



**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 26, 2008
7:00 p.m.**

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

ROLL CALL – Cohen, Robinson, Boyle, Cline, Fergusson

Staff present: City Manager Rojas, City Attorney McClure and City Clerk Kelly. Other staff were present in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND REPORTS

1. Commission members and Chamber of Commerce reports.

Fran Dehn, Chamber of Commerce, informed the audience that new train schedules are available at their office. She congratulated the Almanac on their article on high speed rail. Ms. Dehn also thanked City staff for their participation with the Chamber regarding information on the renovation of Parking Plaza 2. She encouraged the Council to hold a study session in the near future on parking as a comprehensive issue.

B. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring March as National Nutrition Month. ([attachment](#))

Action: The Mayor presented a proclamation declaring March as National Nutrition Month.

2. Proclamation recognizing an artist Gini McAfee. ([attachment](#))

Action: The Mayor presented a proclamation recognizing Gini McAfee for her outstanding contributions.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Dick Angus, Menlo Park Historical Association, stated that Ms. McAfee's stained glass windows are of historical importance and expressed his appreciation for her contributions to Menlo Park.

Jim Lewis acknowledged that all of the activities for the day and evening associated with the recognition of Ms. McAfee's work would not have been possible without the support of the Menlo Park Historical Association.

Ben Deniston, affiliated with the Lyndon LaRouche Political Action Committee, stated the he and his associates were making presentations to councils all over the country to make them aware of the national economic crisis including home foreclosures, the solvency of the banking systems, and the budget deficits facing federal, state and local agencies. He stated that this crisis is a result of failed national policies.

Damien Yule, with the Lyndon LaRouche Political Action Committee, explained that the approach they are proposing is to call for a change of national policy including freezing foreclosures and providing protection of charter, not speculative, banks. He stated that they are asking cities across the nation to support the Homeowners and Bank Protection Act.

Elizabeth Lasensky spoke to Consent Calendar Item 4. She informed the Council that the Housing Commission has not as yet seen the revised Derry mixed-use project. She stated the Commission wasn't against moving forward on the grant but questioned the incentives for the below market rate (BMR) bedrooms.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

Action: Moved, seconded (Boyle/Cline) and carried unanimously to adopt the Consent Calendar as shown below.

- 1. Award of contracts to various vendors and authorization of a budget totaling \$346,385 for the purchase of eight vehicles for police, two utility trucks for Public Works, one compact pick-up truck for Building Division, and the purchase and installation of Police emergency equipment. ([Staff Report #08-024](#))**

This item was removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion by Council Member Fergusson. She expressed frustration that there are so few alternative fuel vehicle choices in the marketplace and suggested that the Council send a letter to dealers and manufacturers that the City is looking for more environmentally friendly choices when purchasing vehicles.

Council Member Boyle agreed that it would be nice to have more choices, but said he could not support sending a letter without first having a discussion including a cost/benefit analysis on hybrids and alternative fuel vehicles. After further Council discussion, Council Member Boyle said he would support sending a letter as long as it is not implied that the Council would purchase these types of vehicles.

Action: Moved, seconded (Fergusson/Cline) and carried unanimously to award contracts for purchase of vehicles with further direction to send letters to the vehicle dealers and manufacturers letting them know the City would like to have more environmentally friendly choices available to them when making decisions on vehicle purchases.

- 2. Adoption of a resolution appropriating \$143,000 from the 2007-08 Measure A Fund for the Safe Routes to School Improvements for Hillview School along Santa Cruz Avenue; and adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept the Safe Routes to School grant and execute Program Supplement Agreement No. 008 to administering Agency-State Agreement for Federal-Aid Project No. 04-5273R, covering preliminary engineering, and all other agreements to implement the project. ([Staff Report #08-025](#))**

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 5780 appropriating \$143,000 for the Safe Routes to School improvements for Hillview School and adopted Resolution No. 5781 authorizing the City Manager to accept the Safe Routes to School grant and execute agreements to implement the project.

- 3. Initiation of the Menlo Park Landscaping Assessment District proceedings for Fiscal Year 2008-09 and adoption of a resolution describing improvements and**

directing preparation of the Engineer's Report. ([Staff Report #08-026](#))

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 5782 initiating proceedings, describing improvements and directing preparation of the Engineer's Report for the Landscaping Assessment District for FY 2008-09.

4. **Approval of a resolution authorizing the submittal of an application to the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Housing Incentive Program of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) for a Transportation Project grant associated with the Derry Mixed-Use Project located at 550-580 Oak Grove Avenue and 540-570 Derry Lane.** ([Staff Report #08-027](#))

This item was removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion by Vice Mayor Robinson. In response to a question raised during public comment, he asked why the Council was seeing the grant application before the project has gone before the Planning Commission.

Megan Fisher, Associate Planner, informed the Council that staff did not want to miss out on the grant opportunity and that the application was due to C/CAG by February 15. She stated that the number of below market rate bedrooms may change in the future and if so staff would go back to C/CAG to update the numbers. She stated that the last cycle of funding was in 2005 and that there might not be another opportunity to receive grant funds for this project.

Action: Moved, seconded (Robinson/Fergusson) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 5783 authorizing submittal of the application to the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) for the transportation project grant associated with the Derry mixed-use project.

5. **Adoption of the proposed Negative Declaration for the Terminal Avenue Site Remediation Project.** ([Staff Report #08-030](#))
Action: Adopted Negative Declaration for the Terminal Avenue Site Remediation project.
6. **Approval of the minutes for the City Council Meeting of a) December 4, 2007 regular; b) December 11, 2007 regular; c) December 18, 2007 special; and d) December 18, 2007 regular.** ([attachments](#))
Action: Approved minutes.

E. PUBLIC HEARING - None

F. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. **Approval of the implementation of the Traffic Management Plan for Oak Avenue between Sand Hill Road and Oak Knoll Lane for a six-month trial period at an estimated cost of \$22,000.** ([Staff Report #08-028](#))

Rene Baile, Transportation Engineer, presented the staff report. He stated that the traffic management plan includes the following traffic measures: 1) enhancement of the existing crosswalk on Oak Knoll Lane at Oak Avenue; 2) enhancement of the existing crosswalk on Oak Avenue at Oak Knoll Lane; 3) installation of a raised crosswalk at the existing crosswalk on Oak Avenue at Vine Street; 4) enhancement of the existing

crosswalk on Vine Street at Oak Avenue; and 5) installation of an advance school area sign, south of Sand Hill Road.

In response to Council questions, Transportation Manager Chip Taylor reported that Oak Avenue is classified as a residential roadway but does function as a local connection point through the neighborhood into Sand Hill. He stated that the surveys captured approximately 2,400 vehicles traveling the street each day and that 85% of the vehicles complied with the traffic limit of 25 mph.

Members of the public made comments as follows:

Kristin Duriseti stated that she does extensive walking and biking and has two young children. She expressed support for staff's recommendations three through five, but asked that the Council approve a raised crosswalk at Oak Knoll and Oak Avenue. She said that there is a school with lots of activity after school in the area and that it is important to protect and promote bicycle and walking safety.

Rich Rollins said that he had initiated the petition circulated a year ago, with 85% support, to improve the intersection of Oak Knoll and Oak Avenue. He stated that there is a problem with people rolling through the stop sign and accelerating going to Sand Hill. He urged the Council to put in a raised crosswalk and because this is a school zone to also limit the speed to 15 mph.

Dave Lewis said that the survey did not take into account that vehicles don't stop or roll through the stop sign. He encouraged the Council to put in a raised crosswalk for the safety of the children in the area.

Jonathan Miller expressed support for a raised crosswalk. He said he has been attending meetings for over six months to try and get some speed measures implemented and this would be a good start.

Vice Mayor Robinson stated that he has visited the site, talked with staff, and heard from the neighbors. He agreed with the neighbors on the need for an additional speed control at Vine and also at Oak because drivers don't respect speed limits.

Council Member Fergusson stated that raised crosswalks can be effective and that she has been persuaded that this is a unique situation.

Council Member Boyle empathized with the neighbors, but noted that staff has reported that traffic speeds are within the norms on this street. He pointed out that Oak already has a stop sign and speed humps, but is a major access point out to Sand Hill Road. He questioned if more traffic is taken off of this street, what the impact will be to surrounding streets. He cautioned that it is important to look at the bigger picture.

Council Member Cline said he is aware that the street is over-engineered, but recognizes that there is problem on this street that should be addressed.

Mayor Cohen also said that he has heard from the neighbors that there is a problem on this street. He stated he would support adding a raised crosswalk as part of the six month trial.

Action: Moved, seconded (Robinson/Fergusson; Ayes – Cline, Cohen, Fergusson, Robinson; Noes – Boyle) to approve the implementation of the Traffic Management Plan for Oak Avenue for a six month trial period as proposed by staff with direction to staff to add a raised crosswalk at the intersection of Oak Knoll Land and Oak Avenue, with the objective of acting as a traffic calming measure and to also alert drivers to comply with the speed limits.

Council Member Boyle proposed a friendly amendment that the study area be expanded for the post six month trial period to gather input from the people that will be impacted which might include extending the study area to Lemon and down to Santa Cruz, so that it includes all of Oakdale.

Staff noted that this item would be coming back to Council for award of the construction contract and suggested that at that time staff could propose some options for increasing the survey area or the secondary survey area.

By consensus of the Council it was agreed that the friendly amendment would be dropped as staff will propose some options for increasing the survey area at the time award of the construction contract is presented to the Council.

2. 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.

Action: None

G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION - None

H. INFORMATION ITEMS - None

I. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council Member Cline reported that at a recent public meeting on the Burgess Gym Renovation project, design options were discussed and narrowed to four.

Council Member Fergusson announced the ground breaking for the new Police and City Service Center will be held on February 28 at 1:30 p.m. at Ivy and Willow Road.

Council Member Fergusson and Vice Mayor Robinson stated they had attended a transit camp, attended by elected officials, transit agency staff, and interested parties. They stated the group discussed how to manage our transit systems.

Council Member Boyle said at the last Council of Cities meeting the subject matter discussed was the San Mateo County Courts and programs. He said what he took away from these presentations is the need to invest in youth programs as a means of reducing crime.

Mayor Cohen reported that at the Council of Cities meeting, he nominated Council Member Boyle as the alternate to ABAG and that matter will be revisited at the next meeting. The Mayor stated that the northern portions of the County continue to have the lions' share of representation on these regional boards and that it is time that the southern portion of the County are fairly represented.

J. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Ross Wilson reported that, even with the best efforts of the Police Department, there continues to be problems with criminal activities in the Willows.

K. ADJOURNMENT – Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry M. Kelly
City Clerk

Approved at the Council meeting of March 25, 2008