

# ✓Civic committee of 36 goes to work

VISION SANTA CRUZ

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SANTA CRUZ — The committee of 36 got down to business Thursday night toward developing a plan for the rebuilding of Santa Cruz.

A major first task ahead is a name for the group of citizens, business and property owners and government officials charged with plotting a strategy for civic recovery. The working name "Board of Directors, Agency for the Rebuilding of Downtown Santa Cruz" seems a bit cumbersome, committee members agreed.

The 36 members were appointed earlier this week by the Greater Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Association, City Council and nine other organizations. Business interests controlled 16 of the positions. The City Council made 11 appointments.

The group decided on some of the nuts and bolts of its organization during the initial 2½-hour meeting that was marked by an eagerness to get started. After

introductions it was decided that two co-chairmen, a secretary/treasurer and four other members will make up an executive board. Nominations will come for a vote at the next meeting scheduled for Jan. 22.

The group decided to meet twice a month on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The location will probably be at the Loudon Nelson Community Center.

It was decided to be tough on absences — miss four meetings and a delegate is off the committee.

Three members were absent for the first meeting: Phil Boyce, chairman of San Jose-based Pacific Western Bank, Mike Schmidt, Santa Cruz branch manager for the Bank of America and Harvey Nickelson, president of Coast Commercial Bank. Nickelson had a representative sitting in for him.

City Manager Dick Wilson estimated the group will have about \$500,000 to work with for its first year. Details have not been settled of where the money will come from. Much of the expenses are expected to go

towards design and planning consultants, Wilson said.

The committee is supposed to develop policy and overview decisions to guide the rebuilding process. The City Council Tuesday asked for direction by April regarding housing downtown and parking requirements for new housing and building height limits.

Another principal area of interest is the relationship between the beach and the downtown.

Committee members not already announced are: Eugene Van Den Heuvel, a business agent for the Sheet Metal Workers Union appointed by the Central Labor Council; Denise Holbert, Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County; Ralph Meyberg, Downtown Neighbors; Roy Rydell, Arts and History Board; Susan Mauriello, Santa Cruz County Administrative Officer; Cynthia Mathews, Santa Cruz County Historical Trust; William Rubel, Downtown Commission. The Santa Cruz County Metropolitan Transit District board hasn't made a choice yet. Executive Director Scott Galloway sat in for the first meeting.