



**CITY COUNCIL**  
and  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
**MINUTES**

Tuesday, May 22, 2007  
7:00 p.m.

701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025  
Menlo Park City Council Chambers

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**5:00 p.m. CLOSED SESSION (First Floor Conference Room – Administration Building)**

1. Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section §54957.1 (5) regarding recommendations by Bob Murray for city manager candidate interviews. Parties present: Bob Murray, Bob Murray and Associates, Glen Kramer, Personnel and Information Services Director and Bill McClure, City Attorney.

**7:00 p.m. REGULAR MEETING (Menlo Park City Council Chambers)**

**ROLL CALL** - Fergusson, Cohen, Boyle, Cline, Robinson

The Mayor announced there was nothing to report from the Closed Session.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Mayor announced a special community meeting regarding Willows crime and a 20/20 Policy Advisory Committee meeting that will be held at City Hall.

**Staff present** – Interim City Manager Steffens, City Attorney McClure, Acting Assistant City Manager Heineck, and City Clerk Vonderlinden. Other City staff was present in the audience.

**A. COMMISSION REPORTS**

1. Commission member and Chamber of Commerce reports.

The Chair of the Environmental Quality Commission, Doug Scott, reported on 18,000 trees that are on city property. He spoke about the need for a specific tree replacement plan to guarantee that aging and dying trees are replaced appropriately. He also requested additional funds to inventory city trees.

The Mayor suggested reordering some of the business items on the agenda. In particular, she suggested the Dumbarton Rail matter be addressed first and the El Camino Real item second. Vice Mayor Cohen pointed out that the latter is a work in progress that is important to the community and he did not support moving the other item up. Council Member Robinson counted the speaker cards submitted and all but one card submitted was on the Dumbarton Rail matter. The agenda items were reordered to the following sequence: F5, F3, F1, F2 and F4.

**B. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Proclamation celebrating Public Works Week. (attachment)

Ruben Nino, Acting Public Works Director, presented a report on the accomplishments of the Public Works Department. Mayor Fergusson presented a proclamation to Mr. Nino.

2. Presentation by San Mateo County Transportation Authority on the status of the Dumbarton Rail Project.

Howard Goode and Steve Minden, with the San Mateo County Transportation Authority, provided a project description and a detailed presentation to Council. Mr. Minden covered how various agencies have representatives sitting on an ad hoc committee with the lead agency being the

CalTrain Joint Powers Board. He provided details on the next steps and the overall project implementation schedule.

Mayor Fergusson welcomed factual questions from the Council. Council Member Boyle inquired about grade separations and if these were being considered for Menlo Park. Mr. Minden stated that while they were not part of the plan they could not be excluded for certain. Council asked specific questions about the bus alternative and Mr. Minden provided details. The cost for each option was discussed in detail. Council Member Robinson said that one of the main concerns for Menlo Park residents is the possibility of freight. Mr. Minden said that in order to remove freight from the Dumbarton route approval from the Washington Circulation Board would be required.

Council Member Cline asked about long term planning for CalTrain and electrifying the whole route as well as providing a direct cost comparison. Mr. Minden said that this has not been done. Vice Mayor Cohen asked about investigating quiet zones and Mr. Minden said this would be addressed at a later time.

Questions were posed about the ridership numbers and how these numbers increased. Mr. Minden said that more transit-oriented-development is anticipated. Vice Mayor Cohen spoke about the issue of the Dumbarton Bridge not being a sound structure and Mr. Minden concurred that the middle portion of the bridge might need to be rebuilt. Mayor Fergusson inquired about the Don Edwards refuge and how the Fish and Wildlife voiced its views on this topic. Mr. Minden commented that next month he would meet with the Refuge Manager. The Mayor asked about the environmental permitting phase and Mr. Minden added that this would be worked through the Corps of Engineers and other agencies. Council Member Robinson announced the next Dumbarton Rail Committee Policy meeting on June 19, 2007 at 2:00 p.m., somewhere on the peninsula.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1** - There were no speakers.

#### **D. CONSENT CALENDAR**

##### **Item D1 pulled for discussion**

1. Authorization for the City Manager to execute Master Agreements for Professional Services with the following firms: BKF Engineers; Creegan & D'Angelo Infrastructure Engineers; Nolte Associates, Inc.; SANDIS; and Wilsey Ham. (Staff Report #07-094)
2. Approval of the minutes for the City Council Special meeting of April 24, 2007. (attachment)

**M/S Robinson/Cline to approve item D2. Motion carries 5-0-0.**

##### **Discussion on item D1**

Council Member Boyle shared his concerns that this action bypasses the \$25,000 City Manager approval limit. He pointed out that there is no cap. Interim City Manager Steffens explained that it is reasonable to have an upper limit on these awards of contract and he suggested that the cap on any single agreement be \$150,000 and \$500,000 for the combined total of all agreements. Council Member Robinson asked if a cap had been placed on master agreements before and Mr. Nino explained that there were caps with master agreements for the Measure T and the Redevelopment Agency projects.

**M/S Robinson/Cline to accept the totals suggested by the Interim City Manager of \$500,000 annually for all the combined contracts and \$150,000 cap per contract.**

Council Member Boyle asked specific questions about construction management services and Interim City Manager Steffens explained that the ability to award contracts is always within the approved budget and it can never exceed the approved budget. Vice Mayor Cohen said that he would like to combine the cap limits with a percentage limit and have them in tandem. A friendly amendment was made by Vice Mayor Cohen to add a cap of 25% of the authorized project budget or the dollar caps suggested, whichever was less. The friendly amendment was not accepted by the maker of the motion.

**Vote on the original motion. Motion carries unanimously.**

**E. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**

**F. REGULAR BUSINESS**

Item taken out of sequence

5. Council consideration of the presentation by the San Mateo County Transportation Authority on the status of the Dumbarton Rail Project and potential direction on options being considered as part of the Dumbarton Rail Project. (Staff Report #07-098)

Interim City Manager Steffens thanked Mr. Minden for the earlier presentation and he explained that the staff report included comments made by the City on the proposed project and more specifically items that impact the quality of life of residents. He reported that this agenda item was added so Council could comment and provide recommendations to be submitted to the Dumbarton Rail Committee. Mayor Fergusson thanked Council Member Robinson for placing this item on the agenda. Council Member Robinson said that while he is a Menlo Park Council Member he represents San Mateo County on the Dumbarton Rail Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). He hoped that after public comment the Council might take a stand on this project. Mayor Fergusson asked what would happen at the June 19, 2007 meeting that makes this so time sensitive. Council Member Robinson explained that at each policy meeting the options are reviewed and he would like to gauge where the community and Council are on the issue.

**Public Comment**

Tim Pitsker opined that he found the presentation misleading. He believes the options are phases that lead to the entire project and in his opinion the project should be shut down. He spoke about a 2000 San Mateo County Grand Jury report that found the project inefficient. Mr. Pitsker spoke about the lack of noise mitigations and the concern of the freight on that route.

Susan Robinson, with time donated by Julie Figliozzi, said she supports transit rail but she urged the Council to send a message to CalTrain that realistic costs, reasonable ridership numbers and clarity on freight use are important data points. She opined that unreasonable impacts have not been fully defined. Ms. Robinson is fearful that unmitigated impacts will not be dealt with because they are unfunded. She requested further details on specific aspects of the project.

Steve Van Pelt said he is a transit advocate but to him the process seems to be a submission of specific projects by stakeholders. He opined that the process is flawed because he thinks residents would be the best candidates to propose projects that best fit Menlo Park. He requested a project that would connect Belle Haven to the Civic Center.

Alex Manger referred to the previous cost of the project being estimated at \$90 million and now it is at \$600 plus million. In his opinion when this project is completed, the whole project will be more than \$1 billion and will need to be subsidized. Mr. Manger opposed the project because of the negative impacts to Menlo Park.

Beth Breedlove addressed Council saying she expected reasonable answers to address residents' concerns. She would like all options considered prior to spending money. She was concerned that the enhanced bus alternative is not being fully considered and spending \$70 million to revert it back to rail doesn't make sense. She asked about the long-term benefits of this project for the Bay Area.

Dick Senn said he lives in Suburban Park and it has been hard living with the train noise. He asked Council to oppose any freight traffic because of the impacts to the community.

John Hazard said that costs are going up, ridership has changed and the scope has also changed. He hopes that the City insists on a careful examination of the facts and the question should be whether the commuters and residents that live here are served. He asked Council to run buses on the existing bridge because of the lack of planned mitigations in the current project.

Katie Ferrick, said she supported transit but transit that works with the City's green goals. She asked that the cost be publicized because of the expected low ridership and the fact that a state tax measure is paying for the project. As is, Ms. Ferrick commented that the project will not create an environmentally clean project and she cannot support an increase in oil and diesel trains.

Raj Batra spoke about the impacts of commuter, rail and freight trains such as noise impacts in the community. He said that he is counting on the Council to protect the quality of life and stand up for the residents who need to be safeguarded. He asked Council to do its best for the neighbors who live so close to the tracks.

Judith A. Holiber, President of the Homeowners Association for Lorelei Manor, said she supported what the other speakers had said. She was representing other neighborhoods as well and she said that there is 40-feet between the back fence of people's houses and the tracks. She invited Council to visit the neighborhood to see impacts of the project on thousands of residents that live near the tracks.

Henry Riggs stated that if Menlo Park is a green City he believes that freight rail is not appropriate. He does not consider this project good use of public funds at this scale. He said that the impacts to the environment in Menlo Park are not being addressed. Mr. Riggs further requested that Council take a position on behalf of its residents.

Sue Lempert, former Mayor of San Mateo and a Metropolitan Transportation Commissioner, explained that this project came about because Senator Diane Feinstein wanted another southern crossing on the bridge due to traffic problems. She explained that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission conducted a study to analyze various options on travel without the use of automobiles. Regarding cost, she added that while the numbers look large this was less than other options considered. From a regional and county perspective the project has support from C/CAG (City County Association of Governments), the Transportation Authority, and the County because it is a way to get car traffic off of the 101 freeway.

Jim Bigelow, with the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce, said that he got involved with this project in 1987 when employers asked for help on traffic issues impacting their employees. He said that the Chamber of Commerce has consistently supported an alternative that includes the BRT option. He said the Chamber supports the rail option and he believes this provides the Belle Haven area with a new mode of transportation and a new service that will be helpful.

Barbara Pierce, Mayor of Redwood City, appreciated the difficulty cities have in dealing with this project especially because the Bay Area is overrun with cars. She encouraged the Council to express concern, listen to the critical issues brought forth by the community and consider all the options on the table before closing out any alternatives. She asked the Council to think globally.

Diane Howard, Council Member of Redwood City, spoke about the purpose of Dumbarton Rail and she shared the benefits of this approach. Council Member Howard elaborated on the population rise and the need to consider the options on the table so that sensible solutions can be found to the transit gridlock experienced in this region. She looks forward to working with the Council and possibly a Citizens' Advisory Committee that could address the concerns shared tonight.

Lennie Roberts spoke as a representative for the Committee for Green Foothills and she passed on historical documents to the Council. She spoke about the southern crossing and provided history on traffic studies from 1972. She said that if the Dumbarton project is not pursued there will be even more gridlock in the southern peninsula.

Martin Engel said he was struck by the eloquence of his fellow neighbors. He pointed out what he believes are the differences between rail and transit. Mr. Engel highlighted the differences between the two and how these frame the approaches.

Michael Dittmar offered support for mass transit and asked Council to think regionally. He said he is suspicious of this project being a good investment because he found the ridership numbers questionable. In this case he found the cost of taking 2,500 people off the road too large. He asked Council to consider the impacts of the project on those who might not have a voice because they are not native English speakers but live along the tracks.

Adina Levin spoke about environmental concerns and being a business owner who cares about some of her employees who come from the East Bay. She favored transit that allows mobility.

Dwight Perkins said that he has been involved with this project for over 20 years. He said that he was one of the people who made statements to the Grand Jury on the negative impacts of this project. Mr. Perkins commented that this project would violate the City's noise ordinance.

Erik Olson urged Council to take action because this project will impact both entries into Menlo Park (Willow Road and Bayfront). He referred to the costs doubling since inception and he predicted they would increase further. He believes the bus alternative needs to be closely studied.

Skip Hilton stated that this is one of the most important issues the Council will review. He said that residents are pro transit but taking CalTrain everyday is a bumpy ride. He looks forward to electrification and when it comes he hopes the Dumbarton Rail is the leader on that approach. He said that keeping freight off of that line is important. He found the ridership numbers low.

Newton Craven said he lives next to the tracks and he is not against it because of its location but because of its cost. He asked about the benefit to Menlo Park of serving the residents of Fremont and Newark. He asked Council to look at other options like placing mass transit from the East Bay to Palo Alto and his suggestion is for it to be light rail.

Kitty Craven said that this idea has been around for many years and like a bad penny this project keeps on rolling. She is not supportive of this project and she spoke about the cost of the project. She said that the project does not address the problems it creates.

Janet Perez appreciated the opportunity to be heard and she added that her neighborhood is affected by the train service and she found certain data questionable. While she wants to think about the region she would also like the city to come into play. She said that since the freight trains stopped going through her area the quality of life improved as well the value of the properties.

Larry Kahle believes this is the wrong project for Menlo Park because it only benefits a couple of hundred people. He urged the Council to consider every possible mitigation measure.

Kristin Campbell said she is a supporter of transit but she does not find this project appropriate. She is saddened by what a project like this would bring to the Suburban Park community and so she asked Council to consider those residents. In particular, she referred to what diesel trains would do to the quality of life if they were to run through that neighborhood 12 times a day. She said that mitigation will not completely address the negative impacts of this project.

Mayor Fergusson suggested a letter prepared by staff voicing the City's concerns with the project. Council Member Robinson suggested having the letter come back on Consent Calendar. Council Member Boyle suggested a two step process but Council Member Robinson reiterated that it would be good to have a City statement on this matter. Council Member Cline shared that for nine years he commuted on the Dumbarton Bridge and his first impression of this project was one of excitement. However, now he is looking at the fiscal responsibility associated with this project and the cost is a long-term burden to carry. Council Member Cline did not see a long-term projection for how the project is going to be paid for and maintained. His main concern was the need for regional leadership in funding and sustaining the project. He would like to see why the bus system could not get on the bridge itself and he asked that the mitigations be phased in.

Vice Mayor Cohen said that he would vote no on this and he lives along CalTrain so he knows what the residents don't want because he has it. In his view, the Council should oppose this project.

Council Member Boyle asked about light rail and Mr. Minden said this would not be compatible with a future rail system. Council Member Boyle inquired about electrification and he asked if an estimate of that would be possible. Mr. Minden confirmed that would be doable. Council Member Boyle further stated he was impressed with the quality of the comments presented by residents and the presenters and he added that he learned a lot and he is sensitive to the issue of subsidizing freight rail. Council Member Boyle enumerated the benefits of a project like this as far as promoting more socio-economic mobility. He would support some kind of letter but he would like a two-step process. Council Member Robinson thanked everyone who came tonight and he said that he heard a number of people say that they support transit. He would like to see Menlo Park take a stand saying that it supports transit but that the mitigations and the full costs are concerns. Furthermore he wanted a statement about opposing freight on this line. He hoped that through the comments tonight, staff could come back with a policy statement that would be reviewed and approved by Council.

Mayor Fergusson clarified that any letter submitted by Menlo Park would be part of the record. Mayor Fergusson summarized her concerns which included cost effectiveness, freight on the route, mitigation costs to be included in the analysis and uncertainty about the ridership numbers. She added that the bus option should be pursued. Vice Mayor Cohen said that he wanted to send the clearest signal possible and that is a resounding no. He hoped this might lead the project proponent to go out and get more information. Council Member Cline added that the letter needs to cover funding sources and the strategic long-term plan for rail in the Bay Area and how each of the mitigations will be funded.

Council Member Robinson recognized the desire for more information but he reminded Council that it is not a decision-making body on this issue. He proposed that staff come back with a draft letter for Council review and have the letter address cost estimates for mitigations, elimination of the possibility of freight on this line, electrification as an option, inclusion of the bus alternative and clarification of the costs and ridership numbers. Council Member Cline would like the letter to also pose the question of where the money is coming from. In addition, Council Member Boyle asked that the letter state that Menlo Park will not support this project unless there are satisfactory answers to the items listed on the City's communication from November 2006. Interim City Manager Steffens said that a letter could be drafted by staff for the Mayor's signature and be brought back for Council approval. If there were a need to discuss the matter further it would be placed as a regular business item on an agenda sometime in July or at a special meeting. Mayor Fergusson asked that something be brought back in Consent Calendar and then later this could be discussed in July. Council Member Robinson volunteered to work with staff on this item and possibly draft two letters, one more general in nature and one covering specific concerns.

**There was concurrence on this approach from four Council Members. Vice Mayor Cohen was not in agreement.**

*Council took a four-minute break at 10:22 p.m. The Mayor resumed at 10:26 p.m.*

Item taken out of sequence.

3. Consideration of and possible direction on the Council Subcommittee Report on the next steps of the El Camino Real/Downtown Visioning and Planning Process. (Staff Report #07-095)

Justin Murphy, Acting Director of Community Development, provided details on the speakers' series and the subsequent process.

Council Member Cline said that education and the public process are ways of getting started on the visioning process. Council Member Boyle said that having the speakers would be an opportunity to audition some of the facilitators and possibly see what role some might play in the

process. Mayor Fergusson said that she was surprised to hear that staff had not entered into a contract with Dyett & Bhatia. Mr. Murphy explained that the lack of clarity as to what was expected of the consultant and the expected work product caused staff to wait and seek direction from the subcommittee. Secondly, the cost of the agreement and the three items the Council selected did not fit within the approved budget so staff could not proceed. Later, and in working with the subcommittee, it was discussed that two of the items, the review of past studies and the peer community review, could be done within the approved budget but that the study of medical office use could not.

Mayor Fergusson asked about the timing of starting the speakers' series in August and members of the subcommittee explained that there were various factors for this timeline. One was the fact that the contract with the consultant had been delayed because of the lack of clarity on the deliverables, as well as the summer schedule, and there were other logistical issues that prompted the August timeline. Council Member Cline said that the subcommittee wanted the first part of the symposia to be contextual covering what had already been done and so the consultant's work was pertinent. Council Member Robinson asked who gets to make decisions on appointing a committee and Council Member Cline said that this would occur after the symposia. Council Member Robinson shared concerns with not losing momentum. Council Member Boyle spoke about the possibility of adding a step around the method on how to do the debate and finding a process that works.

#### Public comment

Patti Fry applauded the desire to embrace the community and she challenged Council and staff to move the timelines up. She gave the example of the Green Ribbon Citizens' Committee (GRCC) and how much has been done in a fairly short timeline. Ms. Fry was hopeful for a good vision by early fall and she suggested overlapping phases.

Don Brawner, with time donated by Margaret PetitJean, referred to a particular document and in his opinion this discussion is less about design but more about overdevelopment. He does not think Menlo Park needs additional meetings on regular meeting nights and he asked who would attend such meetings. He did not agree with the proposed schedule and he believes the symposia are being repetitive. He found the proposal unfriendly and too stringent. Mr. Brawner believes that if a person is not part of the solution that person is part of the problem.

Elias Blawie started with a question - What do we want? He stated what he wanted and enumerated his demands for a process that is 100% complete during this Council's term. He opined that the plan for El Camino Real is needed now. He does not support the timing on this plan and he stressed that in his opinion design should be in accordance with current zoning and General Plan and not by exception. He would like medical office to be back on track.

Vincent Bressler spoke about his campaign and how he supported development along the lines of Cafe Borrone and Kepler's because of the setbacks and the overall style. He commented that the General Plan should be the guiding principle and no wiggle room should be allowed. His expectation is that this issue will be dealt with by the next election.

Mayor Fergusson said that she too has a sense of urgency and she hears the public's suggestions. Council Member Boyle said that he does not want a slower process but he became convinced, listening to the facilitators, that if the process is accelerated then a certain group of people get organized and they don't represent the full community and when a new Council comes in it can undo what was achieved. He stated that the lesson is to slow down, include all stakeholders and create trust, fairness and inclusion. Council Member Cline explained that the proposed timeline is based on current budget and staff resources. He added that the discussion tonight is similar to many discussions the subcommittee had with various consultants. He made a distinction between the GRCC task force and this process, stating that there are documents that have been created in the past and these should re-emerge. Council Member Robinson said that at the end of this process he wants to have a defined outline of what the land use mix should be. He found that the business development component is missing from this proposal. He further stated that regarding the GRCC there are lessons to be learned from it and there are a lot of

similarities. Council Member Robinson wanted the process completed by September 2008. Vice Mayor Cohen recommended at least three alternative visions with pros and cons. He further wanted these completed by August of this year and a decision by March of 2008, otherwise, the blight continues and so he prefers a more expedited process.

Mayor Fergusson suggested having speakers on land use, retail, restaurants, hotels, business development and planning. She said she liked the three alternatives and the use of the consultant to come up with what has been done in the past and develop the alternatives. She supports establishing Environmental Impact Report baselines. She also spoke about real time data collectors and possibly using those tools to measure community attitudes before and after the events. Council Member Boyle said that adding other topics to the speakers' series such as Business Development could be done. Council Member Cline is not comfortable with a consultant doing the project without a Request for Proposals (RFP). Council Member Robinson believes there is a role for a facilitator to do the community engagement. He suggested doing this earlier rather than later to get residents empowered in the initial stages. He further proposed a community meeting such as the one held in December and that it be noticed as such, and it be a four hour meeting with a facilitator. Council Member Boyle stated that the facilitators have a bias that reflects their philosophy and process. He said that the subcommittee felt that using the facilitator from the start was not the best approach. Council Member Boyle added that this is different from the GRCC because this is much more controversial and needs a more formal process. He added that in his view the GRCC is not following the Brown Act. The City Attorney explained that this is a terminology issue because what Council Member Boyle is saying is that the GRCC is not a Brown Act body but it is observing the Brown Act because the meetings are noticed so that the full Council can attend the meetings. Mr. McClure said that this body is in compliance with the Brown Act but it is not a Brown Act Body. *Council Member Robinson left the Council Chambers.*

**M/S Cohen/Fergusson to direct staff to enter into a contract with Dyett & Bhatia to do the work covered by the authorized budget amount, that being the historical review,- and return with two or three possible alternatives. Furthermore, direct staff to investigate engaging Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center (PCRC) to act as a facilitator and simultaneously work with Dyett & Bhatia to proceed with work on a plan for the public outreach with no less than weekly sessions, memorialized and made available to the public.**

Mayor Fergusson supported engaging PCRC and her vision would be to have at least one interactive public meeting in addition to the speaker's sessions during the summer period. Council Member Boyle said that he won't try to block this approach but he does not think this will be an appropriate process. Consequently, he does not want to lead this process by being on the subcommittee. *Council Member Robinson re-entered the Council Chambers.* Vice Mayor Cohen said he felt an urgency in getting started. Council Member Robinson commented that this should just get started and he acknowledged that all Council Members were sensitive to the fact that this needs to be an open and formal process. The City Attorney was asked to reframe the motion but Mr. McClure instead posed a few questions to Council regarding the goal of the session, structure of the session and role for PCRC. Vice Mayor Cohen restated the motion, noting that Dyett & Bhatia would proceed with the historical review and that the work would be within the authorized budget of \$25,000, that PCRC would facilitate a public forum similar to the forum held in December and come up with a single or multiple visions of El Camino Real. He stated that his goal was to get started. City Attorney McClure said that there needs to be a Council subcommittee to work with PCRC on the meeting outline because that is not something staff can provide direction on without further Council clarification on the goal of the meeting. Council Member Robinson said that the vision could be created at that first meeting and that the vision could be for either the process or directly for El Camino Real.

**Mayor Fergusson asked if included in the motion was the recommendation for the subcommittee to pursue the speaker's series. Vice Mayor Cohen confirmed that was the case.**



Council Member Cline said that he will go along with this approach but he had reservations. Council Member Boyle said that while he will stay involved he does not think the process as outlined will succeed and so he cannot serve on the subcommittee. Council Member Robinson said that by the same token he cannot support what is on the table because he did not think it would succeed and for him the answer needs to emerge before the fall election of 2008. Vice Mayor Cohen volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. City Attorney McClure was asked to restate the motion: He stated that his understanding of the motion was to **direct staff to enter into a contract with Dyett & Bhatia to proceed with the portion of the work that would be within the authorized contract amount, that being the historical review, direct staff to work with PCRC to set up a public forum like the one held in December 2006 with the goal of coming up with a vision for the El Camino Real corridor with the discussion including a vision of the process or an actual vision for El Camino Real, and direct staff to proceed with setting up the speakers' series and return with a proposed budget for those items.**

Council Member Boyle asked if the research on what other cities had done was also included in the contract. Mr. Murphy confirmed that the research on other cities was included in the authorized budget. Council Member Boyle suggested a friendly amendment to include the research of other cities. Vice Mayor Cohen did not agree with that suggestion at this time but indicated that it could be considered later. **Vice Mayor Cohen added that his motion included that the staff work with the subcommittee and Dyett & Bhatia on setting timelines with a goal of completing the work before the community forum.** Council Member Robinson asked Mr. Murphy what Dyett & Bhatia will do and Mr. Murphy said that a new scope of work will need to be drafted and it would include reviewing existing documents on El Camino Real and summarizing those in a tangible manner that could be easily disseminated to the public. Mayor Fergusson asked if the historical documents would be compared to the existing General Plan. Mr. Murphy confirmed that it would. Mr. McClure stated that staff would work with the subcommittee to quickly set up the speakers series.

**Motion carries 3-1-1 with Council Members Boyle opposing and Cline abstaining.**

Mayor Fergusson is willing to table F1 and Council Member Robinson said on item F2 he is willing to be the representative. *Item F2 was tabled to the next Council Meeting.*

1. Consideration of downtown events requiring closure of Santa Cruz Avenue on August 1 and August 15, 2007. (Staff Report #07-096)

Ruben Nino, Acting Public Works Director, provided a brief staff report that highlighted certain issues for Council consideration. The Mayor asked for Public Comment but there was none.

Council Member Boyle said that someone needs to Chair this endeavor and take out permits because there is a fair amount of planning involved. Council Member Robinson agreed with Council Member Boyle. His hope is that this gets approved conditionally and he hopes there are some possibilities for cost savings. Mayor Fergusson offered to be the provisional Chair until she found someone who will take the lead.

**M/S Boyle/Cline to organize one event, have the City cover its costs, with the provision that a permanent Chair is found and the application is submitted by June 5, 2007.**

An amendment was suggested by Mayor Fergusson to have the two events as initially proposed. Ms. Heineck, Acting Assistant City Manager, said that this would require the first application be submitted by the end of May because of the public hearing notification process. **The motion was amended to include two events on August 1 and 15 with submittal of applications and permits by the end of May, 2007. Motion carries 5-0-0.**

2. Direction sought from the City Council on appointing a Council Member and an alternate to participate in the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (Ravenswood Working Group). (Staff Report #07-097). *Item F2 was tabled to the next Council Meeting.*

4. Consideration of state and federal legislative items, including decisions to support or oppose any such legislation, and items listed under Written Communication or Information Item. **None.**

**G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION** - None

**H. INFORMATION ITEMS** - None

**I. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

Council Member Cline inquired when the budget subcommittee would be on the Agenda. Interim City Manager Steffens provided a schedule update saying that the focus was on an audit finance committee and this was tentatively on the Agenda for July 10, 2007.

Mayor Fergusson announced the next GRCC meeting and a Willows residents' public meeting.

**J. PUBLIC COMMENT #2 (Limited to 30 minutes)**- None.

**K. ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at 12:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Silvia M. Vonderlinden, Certified Municipal Clerk

Approved at the Council Meeting of July 10, 2007.