



CITY COUNCIL
and
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY MINUTES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003
7:30 p.m.
The Menlo Park Council Chambers
801 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025

6:00 p.m. STUDY SESSION (Administration Building – First Floor Conference Room)

1. Status Report by the City Council Subcommittee Relative to the Allied Arts Proposal.

The Council subcommittee, made up of Mayor Jellins and Councilmember Collacchi presented their proposal regarding the use of the Allied Arts property for events throughout the year.

7:30 p.m. REGULAR MEETING – MENLO PARK CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ROLL CALL Mayor Jellins called the meeting to order at 7:45 P.M. Mayor Pro Tem Duboc, Councilmembers Collacchi, Winkler and Kinney were present. Staff present included City Manager Boesch, Assistant City Manager Seymour, City Attorney McClure, Interim City Clerk Kern and other department heads.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mayor Jellins invited everyone to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS - None

B. COMMISSION VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

1. Appointments to the Parks and Recreation Commission, Housing Commission and Arts Commission.

Housing Commission (one vacancy)

Mayor Jellins called for nominations.

Councilmember Collacchi nominated Mr. Donald. Councilmember Kinney seconded this nomination.

Mr. Donald was appointed to the Housing Commission by unanimous vote.

Arts Commission (one vacancy)

Mayor Jellins called for nominations.

Mayor Pro Tem Duboc nominated Ms. Cancell.

Ms. Cancell was appointed to the Arts Commission by unanimous vote.

Parks and Recreation Commission (one vacancy)

Mayor Jellins called for nominations.

Councilmember Kinney nominated Mr. Silano. Councilmember Collacchi nominated Ms. Watkins, and Mayor Pro Tem nominated Ms. Keith. There were no other nominations.

Mayor Jellins asked the Council to vote (by show of hands) for each nominee.
Ms. Keith received one vote. Ms. Watkins received three votes. Mr. Solano received one vote.

Ms. Watkins was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission with three votes.

2. Councilmember Reports.

Councilmember Kinney announced that the Joint Powers Authority of the San Francisquito Creek was selected for a \$7 million project from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers for a short-term project to be determined from the list of projects submitted. He announced that Public Works Director Steffens would lead the staff in management meetings with other JPA staff members to select a project.

Councilmember Collacchi commented that he and Councilmember Winkler had attended a neighborhood meeting to discuss traffic concerns in the Willows Neighborhood. He said the neighbors were interested in next steps, and asked City Manager Boesch to explain the process.

City Manager Boesch reported that staff was in the process of identifying a location and a date in mid-February to hold a neighborhood meeting. He said this meeting would allow the staff to engage the neighborhood, define the scope of work, and identify areas where neighbors could help with data gathering. He explained that following that meeting, staff would work on the budget details and scope of work and present it to Council at a future meeting. He said it would be up to Council to decide how to fund the project, in light of the budget constraints this year.

Councilmember Winkler commented that she and Councilmember Kinney had a meeting to discuss residential zoning and would have more to report at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Lee Duboc reported that Friday would be the first organizational meeting for the first annual Belle Haven Clean-up Day. She commented that the meeting would be held at the Belle Haven Child Development Center, and she invited citizens to attend.

Mayor Pro Tem Duboc reported that she had attended the Emergency Services Meeting and explained that the countywide microwave system project was almost complete. She reported that she would bring a proposal from the Emergency Services Council that suggests the use of the surplus \$1 million that was left from this project. She explained that the County intends to keep this money, and use it to rebuild the system in the future. She said the proposal would call for Menlo Park's first two years of contributions to be taken from this fund, and future funding would be revisited then. She commented that she would need the Council's approval for the emergency services meeting on April 17th.

Mayor Jellins announced that a closed session was scheduled for February 4th. He stated an interest in holding a study session regarding the Planning Commissions role and responsibilities. He explained that because the Regular Meeting of February 4th was cancelled, a study session could be held following the Closed Session. Mayor Jellins asked if Council concurred with this suggestion.

Council concurred to schedule this meeting.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Mary Gilles Menlo Park requested the City investigate the possibility of televising the Council meetings on Satellite TV.

Mayor Jellins directed Ms. Gilles to speak to the Assistant City Manager Seymour, who was in charge of media relations.

Ms. Wellner de Veer, Menlo Park Library Commissioner, explained that the Commission was about to begin a strategic planning process, and invited City Council members to participate in the process. She explained that there would be two community meetings to receive input from the community. Ms. Wellner de Veer requested that the Council contact Library Director Holmer and let her know who would represent the Council. She commented that meeting dates would be determined in a week.

City Manager Boesch commented that Library Director Holmer would be contacting the City Council regarding participation in the Strategic Planning effort, and the public's input opportunities.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of audited bills for periods 27 and 28 ending January 3 and 10, 2003.
2. Community Development Agency (1) award of contract for the construction of the Belle Haven Pool House remodel to Solid Builders, Inc. in the amount of \$107,500; and (2) authorization of a budget of \$150,000 for construction, contingencies, testing, engineering, inspection and administration. *(Staff Report # 03-009)*
3. Approval to leave the site of the former Burgess Theater in its existing condition. *(Staff Report # 03-010)*
4. Resolution No. 5422 requesting the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to allocate fiscal year 2003-2004 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 Pedestrian funding for various specific pedestrian signal projects. *(Staff Report # 03-012)*
5. Award of contract for the purchase of mobile data systems to Data 911 in the amount of \$134,147.42; and authorization of a budget of \$274,000 for the purchase and related expenses; and approval of the allocation of COPS and CLEEP Grant funds. *(Staff Report # 03-011)*
6. Initiation of the Menlo Park Landscape Assessment District Proceedings for Fiscal Year 2003-2004 and Adoption of Resolution No. 5423 describing Improvements and Directing Preparation of the Engineer's Report. *(Staff Report # 03-017)*
7. Resolution No. 5424 designating the authorized agents of the City of Menlo Park for the purpose of applying for and receiving federal financial assistance and/or State financial assistance to be the City Manager, the Finance Director, and the Director of Public Works. *(Staff Report # 03-015)*
8. Approval of City Council Minutes for the Meetings of December 17, 2002 and January 7, 2003.

Mayor Jellins explained that the audited bills no longer needed to be listed on the Consent Calendar due to State Legislation.

M/S Kinney/Collachi to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion approved unanimously. Councilmember Kinney abstained from voting on the minutes for December 17, 2002, because he was absent from the meeting.

E. PUBLIC HEARING - None

F. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Agency Board appointment of one board member and five to nine residents to the Belle Haven Community Park and Housing Developer Selection Committee. *(Staff Report # 030-016)*

Housing and Redevelopment Manager Hillard presented the staff report. She reported that 12 applications had been received from the Belle Haven neighborhood to participate on the Selection Committee.

In response to a query by Councilmember Kinney, Ms. Hillard stated that a Spanish translator would be available to accommodate the Spanish-speaking applicants.

Mayor Pro Tem Duboc suggested that if Sheryl Bims replaced Mr. Calhoun as the appointee from the Las Pulgas Committee and that would leave 11 applications to consider for this Committee.

Council concurred that Sheryl Bims would replace Mr. Calhoun as the appointee to the Belle Haven Community Park and Housing Developer Selection Committee from the Las Pulgas Committee, the 11 remaining applicants would be appointed, and Councilmember Winkler would represent the Council on this Committee.

2. City Council approval of modifications to the Santa Cruz Avenue Trial Traffic Calming Project, and appropriation of \$60,000 from the Measure "A" account to fund implementation of these modifications.

City Manager Boesch announced that he had a conflict of interest according to Government Code section 87105 because he owns property in the subject area, and therefore would need to leave the meeting at this time being 8:30 P.M.

Mayor Jellins asked Council if it had any questions for City Manager Boesch before he left the meeting regarding agenda item H-1, Review of the City's Investment Portfolio. There were no questions.

Public Works Director Steffens presented the staff report.

Questions and discussion ensued about the speed surveys, and modifications to Santa Cruz Avenue including designated bike lanes, median island removal, left-turn pocket retention, and the restriping plan.

Councilmember Collacchi asked if the survey data had been analyzed to show the responses of people who ride bikes along Santa Cruz Avenue.

Mr. Steffens explained that staff would look through the data and get back to Councilmember Collacchi later in the meeting.

Councilmember Winkler stated she was not opposed to the directional sign at Santa Cruz/University, but she thought the sign could be positioned better, to avoid confusion in the driving lanes.

Transportation Manager Rahimi stated in response to Councilmember Collacchi's earlier question, that staff had not analyzed Santa Cruz Avenue bike rider's responses.

Mr. Bourne, Menlo Park, stated that he agreed with the letter sent to Council from Mr. Nash. (on file in the Clerk's office). He expressed his concern that all the street features had been removed before adequate time had been given to test the results. He noted that the few remaining features have provided safety for pedestrians and speed reduction of more than three miles per hour. Mr. Bourne said it was disappointing to read that the staff report recommends removing the features because of the opinion poll, and on the recommendation by the Fire Department. Mr. Bourne said he did not agree with the results of the opinion poll, and he took exception to the fact that no distinction was made in the poll for answers given by residents, and those that use Santa Cruz for commuting. He said this data was promised to the Bicycle and Transportation Commissions before this meeting. Mr. Bourne urged the City Council to accept the unanimous recommendation of these Commissions and leave the pedestrian islands in place.

Councilmember Winkler asked Mr. Bourne to clarify his remarks regarding another survey being conducted.

Mr. Bourne stated that staff indicated at the Transportation and Bicycle Commission meetings that the data from residents that live closest to Santa Cruz Avenue would be available for this meeting.

In response to Councilmember Winkler, Mr. Rahimi and Mr. Steffens clarified that the actual data was not included in the staff report, but there was a reference to the survey results on page 6 of the staff recommendation, stating that the majority of those who drive and walk in the study area prefer the removal of the median islands.

Mr. White, Menlo Park, read a letter from Mr. Creamer, which stated that Mr. Creamer was in favor of removal of the remaining islands and bulb outs on Santa Cruz Avenue. Mr. Creamer said he had attended the Bicycle and Transportation meeting and was disappointed when they voted to remove the remaining bulb outs but retain the remaining islands. Mr. White stated he would like to volunteer to help remove these islands and bulb outs.

Mr. Harvey, Menlo Park stated he was in favor of the staff recommendation to remove the rest of the calming measures. He said he had two suggestions for staff consideration. One suggestion was to consider striping the area at Olive/Johnson the same as the striping at Johnson to Fremont. He explained that this symmetrical striping pattern worked well in the area. He also suggested that one parking space be removed from Santa Cruz at University and smooth out the traffic lane.

Mr. Rahimi explained that removal of this parking space was considered at the Bicycle and Transportation Commission meeting, but was not approved, because one parking space was already being removed from the south side of the street, and the Commission felt that the parking demand was high in this area.

Mr. Steffens explained that the striping plan suggested by Mr. Harvey was not feasible due to the width of the existing roadway. He explained that there wasn't enough room near Olive to have full bike lanes on the north side of the street, and therefore these lanes were offset by several feet. He said this offset provides dedicated bike lanes, which staff felt was an advantage in this area.

Ms. Solomon, Menlo Park, stated she was in favor of retaining the median islands, to provide pedestrian safety and reduced speed on Santa Cruz Avenue. She said she felt that speeding would return to its former limits if these islands were removed. Ms. Solomon urged the Council to uphold the recommendation of the Bicycle and Transportation Commissions.

Ms. Gilles, Menlo Park, read a letter for Ms. Kayton, which Ms. Gillis said she did not necessarily agree with this letter. Ms. Kayton urged the Council to remove the rest of the median islands on Santa Cruz Avenue. She suggested eliminating funding on projects such as the El Camino Tree project and the Child Care Center rather than cutting essential services that affect everyone in Menlo Park.

Ms. Morley, Menlo Park, stated she was in favor of the left turn lane at Lemon Avenue. She said that since the traffic island was installed at Lemon, traffic had slowed considerably. She said she would like to retain this island to provide safety for the two schools in the area. Ms. Morley said she thought that if this island was reconfigured and restriped it would slow the traffic down.

Ms. Searles, Menlo Park, stated that these changes helped to slow traffic on Santa Cruz Avenue. Ms. Searles stated that she thought that if the survey had been done on the current streetscape configuration, the results might be more favorable for retaining these measures. Ms. Searles urged the Council to accept the recommendation from the Bicycle and Transportation Commissions and retain the calming measures.

Mr. Cronin, Menlo Park, Bicycle Commissioner, stated that the median islands were intended to provide pedestrian safety. He said he was concerned that if these islands were removed, there wouldn't be any traffic calming left and speed would increase in this area. Mr. Cronin urged the Council to retain these islands as recommended by the Commissions. He said he was concerned about the width of the substandard - shared parking/bike lane on the south side of Santa Cruz.

In answer to Mayor Jellins, Mr. Cronin stated he had voted to keep the bulb outs, because they delineate parking areas and provide safety to pedestrians crossing the street. He said the only way that the bike lane could be expanded on the south side of Santa Cruz Avenue would be to eliminate the two-way left turn lane.

Mr. Harrison, Menlo Park, stated he was in favor of removing the median islands and would be happy to help remove them.

Mr. Hagman, Menlo Park, stated he agreed with the removal of the bulb outs and median islands and he hoped that Phase II would have a new design. He said the median island at Arbor was very dangerous to cars and pedestrians and the tire marks on the islands indicate this. Mr. Hagman requested that all the street markings be removed to make the area as nice as possible.

Mr. Montague, Menlo Park, said he thought the reduction in speed was due to increased law enforcement in the area and he hoped that it would continue. He wondered if the median islands could be replaced with arrow signs, to focus driver's attention at the intersections. Mr. Montague said he hoped that the striping material would be highly reflective, because it provided great visibility to drivers at night.

Mr. Steffens responded to Mr. Montague's questions and explained that the islands could be replaced with striping, but he didn't think it would provide much protection to pedestrians. He said that the new thermoplastic would be reflective and more visible than paint. He said he was not planning on using bots dots. He explained that the center two-way turn island had flat reflective markers in the pavement.

Mr. Baker, Menlo Park, Transportation Commissioner, representing himself, stated that science was needed to obtain useful information from surveys. He said limited data could be interpreted, if there was a narrow margin of data collected.

Mr. Colby, Menlo Park, suggested that if the islands were removed, reflective sandwich signs that state "It's the law." be installed as a visual substitute.

Mr. Blawie, Menlo Park, requested that the islands be removed and suggested that Phase II be stopped until input had been provided. Mr. Blawie said he was opposed to the proposed stoplights at various locations in this area. He said he was disappointed in the Phase II consultants report, which he felt was biased. Mr. Blawie urged the Council to terminate the project and redirect the funds.

M/S Duboc/Winkler to approve staff recommendation to: a). remove remaining curb extensions; b). remove remaining median islands; c). remove one parking space on the south side of Santa Cruz Avenue just west of University Drive; d). stripe a white dashed line along with installing a left turn and through sign for westbound traffic on Santa Cruz Avenue at University Drive; e). retain left turn pockets on Santa Cruz Avenue at Lemon and Elder; f). retain the existing striping and marking layout on Santa Cruz Avenue and replace the temporary tape with permanent thermoplastic material and approve \$60,000 from the Measure "A" Account to fund the implementation of these modifications.

Councilmember Kinney made a substitute motion to accept the staff recommendation with the exception of item "1b" removal of the median islands.

City Attorney McClure clarified that this was an amendment to the original motion.

The amendment to the motion failed for lack of a second.

Mayor Pro Tem Duboc stated that she had studied this issue in depth and felt comfortable voting for the staff recommendation.

Councilmember Winkler said she would vote for this recommendation because she felt the median islands were dangerous. She commented that she and Mayor Pro Tem Duboc were working with Chief Boyd to keep the three-mile an hour speed decrease intact in this area and they would provide a report soon. She said she supported Mr. White's suggestion to help remove these medians because she thought it was a community building, and money saving opportunity.

Mr. Kinney offered a friendly amendment to allow volunteers to help take out these islands.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

Councilmember Kinney restated his amendment to request that staff contact all those who had offered assistance in removing these median islands. He suggested that this opportunity be offered to anyone who would like to volunteer.

Mayor Pro Tem Duboc stated she would rather not have this amendment added to the motion. She said she would rather have staff determine if this was something that could be done.

Councilmember Kinney stated that he was in favor of the median islands because he felt they provided improved safety for pedestrians.

Mayor Pro Tem Duboc stated that these calming measures were causing unsafe conditions in this area because drivers are not able to navigate left turns and are driving in the bike lanes.

Councilmember Collacchi said that these islands had provided a public benefit with a decrease in speed and improved safety for pedestrians. He said he thought that if this project had been designed as it is currently, there might be a different feeling in the community. He said the survey data indicated that these traffic-calming measures were not popular and he would accept the staff recommendation.

Mayor Jellins stated that he had been supportive of the turn pockets at Lemon and Elder because he thought they were a benefit to the community, and he was glad that these were considered a positive addition. He said he agreed with the speakers that there was some public safety benefit in retaining these islands, but that there was also a detriment to keeping them. Mayor Jellins stated that they might provide some benefit if they were designed better.

Mayor Jellins asked if Councilmembers would volunteer to work with staff to design the striping plan.

He said he agreed that the islands should be removed. He would like staff to schedule another speed survey in six months or a year, to determine the measurable results of having a police presence in the area. Mayor Jellins said he would also like to see staff consider improvements to the road for pedestrian safety.

Motion approved 4/1 (Kinney voted against)

Assistant City Manager Seymour explained that staff was seeking direction on the Santa Cruz Avenue Phase II project to determine if the elements being considered were of interest to Council. In response to questions, she reported that the consultants for Phase II had completed a considerable amount of work, so she didn't think there would be any cost savings to stopping the project at this point.

Mr. Rahami explained there was \$9,700 left on the purchase order and the consultants had already committed time that was not billed yet, so the savings would be almost negligible. He said he thought this project could be completed within the current budget.

Councillmember Kinney asked Police Chief Boyd for his analysis of traffic enforcement before, during and after this project

Police Chief Boyd explained that enforcement since last summer had increased in some areas over 300 percent. He explained that he had directed this as a priority, especially on the west side. Chief Boyd stated that some of this enforcement would be refocused in the near future to other areas that need attention.

Councillmember Kinney stated that he would like to have the consultant finish the rest of the Phase II design project.

In response to Councillmember Collacchi, Ms. Seymour stated that there was an additional committee meeting scheduled to develop a proposal that would be shared at a community meeting in March. The design proposal would then come to Council for approval in April.

Councillmember Collacchi suggested holding a study session before the project came to Council for approval.

Questions and discussion ensued regarding the elements of the design proposal, and whether or not a study session would be valuable before the proposal came to Council for a vote.

Councillmember Winkler stated that she thought the Task Force might have some interim suggestions that would be beneficial to the community now and she would like them to complete their work.

Mayor Jellins stated that there was a consensus to allow the Task Force to finalize their preferences on a conceptual plan.

Mr. Steffens explained the steps that would be taken to develop and implement a striping plan for Santa Cruz Avenue. He said they would work with any Councillmembers that had an interest in this plan before implementation. He said they would retain the existing features and implement the changes that were approved.

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.

Assistant City Manager Seymour explained that the staff had sent letters to our local legislators expressing concern about proposed reductions for local Government services to the community. She explained that Resolutions stating the Council's positions on these State Proposals would be on the February 11th agenda for approval.

G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - None

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Review of the City's Investment Portfolio as of December 31, 2002.

Report noted and filed.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Ms. Gillis, Menlo Park, explained that she was a member of the Design Review Committee for the Santa Cruz Avenue Phase II project and suggested that this committee continue working with the staff and prepare a report without the consultant. She said the committee had been cautious about designing features that would create a safe environment without spending a lot of money.

Ms. Gillis explained that after reading Ms. Kayton's letter earlier in the meeting, she felt obligated to state that she did not know whether or not the City needed to build a Child Care Center. She requested that Council carefully consider the expenditure of \$5-6 million, because it may be possible to modify the project to reduce costs.

Mr. Rahimi stated that he did not think it was a good idea to prepare a report without the consultant.

Ms. Searles, Menlo Park said this Child Care Center project had been planned for five years with funding coming from the Measure T Bond. She said that any money spent to redesign the project would erode the budget. She requested that Council look at any potential cost savings, and make sure it is not offset by increases. Ms. Searles urged the Council to move forward with this project.

J. **ADJOURNMENT** at this time being 10:35 p.m.

Kathy Kern, Interim City Clerk

Approved by City Council on _____