



CITY COUNCIL
and
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY MINUTES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

7:30 p.m.

The Menlo Park Council Chambers

801 Laurel Street

Menlo Park, CA 94025

6:00 p.m. STUDY SESSION (Burgess Recreation Center – Room 114)

1. Review findings and recommendations of Grade Separation Study Report.
Dan Smith, Transportation Consultant presented the Study Report covering Grade Separation possibilities for Menlo Park, and making comparisons with neighboring cities. Council asked questions of staff and discussed Council's options for proceeding. The public provided input on this item.

2. Reauthorization of Measure A for San Mateo County.
Jamal Rahimi, Transportation Manager provided the report on possible projects to be funded by Measure A. Mr. Rahimi explained that Measure A needs to be back on the ballot in November 2004 for reauthorization, and this is a preliminary look at the list. Council asked questions of staff and accepted public comment. Jim Bigelow, Transportation Committee Chairman of the Menlo Chamber of Commerce also provided some background information.

7:30 p.m. REGULAR MEETING (Menlo Park City Council Chamber)

7:35 p.m. called to order

ROLL CALL - Jellins, Duboc, Collacchi, Kinney, Winkler

STAFF PRESENT - David Boesch, City Manager; William McClure, City Attorney; Audrey Seymour, Assistant City Manager; Silvia Ponte, City Clerk. Various department heads and other City staff were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Presentation by San Mateo County Board of Supervisors President Rose Jacobs Gibson on the San Mateo County Housing Endowment and Trust.

Board of Supervisors President Rose Jacobs Gibson gave the report and stated that the goal of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) is to raise \$100,000,000 to fund affordable housing developments. Council asked questions of President Jacobs Gibson relating to the formation of this body and its staff needs. Council discussed the funding requirements associated with joining this JPA. City Attorney McClure clarified that San Mateo County pays for the first year, and for subsequent years, each member city's share will be pro rated based on its population. Mr. Boesch stated that the projected cost per capita was between 20 and 30 cents for each city.

B. COMMISSION VACANCIES AND REPORTS

1. Library Commission vacancy for an un-expired term, ending September 2003 the application deadline is June 20, 2003.

Council consensus was for the appointee to fulfill the current term, which ends in September 2003, and receive an automatic extension for four more years due to the brevity of this current term. Consequently, the applicant can expect to be automatically re-appointed to an additional four-year term.

2. Council member Reports.

Mayor Pro Tem Duboc reported on attending the Airport JPA meeting. Ms. Duboc said that cost cutting is a serious concern for every JPA she is a part of.

Mayor Pro Tem Duboc reporting on the "The Belle Haven Clean Up" stated that this event was a complete success mostly due to the work of Dianne Dryer, Environmental Coordinator. The following people were formally thanked for their efforts: Maria Escobedo, Rose Bickerstaff, Adan and Maria Lombera, Evangelina Cruz, Jose and Luz Reynaga, Alex Clemens, Roberto Palacios, Spence Leslie, Cecy Alarcon, David Bohannon, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, BFI, Tyco Electronics, Belle Haven Alliance, Safeway, San Mateo County Household Hazardous Waste Program, San Mateo County Sheriff's Work Program, and PARCA charity donation service. Mayor Jellins thanked Ms. Duboc for her initiative in making this event such a success.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Patricia Boyle, with the League of Women Voters of San Mateo County spoke on behalf of the San Mateo County Housing Endowment and Trust and urged the City of Menlo Park to join these efforts. Ms. Boyle supports this endeavor because it will benefit those who are in need of affordable housing.

Chris Mohr, with the Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County supports the San Mateo County Housing Endowment and Trust and believes that it will support many people such as nurses, teachers, firefighters and others who need assistance in order to reside in San Mateo County.

Dianna Reddy, resident of Redwood City, advocates affordable housing such as will be provided through the San Mateo County Housing Endowment and Trust. Ms. Reddy urged the Council to support this project. She believes it is very difficult for teachers to live in the communities they serve due to this areas' cost of living.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

Items pulled 1, 2 and 4

1. Adoption of a Resolution in support of building a new Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City.
2. Adoption of a Resolution of the City of Menlo Park to support and endorse the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District's proposed extension of its boundaries to the San Mateo County coast to preserve open space and agricultural lands.
3. Approval of an agreement between the City of Menlo Park and Tan I, LLC, owner of property known as the Menlo Center, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, California for the installation of a plaque in the Menlo Center Plaza.
4. Authorizing the Mayor to execute a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement relative to the Housing Endowment and Trust of San Mateo County.

Item 3

M/S Collacchi/Kinney to approve item D3 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passes unanimously.

Mayor Jellins asked about the City being recognized for its support of this project. Council Member Kinney reiterated that the City of Menlo Park will be recognized for its efforts.

Discussion on Items Pulled (D1,D2, and D4)

Item D1

1. Adoption of a Resolution no. 5452 in support of building a new Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City with the following addition: **Whereas the Sequoia Hospital District, Sequoia Health Care Services and Catholic Healthcare West or any successor bodies shall not now nor in the future further limit reproductive services to both men and women;**

Council Member Winkler addressed concerns about reproductive services not being offered at the Sequoia Hospital. Council discussed the issue that elective abortions are not included in the reproductive services.

M/S Winkler/Duboc to approve the resolution with the addition listed above. Motion passes with three votes in favor, and two opposing (Mayor Jellins and Council Member Kinney).

Mayor Jellins and Council Member Kinney opposed the motion because in their view conditioning the action of the Sequoia Board in rebuilding a hospital, is a different matter than the issue of reproductive rights and kinds of services provided by that hospital. However, the two Council Members that dissented reiterated their support for the rebuild of the Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City.

Item D2

Mayor Pro Tem Duboc supports the Mid Peninsula Open Space District but asked that this item be tabled until further discussion occurs over the controversial issues that have been recently brought up in the media. Staff was directed to bring back a brief report summarizing the issues relating to the matter at hand. Council would like to get different perspectives on this matter through a public comment opportunity. This item will be continued at an upcoming meeting under regular business.

Item D4

Mayor Pro Tem Duboc stated her concerns with the cost of the Housing Endowment and Trust JPA, since there are staff costs involved with the formation of a new entity. Ms. Duboc also would like to understand the real benefits to the City of Menlo Park. Mayor Jellins clarified that this project is the sum of many years of research, and the cost is much smaller compared to the benefits this Trust Fund will bring to the community.

Mr. McClure clarified that there is a proviso in the agreement that the City could withdraw from this commitment, and the cancellation would be effective the next fiscal year. Council also inquired about the funding sources to pay for this agreement in future years. Mr. Boesch suggested that BMR (below market rate) funds be used for future charges from this JPA.

M/S Jellins/Collacchi to accept item D4 with the stipulation that no other bureaucratic organization be created to support this JPA. Motion passes unanimously.

E. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Consideration of (1) Pre-zoning an approximately one-half acre sliver of land adjacent to the westerly edge of Santa Cruz Avenue right-of-way, south of its intersection with Sand Hill Road to the R-1-S (Single-Family Suburban Residential) Zoning District by Emergency Ordinance 922, (2) adoption of a resolution 5453 of application by the City of Menlo Park requesting LAFCO approve a change of organization by which certain territory proposed for widening of Santa Cruz Avenue is annexed to the City of Menlo Park, (3) authorization for the City Manager to file the application for annexation with LAFCO, and (4) adoption of a Resolution 5454 making a determination of property tax exchange. (*Staff Report # 03-100*)

Arlinda Heineck presented the report stating that in November 12, 2002 the City Council approved an agreement between the City of Menlo Park and Stanford University to reconstruct the Sand Hill Road-Santa Cruz Avenue intersection. The planned road widening would result in shared responsibility between the County and the City for roadway maintenance. Staff believes the City of Menlo Park should assume full responsibility for the maintenance of the roadway since it is currently fully within our jurisdiction. Stanford and San Mateo County support this annexation, and members of Stanford were present. The matter has been reviewed by the Planning Commission and they approved it with two abstentions. Council asked questions about the zoning (R-1-S) and the abstentions from the Planning

Commission. Ms. Heineck stated that the abstentions by the two commissioners were for lack of reviewing the environmental documents (1997 EIR and the 2002 Addendum).

Mayor Jellins opened the Public Hearing. There was no Public Comment. The Public Hearing was considered closed.

M/S Kinney/Duboc to approve the staff recommendations one through six. Motion passes unanimously.

F. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Approval of projects to be submitted for the 2004 ballot to reauthorize Measure A for San Mateo County. (*Staff Report # 03-103*)

Jamal Rahimi, Transportation Manager, presented the report. He made a correction under the background section (first line) of the staff report, it should say that Measure A was approved by 61.7% and not 67.1%. Mr. Rahimi said this is important because currently the measure requires 2/3 of the vote to pass (67%), and not just a simple majority (over 50%). Mr. Rahimi also stated that the City is expecting to receive the application forms from the Transportation Authority any time, and staff is seeking direction on what projects to pursue. This measure was last approved in 1988, and reauthorization will be on the ballot in November 2004. Mr. Rahimi said that due to timing of receiving the request for projects from the Transportation Authority, there was little time to do outreach to the community. He stated that there will be multiple opportunities for public input as the list moves forward.

Council asked questions of staff and reiterated its interest in pursuing regional issues, as well as some of the issues previously addressed at the Study Session.

Howard Goode, Deputy Executive Director with the County Transportation Authority spoke about the current list of projects, and how the process will develop which includes soliciting nominations for consideration of certain projects. According to Mr. Goode the Transportation Authority puts forth the list and the Supervisors review it and decide what gets funded. Subsequently, there will need to exist congruence between the projects and the anticipated available funding (which includes not only tax measures but other transportation funds). The actual adoption of the plan will be voted on by the local agencies within the County.

Mr. Goode responded to Council questions in regards to what plans to submit and guidance on having a successful list of projects. Mr. Goode encouraged the Council to include as many projects as it is interested in. Mr. Boesch concurred that the best policy is to be inclusive at this point. Council asked questions about the percentage of voters who approved Measure A in 1988. Mr. Goode also stated that the Transportation Authority is looking to make a connection with the C/CAG County Wide Transportation Plan.

Public Comment

Kitty Craven, does not support this project list because the public has not had an opportunity to comment on it. Ms. Craven does not believe this project list will help Menlo Park nor will it benefit its residents.

Jim Bigelow stated that the Council should write a letter requesting that the Transportation Authority include certain projects in its current funding plan. Mr. Bigelow supports the current list and encouraged the Council to include new items. Mr. Bigelow stated that there will be a countywide public outreach effort, and everyone will be able to comment on the list.

Mayor Jellins thanked Mr. Bigelow for his input and presence.

Dwight Perkins spoke about the problems with the Dumbarton Bridge improvements, and how Menlo Park ignored the possibility of getting public input. Mr. Perkins believes that transportation improvements are a necessity in this area, however he asked that Council postpone the vote so that the public can give some knowledgeable input.

Council Discussion

Council agreed with the list provided by staff and with getting more involved in regional issues that will affect this community. Council discussed timelines since there was some Council concern about not having enough public outreach. Staff assured Council that there would be more opportunities to revisit the issue. Mr. Boesch assured Council that a number of outreach meetings would take place either via Council Meetings or via neighborhood meetings to get input from the community as well as Commission involvement. The final list will get formulated over the next 6 to 12 months and the public will be invited to provide feedback.

Council agreed on the following additions to the list:

- Research components of the Dumbarton rail project that would mitigate the noise impact on residences;
- Options for the Bayfront Park access, consider a possible grade separation;
- Include fly over components for Highway 84 at Willow and University and possibly at one of the other lights;
- Coordinate Sand Hill signalization, and explore a Park and Ride lot on Sand Hill road with a shuttle system to bring commuters to appropriate areas;
- Light synchronization at Willow Road from Middlefield to 101;
- Consider school bussing;
- Explore a Downtown shuttle service;
- Possible parking structures in conjunction with Caltrain grade separation in support of transit;

Jim Bigelow provided some history on the downtown shuttle issue and referred staff to the City of San Carlos, which has a downtown shuttle plan in place.

Council consensus was to include the items on the staff report as well as those listed above. Council reiterated that this list is a fluid document that will change as input from the public is received.

Kent Steffens asked for Council direction on the percentage of the funding that should be allocated to cities for their discretionary use. Council direction was to pursue an official request at a 30% level.

Mayor Jellins thanked those present for their comments and feedback.

2. Consideration of a Storm Drainage Study including direction on project priorities and funding alternatives.

Ruben Nino, Director of Engineering Services, introduced Ed Boscacci, the project engineer with Brian Kangas Foulk. Mr. Boscacci presented a series of slides illustrating the challenges and circumstances of this project. The data collection for this project started in 2001. Subsequently the data was tied into the GIS system, and the report was prepared over the last six month. The purpose of the report was to look at the City's storm drain system, and analyze the problems. Most of the storm drain system in the city will withstand between a two and a five-year storm event. Mr. Boscacci stated that certain portions of the city do not have storm drains. The cost to get the storm drain up to a 10-year capacity is \$39 million dollars. The main three issues addressed in the report were: nuisance ponding, creek flooding, and deficient storm drain lines.

Mr. Nino provided specific information on the cost for each priority, and offered preliminary funding options. Mr. Nino also stated that staff receives frequent complaints from residents on the storm drain system. Currently the storm drain improvement fund has a balance between \$400,000 and \$500,000.

Kent Steffens, Director of Public Works clarified that Proposition 118 might not require 2/3 votes for approval of storm drain fees. Mr. Steffens stated that if Council wanted to take this item to the voters for them to pay for the storm drain system, it would probably only take a simple majority for it to pass.

Council Member Collacchi stated that he might live close to one of the suggested projects and inquired about conflict of interest. Mr. McClure concluded that Mr. Collacchi can be part of the discussion regarding general priorities but when decisions are made about specific projects he might chose to recuse himself from the matter. Council asked about the situation at the intersection of Cornell and Harvard. Staff stated that the matter has been brought to its attention, but it is not in the projects recommended for Phase 1. Council asked for that item to be added to the list.

Public Comment

Glen Long spoke about a pond that forms every year at the corner of Cornell and Harvard. The pond creates a lot of water in the road and it sits there all winter if there are sequential storms. Mr. Long explained his efforts in communicating with the City to fix this problem. Mr. Long requested that a valley gutter be included in this program so that the problem can be fixed. Mr. Long requested that the City Council consider fixing this problem that he has lived with for 10 years. He presented a letter of support from neighbors who approve this solution.

Council Discussion

Council asked about a Citywide Drainage Improvement District and what it would take to implement one. Staff responded that it would take a similar process as the balloting process. Staff stated that if Council needed additional information staff could research the matter. Mr. Boesch also stated that the assessment would need to be computed. Council inquired why Belle Haven was not studied, and staff stated that a lot of the improvements have been done in that area. Similarly, Sharon Heights does not have a drainage problem because of the topography in that area. Council discussed that certain areas do not get a benefit from this assessment. Council concurred on researching the Citywide Drainage Improvement District for a total of 8 million and 15 million.

Council direction was to accept and confirm the list of priorities presented, and include resolving the situation at Cornell and Harvard as well as Spruce. Council also directed staff to explore all of the funding options outlined in the staff report for both the cost of the \$8 million in proposed Phase 1 projects, and the \$15 million to implement all projects that don't impact or depend on Creek capacity.

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.

Mr. Boesch said that Assembly Bill 1221 addressed the possibility of substituting property tax for sales tax as a local government funding source, but it has now been shelved. The League has been instrumental in keeping everybody informed, and Mr. Boesch contacted Senator Sher and Assembly Member Simitian expressing concerns about how and when the budget gets resolved and its effect in our city.

G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - None

H. INFORMATION ITEMS - None

I. PUBLIC COMMENT #2 - None

J. ADJOURNMENT at 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Silvia M. Ponte, City Clerk

Approved at the City Council Meeting of Menlo Park on June 24, 2003.