



# CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 25, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.  
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025  
City Council Chambers

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## STUDY SESSION

The Council convened in study session at 5:06 p.m. with all members present.

### 1. Review of El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan project status and opportunity for Council member feedback ([Staff report # 09-113](#)) (PowerPoint Presentation)

Thomas Rogers introduced the item and the consultants from Perkins + Will updated the Council on the project. The Council asked clarifying questions.

Public comments on the item:

- **Nancy Couperus** – Lack of notice to downtown business owners; send out notices that are similar in format to other public notices
- **John Chiappe** – concerns with the construction and the impacts during that time
- **Jo Eggers** – Proposed continuing the process given the lack of time for understanding the project scope
- **Steve Elliot**, Stanford University – Spoke to the process and feels it has worked to this point
- **Frank Carney** – He believes that no higher than 2 stories on Santa Cruz should be allowed
- **Reg Rice** – Survey 2 years ago that indicated traffic flow on El Camino Real was the biggest problem and this needs to be addressed during this process and project; send out another survey
- **Fran Dehn** – Appreciated that the comments made last night during the Planning Commission were included in the presentation tonight; distinguish between El Camino Real and Santa Cruz Avenue
- **Robert Lico** – People are not showing up because they are not informed or at a different point in their lives; there is a need for structured parking; focus on El Camino Real and not infill
- **Bruce Beekley** – Commend the process; has only known about the process for four days; structured parking is important; traffic flow in Menlo Park needs to improve
- **Morris Brown** – Stanford needs to be forthcoming with their preferences for their property

Council Comments on the item:

Fergusson:

- Critical piece between density and public benefit
- Concerns that buildings greater than 2 stories would need to provide for some public benefit
- Looking for something subtle that will not give a shift to the look
- Have a design charette around the topic of HSR – more will be known after the draft EIR is out – she would like them involved in that process

John Boyle:

- He would like more added to the structured time during the next workshop
- There is a challenge to explain all of the information including why and why not for the preferred alternatives

- Difficult to digest and comment; in one meeting prefers to create more opportunities for the public to present their comments off-line, make it easy for them to take it home, digest it and then provide input
- Concerned about setting expectations regarding the specificity of the plan – there are areas identified as ‘boutique or hotel” but it is not clear where the line is going to be drawn with the preferred uses.

Andy Cohen:

- Community engagement is missing in the plan – need to increase the outreach; he does not hear that the outreach will change to make it happen
- He would try to require that on Stanford land there would be affordable senior housing
- Important to keep in mind that outreach and community engagement is important since there was a large group of community members stated they were unaware of the process

Rich Cline:

- Management of community engagement will be up to staff since outreach is not in the consultant contract or part of the plan
- Additional outreach should be done and quickly, but by staff

Heyward Robinson:

- Desire for additional outreach
- Should be focusing on process; at the end of the day, the Council has to approve a plan – as the Council moves to that point, the Council has to take ownership of it
- The Council needs to start saying what they like and there needs to be that opportunity
- There are ideas that still will be tested
- Should the oversight committee host small events around the city (a member of staff or the consultant should be present to have the same information presented)
- Need to be up-front about the impacts and people need time to digest the information; wants the information to be accessible
- There may need to be additional iterations of the emerging plan
- Are the difficult decisions being left to the Council based on a staff recommendation (density, height)
- Encourage use of the website for frequently asked questions and updates regarding the process and the emerging plan
- Why have we not used Survey Monkey or other methods to gauge community involvement
- Stay within the approved timeline

## **REGULAR SESSION**

The Council convened in regular session at 7:20 p.m. with all members present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Mayor Robinson

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Tomorrow night 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Congresswoman Anna Eshoo Moderates Panel on High Speed Rail in the Council Chambers
- Marq’s in Menlo Restaurant located at 1143 Crane Street will hold a ribbon cutting/grand opening ceremony on Friday, August 28th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.
- High Speed Rail Teach in on September 12 in the Palo Alto Council Chambers Individual can register at [www.peninsularail.com](http://www.peninsularail.com)
- The September 15<sup>th</sup> Study Session of the City Council will be held at Belle Haven Senior Center
  - Topic will be housing decisions related to two potential sites for development and the Foreclosure Prevention Program

- City Clerk is accepting applications for the Environmental Quality, Housing, Library, Parks & Recreation and the Transportation Commissions. Deadline is end of business on September 15th
- High Speed Rail Design Charette on October 3rd and 4th in the Palo Alto Council Chambers
- Tri-City Mixer tomorrow night 5:30 tomorrow
- Roger Reynolds is holding a variety of events this coming weekend

**A. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS**

**B. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1**

- Barbara Hunter spoke regarding the Willows Traffic Study Survey

**D. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Action:** Moved, seconded (Boyle/Cline) and passed unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar with the amendments submitted to the minutes (item F8).

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute a one-year extension of the agreement between the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board and the City of Menlo Park to share the total costs for the operation of the Marsh Road and Willow Road shuttle bus services on a 75 percent/25 percent basis ([Staff report # 09-111](#))
2. Adoption of **Resolution No. 5881** accepting a storm drain easement across the easterly side of 1445 Bay Laurel Avenue and authorizing the City Manager to sign the Certificate of Acceptance ([Staff report # 09-109](#))
3. Approval of a Lease Agreement for the Willow Oaks Park recreation building for Footsteps Preschool, Inc. for a period of five (5) years (Commencing October 1, 2009 and terminating September 30, 2014) with an option to extend the Lease for an additional (5) year period if the City does not desire to use the premises for its own purposes ([Staff report # 09-106](#))
4. Adoption of **Resolution No. 5882** designating the Community Services Business Manager as the applicant for the Menlo Children's Center preschool and school-age license with authorization to act on behalf of the City of Menlo Park (Licensee) ([Staff report # 09-107](#))
5. Authorize the City Manager to enter Into a Contract with Revolution Foods in an amount not to exceed \$74,867 for the delivery of food services at the Belle Haven Child Development Center ([Staff report # 09-108](#))
6. Approval of **Resolution No. 5883** approving a revision to the approved work plan for consultant services for the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan to include additional Planning Commission and City Council meetings in October 2009 ([Staff report # 09-114](#))
7. Approval of **Resolution No. 5884** authorizing the destruction of obsolete City records ([Staff report # 09-105](#))
8. Acceptance of the City Council minutes for the meeting of July 21, 2009 ([Attachment](#))

**E. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

## **F. REGULAR BUSINESS**

1. Adoption of a Resolution approving the San Mateo County Energy Strategy ([Staff report # 09-110](#)) (PowerPoint Presentation)

**Action:** Moved, seconded (Fergusson/Cline), and passed unanimously **Resolution No. 5885** approving the San Mateo County Energy Strategy.

2. Council approval of the City of Menlo Park response to the 2008-09 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury Report on Reversing the Upward Trajectory of Employee Costs in the Cities of San Mateo County ([Staff report # 09-112](#))

Comments from the public on the item:

- Virginia Chang Kiraly, member of the Grand Jury spoke to the process of this report and how people get appointed to the Grand Jury
- Mickie Winkler – Complimented the City Managers and HR Directors in the County for putting together the Municipal Employee Relations Committee (MERC) to address these issues; she cited the MERC report, which some cities have already implemented (letters a through n in the recommendations of the MERC report).

**Action:** Moved, seconded (Cohen/Fergusson), and passed 4-1 (Boyle dissenting) approving the City of Menlo Park response to the 2008-09 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury Report on Reversing the Upward Trajectory of Employee Costs in the Cities of San Mateo County.

3. 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

The City Manager gave an update on the State budget.

## **G. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

1. Organization Review – 2010 Update and Beyond ([Staff report # 09-118](#))

The City Manager presented information on the staff efforts regarding restructuring the organization to align ongoing resources with ongoing expenses.

## **H. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION**

### **I. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Quarterly financial review of General Fund operations as of June 30, 2009 ([Staff report # 09-119](#))

2. Review of the City's investment portfolio as of June 30, 2009 ([Staff report # 09-117](#))

### **J. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

1. Report from the City Council Subcommittee on High Speed Rail

Cohen and McClure are recused from this item and they left the meeting at 9:58 p.m.

### **K. PUBLIC COMMENT #2**

### **L. ADJOURNMENT – 10:12 p.m.**

Margaret S. Roberts, MMC  
City Clerk

The minutes were accepted at the Council meeting of