

Follow-up on Rio survey proposed

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The new president of the Rio del Mar Improvement Association wants to follow up on a recent opinion survey of area residents, start a neighborhood "ombudsman" program and attract younger members.

Vince Casey, who took over as chairman of the 800-member group's board of directors from George Truckell last month, outlined some of his ideas to the board of directors yesterday at the monthly meeting in Aptos.

"If we can agree on where we're going, perhaps there's a better chance we'll get there," Casey said.

Among Casey's objectives as he begins his one-year-term of office would be to use the information gathered in a recent survey of resident opinion on such topics as traffic and land use. Casey plans to ask Ray Garcia, who ran the survey, to put together reports on the various topics to be used by the association's committees in mapping strategy for the year.

Saying "the hill you live on, George, is different from the hill I live on," Casey explained his idea for appointing an association contact in each sector of Rio del Mar who would be sensitive to the special problems of that sector.

In addition, Casey proposed having a night meeting or two to see if younger members of

the community would come out. The lone visitor at yesterday's meeting, Richard Casale, told the board that people his age usually work during the day, even commute to the Santa Clara Valley, and that makes attendance at afternoon meetings impossible.

Board member Leonard Wickliffe, who heads the budget committee, also questioned what the scope of the association ought to be. He asked the board to consider whether it wanted to take stands on such county-wide issues as the library system and sheriff's office funding, or keep to a narrower, more localized agenda.

"We are at a very crucial point here," he said. "Do we want to dilute our purposes here when we spread ourselves so thin? Or do we want to set limits of involvement of the Rio del Mar Improvement Association?"

Casale brought up the idea of forming Neighborhood Watch networks, and board member Buzz Haines suggested holding a fund-raiser to add to the group's coffers, depleted by some \$1,900 owing to the cost of the survey, which was mailed to about 3,000 people.

All of these ideas, Casey said, are simply ideas now — "thought-provokers," he called them — and would require further action later.