



CITY COUNCIL and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY MINUTES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004
7:00 p.m.
110 Terminal Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025
Menlo Park Senior Center

7:00 p.m. REGULAR MEETING (Menlo Park Senior Center, 110 Terminal Avenue, Menlo Park)

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. COMMISSION VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS, AND REPORTS

Mayor Duboc announced the vacancies.

1. One vacancy on the Bicycle Commission to fill an un-expired term ending April 2007. The deadline for receipt of applications is 5:30 p.m. on March 22, 2004.
2. One vacancy on the Library Commission to fill an un-expired term ending July 2006. The deadline for receipt of applications is 5:30 p.m. on April 12, 2004.
3. Appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mayor Duboc opened the floor for nominations:

Mayor Pro Tem Winkler nominated Stephen Luder.

Council Member Kinney nominated Terry Fuqua.

Voting on the nominations:

Mayor Duboc, Mayor Pro Tem Winkler and Council Member Collacchi voted in favor of Stephen Luder.

Since this was a majority vote, the Council did not vote on the second nominee.

Stephen Luder is appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

4. Commission Reports.

Arthur Traum, Chair of the Library Commission, thanked the City Council for approving the purchase of checkout machines that expedite services at the Library. Mr. Traum stated that this is a substantial investment and the Library Commission is very appreciative since this will result in a benefit to the users. Mr. Traum announced a breakfast that will take place on April 24th, 2004 at the Stanford Park Hotel to address "Library Issues", and Assemblymember Simitian will talk about "Life After the Recall".

B. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS - None

Mayor Duboc announced that Isabel Vargas was featured in the San Jose Mercury and she is a great asset to the Menlo Park Library. She has donated over 25 hours of community service at this

site. Judy Fagerholm, Branch Library Manager, came forward and spoke about Isabel's qualities as a volunteer. Ms. Fagerholm congratulated Ms. Vargas for her accomplishments, and provided her with a token of appreciation for her dedication to the Belle Haven Library.

Mayor Duboc announced that the City of Menlo Park received two awards for excellence for services provided by the Parks and Recreation Department. The awards were: California Parks and Recreation Society 2003 "Award of Excellent" for the Belle Haven Community Summer School and Transitional Kindergarten Program, and "Award of Distinction" for Outstanding Community Service/Recreation Program. Mayor Duboc recognized various members of this department that were in the audience.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1 (*Limited to 30 minutes*)

None.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent Agenda items are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless members of the Council, staff or public request specific items to be removed for separate action.

1. Community Development Agency Board adoption of a CDA Resolution No. 271 designating the Executive Director and the Finance Director to be the authorized agents of the Community Development Agency of the City of Menlo Park to order the deposit or withdrawal of monies in the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) and to provide all banking information to the State in that regard.

M/S Winkler/Collacchi to approve item D1. Motion carries unanimously.

E. PUBLIC HEARING - None

F. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Consideration of the findings from the Belle Haven Community Building Day.

Mara Mintzer, Belle Haven Family Services Manager, presented the staff report and thanked the Council for the opportunity to share the findings after the Community Day that took place on March 6, 2004. Ms. Mintzer thanked the advisory committee members, who worked with her to get this event together. Ms. Mintzer stated that 124 people attended the event. Ms. Mintzer covered the main concerns shared by residents, and how the City can assist by supporting the development of leadership within the community. A significant result shared is that people are happy with what the City is currently offering but they want more. Other main needs expressed by residents, were an improved educational system, with more parental involvement, and higher quality of basic teaching.

Ms. Mintzer stated that as a result of this day, the Transportation and Bicycle Commissions plan to hold some of their meetings in Belle Haven. She also believes there is a need for block coordinators in order to create community capacity and increased residents' involvement. Ms. Seymour, Assistant City Manager said that the groundwork is done, but the goal is to create partnerships and improve the community's own leadership potential. Based on these needs, staff asked to increase the current half-time Family Services Manager to a full-time position with a budget impact of \$33,000.

Council Discussion

Council agreed that the event was a success, and with all that is being done in this area. Council discussed using Redevelopment Agency (RDA) funds to pay for the increase in the position. Legal Counsel McClure said this would not be possible because RDA funds may not be used for social benefit items. Mayor Duboc, who was at the event, stated that the community is interested in education and hopes the City will coordinate solutions with the Ravenswood District. Mayor Duboc thanked the staff for organizing the event, and those who attended.

Public Comment

John Preyer thanked Assistant City Manager Seymour and Family Services Manager Mintzer for their work in organizing the event. Mr. Preyer stated that Belle Haven is already looking better because the City is paying attention to it.

Matt Henry, with time donated by Rose Bickerstaff, spoke about the lack of stop signs at Newbridge. He has concerns because there are children in that area. Mr. Henry shared some frustration since he has contacted the City Manager's Department, the City Clerk and the Transportation Commission and he has not gotten a resolution. He referred to a petition he turned in, in English and Spanish, with 100 signatures supporting a 4-Way Stop Sign at Almanor Avenue and Newbridge. Mr. Henry hopes this matter can be resolved soon.

City Manager Boesch told Council he would follow-up on the matter.

Council Discussion

Some Council Members like the idea of block monitors because this tool has been successful in other communities. Council asked questions about increasing the Family Services Manager position. Ms. Seymour stated that this item would come back to Council at the upcoming budget discussions. Mayor Pro Tem Winkler is very impressed with the outreach program conducted by staff, and believes it has been successful.

At this time Council did not take action but was pleased with the findings.

2. 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.

None.

G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

1. Request from Mayor Pro Tem Winkler to agendize a resolution in support of the Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space District's proposal in support of the San Mateo County Coastal Annexation Project.

Council Member Jellins asked if this matter should be agendized for some time after April 11, 2004 since this is the tentative date for review and acceptance of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Mayor Pro Tem Winkler agreed with this approach. Council consensus was to agendize this item after April 11, 2004. Council Member Collacchi would like to review the EIR, and he asks that staff place such document at the Council Study for his perusal.

H. INFORMATION ITEM

1. Report on repayment of City Manager Loan to the City of Menlo Park.

Mayor Duboc commented that Mr. McClure's report was very good and clear.

I. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council Member Kinney referred to a Memo he sent to Council about recent meetings at the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency. Mr. Kinney also announced an upcoming San Francisquito Creek JPA meeting, and that a preliminary budget is being presented.

Mayor Duboc stated that the first "Walk for Ben" was going to take place on May 8th, 2004 and she would like a proclamation to be drafted commemorating this event. This walk will go through Menlo Park.

J. PUBLIC COMMENT #2 (Limited to 30 minutes)

Kelly Fergusson addressed the Council stating that 2,500 residents supported the referendum, and it is perplexing that the Council has not made a decision. Ms. Fergusson asked that Council address this matter, and she asks why City officials are exposing the City to possible lawsuits by not acting.

Elizabeth Houck stated that the Council is not recognizing the rights of people. Ms. Houck believes that Election Law is not being followed, and the Council should act on this matter. She believes the Council needs to act or resign.

Mayor Pro Tem Winkler clarified that Planning staff is preparing a comparison chart that will clarify certain points of contention.

Council Member Jellins stated that he had a report on the reauthorization of Measure A, and various materials that he will deliver to Council. Two of his contributions to the process are that the percentage of the funds that will be allocated to cities is now 25%, and the duration of the tax is for 25 years. Mayor Duboc clarified that the reauthorization would result in a continuum of an existing tax, not a new tax.

K. ADJOURNMENT- the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Silvia M. Vonderlinden, CMC

Approved at the City Council Meeting of April 20, 2004.