

Action and Advocacy Committee Report- October 2024

City. The Action and Advocacy Committee has been keeping a close eye on the departures and personnel replacements at the city. Since many are in flux, we will wait to make direct contact.

Midtown Project. There is progress in Midtown. Daniel Hernandez has returned, this time as Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority Director. Also, the MRA Commission members are now in place. There have been three Exclusive Negotiating Agreements (ENAs) finalized covering the theater, studio and arts center entities. Only one of these, the studio project, has moved to the Disposition and Development Agreement (DDA) stage. There will be, surprisingly, affordable housing in the form of a multi-unit building as part of the studio. The arts center applicants are seeking funding to move their project forward. There may need to be some sort of city support for that one. It has been suggested that the city could possibly donate land that it presently owns.

SFCC. Our monitor provided an in-depth look at the finances at SF Community College. More than 50% of their revenue is provided by governmental sources or mill levies. The college has generated an increase of 14% revenue from tuition and fees and has spent that increase on instructional costs. SFCC has created a committee to rigorously review new programs and classes that are experiencing dropping enrollment for their usefulness to the college body. We are awaiting further information on trends, as well as information on the breakdown of career-track students versus others.

SF County. The County Commission has sent a letter strenuously objecting to the proposed Los Alamos Caja del Rio Power Line Upgrade, citing cultural and wildlife management issues and barriers as well as very limited input from stakeholders.

County staff have prepared and presented the new Economic Development Plan. We are waiting to hear expected review items. Five projects have been evaluated and recommended to receive low interest loans as part of the Developer Assistance program that is part of the revolving affordable housing loan fund.