



CITY COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 27, 2002
7:30 p.m.
Menlo Park Council Chamber
801 Laurel Street, Menlo Park

6:00 p.m. STUDY SESSION – Held in the Administration Conference Room located on the first floor at City Hall, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park.

1. Consideration of a proposal to demolish two office buildings located at 110 Linfield Drive and 175 Linfield Drive and construct a total of 57 residential units on the two properties.

Justin Murphy presented the report. Public comments were received expressing support and opposition.

Following discussion, a majority of the Council agreed to have the applicant pursue the project.

7:30 p.m. REGULAR MEETING in the Council Chambers

ROLL CALL – Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Kinney and Councilmembers Collacchi, Borak and Jellins were all present. Also present were City Manager Boesch, Assistant City Manager Seymour, City Attorney McClure, City Clerk Ramos and other department heads.

A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Committee for Green Foothills Proclamation – Mayor Schmidt read and presented the proclamation to David Perone and Jane Alexander, who provided some background and expressed thanks.

B. APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

1. Las Pulgas Committee (one vacancy – must be a homeowner in the Redevelopment Area), Housing Commission (one vacancy); Parks and Recreation Commission (three vacancies) – (the deadline for applications is September 24, 2002 and the Environmental Quality Commission (two vacancies - deadline for applications is September 3, 2002). – The current vacancies were announced.
2. Commission appointments

Nancy Chillag, Arts Commission Chair, noted that the Commission decided to forego making recommendations for any current and future appointments.

Mayor Schmidt noted that Patricia Daniels withdrew her application to the Arts Commission.

Laura Vendemia and David Elliott were nominated to the Arts Commission.

M/S Kinney/Paul to close nominations. Motion passed 5-0. Mayor Schmidt noted there are two nominees for two seats.

Consensus to appoint Ms. Vendemia to serve for a term ending September 30, 2005 and Mr. Elliott to serve for a term ending September 30, 2004 on the Arts Commission.

Joan Ingles, Tom McDonough, Nancy Devine, Charlene Friedman were nominated to the Library Commission.

M/S Collacchi/Schmidt to close nominations. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Schmidt called for the vote. Tom McDonough and Nancy Devine received the top votes.

Consensus to appoint Tom McDonough and Nancy Devine to the Library Commission for terms ending July 31, 2006.

Hank Lawrence, Carl Baier, Reginald Rice, Rhoda Alexander were nominated to the Transportation Commission.

Consensus to close the nominations.

Mayor Schmidt called for the vote. Reginald Rice and Rhoda Alexander received the top votes with a tie vote. Mayor Schmidt called for a second vote to break the tie. Ms. Alexander received three votes and Mr. Rice received two votes.

Rhoda Alexander was appointed to the Transportation Commission for a term expiring July 31, 2006 on a 3-2 vote, Mayor Pro Tem Kinney and Councilmember Jellins dissenting.

Mayor Schmidt noted Sean Prasad was the sole applicant for the business representative seat on the Las Pulgas Committee.

Consensus to appoint Sean Prasad to serve on the Las Pulgas Committee as its business representative for a term expiring March 31, 2005.

There were no applications received for the Housing Commission and the application deadline has been extended.

3. Councilmember Reports: Schmidt, Kinney, Borak, Collacchi, Jellins – None

C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Winter Dellenbach, Menlo Park, commented about the historical significance of the Park Theater and its loss to the business community. She said that she received information about the theater's nomination for an award by the Bay Area Art Deco Society.

Staff responded to questions of the Council regarding the status of the theater with respect to its historical significance and the restoration of its façade.

Robert Mancuso, Menlo Park, expressed support for the Park Theater. He expressed concern about the lack of enforcement for the overnight parking regulations.

City Manager Boesch said he would ask Police Department staff to meet with Mr. Mancuso to discuss his concerns.

Hank Lawrence, Menlo Park, commented about the overwhelming comments received from the pro development group regarding the M2 study and felt that all concerned parties should be working together for the common good of the community. He concurred with Chuck Bernstein's previous remarks to look at this issue from the community's perspective.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Schmidt read the consent calendar. Councilmember Jellins pulled item 7 and Mayor Schmidt pulled item 3.

M/S Kinney/Borak to approve 1, 2, 4 5 and 6 as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

1. Approve audited bills for period 6 and 7 ending August 9 and 16, 2002.
2. Authorization for the City Manager to enter into Master Professional Agreements with ICBO Plan Check Services; Independent Code Consultants; Kutzmann Associates; Linhart, Peterson Powers Associates; John J. Heneghan, Consulting Geotechnical and Civil Engineer; and PMC Associates for a 24 month period for the purpose of continuing the provision of contract plan check, and inspection services on an as needed basis to the staff of the Building Division in a total amount for all agreements, not to exceed \$295,000 for fiscal year 2002-03.
3. Pulled and moved to the end of Regular Business.
4. Adoption of a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute contracts with the State of California Department of Education to reimburse the City \$531,571 for childcare services at the Belle Haven Child Development Center.

5. Approval of the second amendment to the lease between the City of Menlo Park and the County of San Mateo for the Belle Haven Clinic located at 101 Terminal Avenue.
6. Acceptance of work for the Administration and Police Facilities Project.
7. Pulled and moved to the end of Regular Business.

E. PUBLIC HEARING - None

F. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Approval of guidelines for the Percent for Art Program.

Robert Roessler, Community Services Manager, presented the staff report.

There were no public comments.

M/S Jellins/Schmidt to approve the guidelines as presented. Motion passed 4-1 with Councilmember Borak dissenting.

2. City Council approval of improvement measures to increase traffic safety on Sand Hill Road between Santa Cruz Avenue and Interstate 280 and adoption of a Resolution appropriating \$45,000 from the Traffic Impact Fee account to fund the implementation of these improvements.

Rene Baile, Transportation Engineer, and Dino Teddyputra, Transportation Planner, presented the staff report with overhead slides.

Staff responded to questions regarding road sensor costs and locations, liability issues for non standard design, sign installation, striping and markings, road maintenance, embankments, monitoring programs, speed evaluation and surveys, pigmentation for bike lanes, landscape material standards, parking restriction, alternative intersection design and components, and the pilot project timeframe.

Stephen Rock, Menlo Park, suggested lowering the speed limits to prevent fatalities. He noted that according to Caltrans, the cities mandate the speed limits, not the state. He observed that the parking lanes cause bicyclists to shift on to the street, which is dangerous and recommended removing them. He said that a box turn is more dangerous for bicyclist than the left hand turn lanes. He expressed concern about maintenance of the roads.

Michael Woods, Menlo Park, expressed his support of the proposed plan and the alternative left turn design for the pilot project. He commented about alternative left turns, reducing the speed limit, importance of street striping and markings and suggested a city welcome sign on Sand Hill Road.

Hank Lawrence, Menlo Park, commented about traffic at Sand Hill Road and speeding traffic between 7 am and 8 am between Santa Cruz and Sharon Park Drive. He recommended reducing the speed limit between Santa Cruz and the S.L.A.C. complex to 25 mph and between S.L.A.C. and I-280 to 35 mph. He felt that Katherine Pope's recent death could be attributed to high speed.

Mike Harding, Menlo Park, commented about the danger for bicyclists with left turn lanes and expressed his support of the proposed plan for safety improvements. He commented about non-skid surface materials.

Dani Weber, San Mateo, Peninsula Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition, expressed her support for the safety measures.

Robert Cronin, Menlo Park, expressed his support of the proposed safety measures, which he said were also approved by the Bicycle and Transportation Commissions. He thought that the implementation of the proposed plan is a good response to Ms. Pope's fatal tragedy.

Richard Cassel, Palo Alto, observed that the parking issue along Sand Hill Road occurs between Santa Cruz Avenue and the S.L.A.C. complex. He expressed support for the proposed plan except for the left turn lane to S.L.A.C because of the inadequate timing, which could become a safety issue. He suggested allowing right turns for vehicles in order for the left turn to be effective. He said he would use the left turn pocket instead of the alternative design.

Butch Byers, Menlo Park, said that the parking issue is limited to the first two blocks westbound from the Sand Hill and Santa Cruz Avenue intersection. He urged the City to take the lead with the County to resolve that issue, if it does not

fall within the City's jurisdiction. He expressed his support for the proposed plan and felt it would be money well spent. He encouraged the City to use the proposed plan as a kickoff to make the entire Sand Hill corridor safer for bicyclists.

Eric Gilbertson, Menlo Park, submitted a letter to Council and expressed concern about the excessive signage and markings proposed in the plan. He believes that it would make people think that Sand Hill Road is a highway and might encourage motorists to drive fast. He discouraged the use of creative striping on Sand Hill Road. He believes that the safety issues occur at the intersections. He also observed that a dangerous spot is Sand Hill east of Santa Cruz because of the presence of berms.

Councilmember Collacchi moved to approve staff's recommendation and suggested directing staff to work with the County to get the parking eliminated in the corner closest to Santa Cruz and Sand Hill Road if it is not City property. He also suggested implementing safety measures where Sand Hill merges with I-280.

Mayor Pro Tem Kinney seconded the motion with an amendment to include the addition of a welcome sign on Sand Hill Road east of I-280.

Councilmember Collacchi accepted the amendment.

City Manager Boesch suggested to bring the welcome sign item back separately to allow staff more time to look into it and do it right.

Mayor Pro Tem Kinney withdrew his amendment.

Mayor Schmidt suggested writing to and working with Caltrans to install a bicycle warning sign on the off ramp from southbound I-280 to eastbound Santa Cruz Avenue to reduce safety issues when bicyclists merge onto the traffic.

Councilmember Borak expressed her support of the proposed plan. She questioned the need to install no parking signs because it does not seem to be an issue.

Mayor Schmidt commented on the contrary and thought that the no parking signs have benefits and suggested that where it is more likely to occur, a red curb should be added.

Councilmember Jellins concurred that the merging ramps from I-280 southbound to eastbound Sand Hill Road are an issue for bicyclists and would support involving Caltrans in addressing it. He is concerned about the merge from northbound I-280 on to eastbound Sand Hill Road because of speeding motorists. He said that the parking signs are problematic and not necessary because the real issue is the area of Sand Hill and Santa Cruz intersection and would support working with the County to alleviate the problem. He expressed concern that the residents in that area might oppose the parking restriction. He would like to see the technical aspect of the proposed plan worked out in an acceptable manner particularly about paint placed on the roadway that would form a visual barrier. He would prefer to mitigate speed by enforcement rather than other means. He expressed support for bicyclist and pedestrian safety on Sand Hill and Alpine Road.

Councilmember Jellins said he would support the motion with an amendment to direct staff to return to Council with an approved form of project, after working out the details of the pilot project, before implementation.

Staff clarified that it is staff's plan to return to the City Council after obtaining approval from the California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC).

City Attorney McClure suggested adding the following modifications to staff's recommendation as part of the motion:

- **Add #1f to read, "To the extent that any portion of Sand Hill Road is not in Menlo Park request that San Mateo County create a no parking zone on the north side of Sand Hill Road**
- **Modify #3 to clarify that staff would return to the Council for final approval prior to implementation of the pilot project**
- **Add # 5 to read, "Request that Caltrans place a yield to bicyclist sign or pavement painting from the southbound I-280 loop on to the eastbound Sand Hill Road.**

Mayor Schmidt suggested writing to the County to review their 55 mph speed limit for the area west of I-280 on Sand Hill Road. He commented about the 45 mph speed limit on Sand Hill Road in Palo Alto.

Staff responded and discussion ensued about Palo Alto's lower speed limit for its section of Sand Hill Road, the synchronization of traffic signals along Sand Hill Road and radar speed enforcement.

Motion to approve staff's recommendation with the modifications as described by the City Attorney, passed 5-0.

Mayor Schmidt declared a recess at 9:55 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

3. Consideration of state and federal legislative items or items referred to in Written Communications or Information Items, including decisions to support or oppose any such legislative, written communication or information item.

This item was pulled and moved to this section of the agenda

- D3. Introduction of an Ordinance adding Chapter 8.29 regarding Public Skate Park Facilities to the Menlo Park Municipal Code, requiring any person riding a skateboard, inline skates or roller skates at any City Skate Park Facility to wear safety equipment, in accordance with Assembly Bill 1296.

Councilmember Borak said she would support the project with reservations because of its potential adverse impacts.

M/S Borak/Jellins to introduce the ordinance as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

This item was pulled and moved to this section of the agenda

- D7. Approval of a Resolution approving the Second Amendment to Employment Agreement between the City of Menlo Park and David S. Boesch and approving the terms of new loan(s) to City Manager to purchase a home.

M/S Collacchi/Kinney to approve the resolution as presented. Motion passed 4-1, Councilmember Jellins dissenting.

G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

1. City Council consideration of a letter to the City of East Palo Alto regarding the University Place Project.

Mayor Schmidt noted that he agrees with the letter and said that he plans to attend the Council meeting. Discussion ensued regarding City representation at the East Palo Alto Council meeting.

City Manager Boesch said he would confirm Transportation staff's attendance.

Councilmember Jellins expressed concerns about the last sentence on the first paragraph of page 2 of the letter because it suggests that the scheduling of the meeting was set to avoid public scrutiny.

Consensus to remove that sentence from the letter.

Councilmember Jellins encouraged Mayor Schmidt and staff to continue to maintain an open dialogue with East Palo Alto on this matter.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Update on the Police Department's response to Racially Biased Policing.

Noted and filed after a presentation by Chris Boyd, Police Chief and Greg Rothaus, Police Commander,

I. PUBLIC COMMENT #2 -None

J. ADJOURNMENT – 10:20 p.m.

Susan A. Ramos, CMC, City Clerk
Approved by the City Council on October 8, 2002

