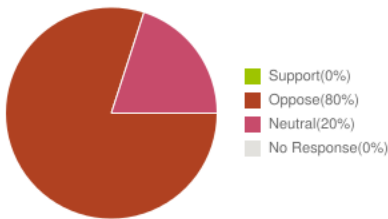
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for a) REPORT 24-0063 CIVIC FACILITIES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN (Continued from January 23, 2024) (City Manager Suja Lowenthal)

Overall Sentiment



Michele Hampton

Location: 90254, Hermosa Beach
Submitted At: 2:49pm 02-15-24

I suggest that our city council, city staff and city manager let the community know exactly (list each building (city hall, library, etc) what the issues that need to be taken care of. I don't want to move any further with having Fullerton Consulting Partners, LLC look into a new shiny civic facilities that we probably don't need at this time. Also I think there is a conflict of interest with Fullerton Consulting Partners, LLC leading the community engagement phase. We should have a third party lead this community group that has no interest does not benefit financially from this project. Another one of Suja Lowenthal's buddies getting in on the action. Let's use our city council, city staff and mostly our city manager's time on more important issues that face our city. Let's get the small business back on track and fill the empty buildings with stores that will benefit our city and the people who come to visit. Stop wanting to spend our money on an eyesore that is not needed. Keep the charm of Hermosa Beach.

Laura Pena

Location:

Submitted At: 1:55pm 02-15-24

Dear Mayor, Council Members and Staff – If we are going to embark on providing a thoughtful, inclusive, and participatory Civic Facilities Community Engagement Plan we need to make sure the design and stakeholders involved have the potential for success. There is a way to show meaningful engagement. We need to question our assumptions around how we provide opportunities for public participation. A core value of providing meaningful engagement include seeking input from participants in designing HOW they participate.

Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision. Identifying key stakeholders is vital to engaging with people in our community who can contribute and encourage others to contribute. It also requires us to be mindful that not every stakeholder group is able to participate in the same way, so flexibility is paramount. The very idea that the "hybrid" format is not recommended in at least three of the in-person Community Meetings, although I understand the Open House format would not be advisable, show the limitations in potential design.

If the current proposal has an end date of December 31, 2025, why are we limiting the Community Advisory Group "up to four meetings" which could mean 2 or 3 meetings? If we want to provide transparency with thoughtful community engagement for this 12-18 month plan, we could recommend up to six meetings and provide flexibility for the group, which I assume will be made public for the community to view and provide additional feedback. In addition, adding this change with the same "up to" language still affords the Advisory Group to meet four times if that is all that is needed.

As I reviewed the consultant's budget there were certain aspects that were confusing. It appears that up to 68% of the consultants scope of work for community engagement is administrative work, instead of actually engaging with the community. Although, I understand the importance of financial modeling, coordinating meetings, and preparing and reviewing materials and updates, we should make sure there is an emphasis on actually engaging with our community. Also, if the consultant is proposing adding a Communication Consultant to the project, what is the cost estimate for this item? Why can't we use our city's own communication consultant which I believe we pay over \$7k per month. Wouldn't there be a cost savings since this firm already has knowledge and experience working with our community? What would be the additional duties required?

Why is community engagement so important with the Civic Facility Plan? It will help us provide a mechanism for thoughtful feedback and evaluation of planning decisions. It will also aid us in determining what will work in reality and what will not. It provides a better understanding of the day-to-day experience of people in our community. We must be willing to engage more broadly with our community and in ways that are different from what has been tried before. Accessibility, timing, and transparency are all important elements in getting community engagement right. I appreciate staff's recommendation for an Advisory Group so the community has the opportunity to learn about the trade-offs involved, and provide for a diverse range of views that can be considered in the development of options or solutions.

If we want to learn from our past engagement efforts, the GoHermosa App has been successful with helping our community communicate concerns to the city in a timely, responsive, and accessible format. I recommend city leadership consider using a similar format for providing a comprehensive and streamlined engagement app, Citizenlab which is used by many governments and communities to maximize the chances for success for their engagement initiatives. Their mission is to build stronger democracies by making public decision-making more inclusive, participatory, and responsive. At minimum, we could ask them to provide a demo of how our city could benefit from such an engagement tool.

As always, I appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Laura Pena

Howard L

Location:

Submitted At: 12:16am 02-15-24

Council and interested others:

Facilities – Futilities! The latest inane approach of City Manager Suja Lowenthal and no doubt Councilman Justin Massey.

Sooner or later there will be three on the Council who will get rid of Lowenthal and most of her bloated, inefficient operation, i.e. when a real city manager will then be hired.

This idea of a massive Taj Mahal / Casino / Hotel public/private partnership pie-in-sky nonsense is just the LATEST boondoggle to be wasting the taxpayer's money for city staff hours and expensive consultants hired to achieve a particular slimy agenda.

Let us hope there are no kick-backs or other shenanigans in whatever's going on in secret.

Hopefully it's all just being driven by incredibly dumb fools, enthralled with themselves, and their own sense of shallow importance.

And btw, I've seen the staff pictures geared to make City Hall look like a falling-apart, cock-roach infested, H&I-hole. Standard methodology being used by Lowenthal to "gaslight" both the public and the Council. 'Created blight' an old filthy trick.

I've also noticed how the public has been so-walled off from virtually all City Hall operations since Lowenthal took over, due to the unbelievable, control-freak of a creepy management style that she's installed at City Hall, and while the City Council is so busy being too lazy to do their jobs, other than looking for every photo-op to display synthetic politician smiles.

The rehash of a sales tax increase measure (another item on this sneaky agenda) is likely a set-up SCAM to after it fails, start proposing the long-sleeping idea of having a Casino in town, to likely be part of the public/private partnership with a hotel for the present 3-acre City Hall site, in conjunction with the net-zero, costly Taj Mahal/City Hall for the Community Center property, and notwithstanding the School District's standing interest.

The School District never gave their property to the City, such that the City could move City Hall onto it and then use the City Hall property to make money and intensify the city with an adult Hotel and Casino scummy operation. That's the kind of scam thinking that clearly comes from these clowns who've been controlling this town for that last 5 to 9 years and who obviously could not give a rat's hind-quarters about Hermosa's men, women, and children's quality of life.

The School District needs to wake up and smell the coffee of what's going on.

This is the kind of stuff that's long been accomplished in Long Beach while their residents' quality-of-life went deeper and deeper into the toilet since the 1960s. The politicians there wrecked that town.

Why some, so-ignorantly long for this city to be as Long Beach, or as Hawaiian Gardens, or even as Inglewood is the real question. One has to wonder who might profit from such ignorance, from running this town into the toilet too. You have to know that where there's big money, corruption follows, does it not?

No the city does not need a shiny new \$250-Million Taj Mahal / City Hall / Hotel-Casino and 10.5%-Sales-Tax. WHAT INSANITY!

Again, this is the stuff of Inglewoods, of Long Beaches, of Santa Monicas, and worse.

Suja Lowenthal, just this past January 23 was awarded yet another bonus for running the most inefficient municipal operation in the South Bay. While other cities become actually more efficient using technology, this city under Lowenthal is constantly, meeting after meeting, seeing Suja claiming, oh it's so difficult for staff to do this, oh it's so difficult for staff to do that. Meanwhile the staff gets more and more inefficient and bloated, while the public is taken more and more out of their own meetings with excuse after excuse, nonsense after nonsense, flowing from both Suja Lowenthal and the Council.

Rather than Facilities Meetings Council needs to have "Frugality Meetings" and start getting rid of all the costly,

useless stuff that Massey and Suja have brought on. And poor Raymond, he just seems to love being a dumb stooge for Massey and a de facto mouthpiece for Suja while he has evidently zero understanding that he's fooling no one but the tiny handful in town endlessly patronizing R. Jackson, Suja, and J. Massey.

Again, NO the city does not need a gambling Casino! Even if that's just to be a throw-away tease item, this entire process stinks to high heavens of underlying corruption. It need not even be proposed, knowing well it will be thrown away.

Facilities – Futilities! Can you say “Safer Prospect”? Remember that complete FIASCO of Suja, Massey, and their so-called “environmental operation”

Can you say “TEEN CHALLENGE” beachfront event? Remember that Suja disaster.

Over the last 5-6 years of Suja it's been ever-increasing inefficient Suja bureaucracy, and ever-increasing pay for Suja, driven by whom? JUSTIN MASSEY! My views as always of all herein.

Most Sincerely and Respectfully,

Howard L.

Rick Koenig

Location:

Submitted At: 10:48am 02-14-24

As a 4th generation Hermosa resident / property owner and contractor here in town for the last 45 years and someone that has been involved with several renovations and investigations of Hermosa's City buildings over the years, I think we should not get a head of ourselves and take a deep dive into our existing assets (buildings) before we talk about the kind of money necessary to relocate and rebuild etc..... The consideration of a free new City hall building based on revenue from a joint ventured hotel will still require up front hard money and may or may not be sustaining monetarily due to the percentage of occupancy during the off months. There is a litany of reasons that I am against this accelerated proposal to be mentioned at a later date.

Tracy H

Location:

Submitted At: 3:59pm 02-12-24

Maintenance over Redevelopment for the civic center and other facilities.