



**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, August 30, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.  
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025  
City Council Chambers**

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**SPECIAL SESSION**

**1. 5:00 P.M. CLOSED SESSION (Council Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of City Hall)**

**Public Comment on this item will be taken prior to adjourning to Closed Session - None**

Closed Session pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6 to conference with labor negotiators regarding labor negotiations with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Attendees: Glen Rojas, City Manager, Bill McClure, City Attorney, Starla Jerome-Robinson, Assistant City Manager, Glen Kramer, Interim-Personnel and Information Services Director and Charles Sakai, Labor Negotiator.

**2. 6:00 P.M. PRESENTATION (Council Chambers)**

Overview of the El Camino/Downtown Specific Plan  
Staff presentation by Thomas Rogers, Assistant Planner (*Attachment*)

**7:00 P.M. REGULAR SESSION**

Mayor Cline called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with all members present.

Mayor Cline led the pledge of allegiance.

**REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION** – There was no reportable action taken.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None

**A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

**A1. Proclamation: International Literacy Day, September 8, 2011 ([Attachment](#))**

Alice Bradshaw, Kristi Breisch, Tim Grow, Sagar Gunniguntia and Roberta Roth of Project Read received the proclamation.

**B. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS - None**

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

- Betty Meissner spoke regarding the Annual Book Fair on September 17 and 18, 2011 in the City Council Chambers
- Russ Peterson spoke regarding on-going issues with his garage project
- Ana Adriano spoke regarding the Exploratorium Experiences Program ([Attachment](#))
- Jose Archindia spoke regarding the Exploratorium Experiences Program
- Maggie Creighton spoke regarding support for Willow Oaks School and building a new playground

**D. CONSENT CALENDAR – NONE**

**E. PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE**

## F. REGULAR BUSINESS

### F1. Approve and adopt a Resolution to become a Healthy Eating Active Living ([Staff Report #11-151](#))([Powerpoint](#))

Presentation by Charlotte Dickson, HEAL Cities Campaign & the California Center for Public Health Advocacy

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Fergusson/Keith) to approve **Resolution No. 6025** adopting a Healthy Living Policy passes unanimously.

### F2. City Council review of Planning Commission recommendations on the draft El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan ([Staff report #11-152](#)) ([Powerpoint](#))

Staff presentation by Thomas Rogers, Associate Planner

#### Public Comment

- Charlie Bourne spoke against the plan and expressed concern regarding traffic impacts. ([Attachment](#))
- Micheal DiMartino urged the Council to consider a City marketing plan, bringing the electric vehicle industry to the empty car dealerships and building a full pedestrian mall along Santa Cruz from University Drive to Doyle Street.
- Sramana Mitra urged the Council to retain and attract more venture capital businesses, and position Menlo Park as the food & wine, culture & style and outdoor & social living center of Silicon Valley.
- Keith Davis, Sierra Club, spoke in support of maximizing density around the transit area, building parking plazas and increasing circulation.
- Phyllis Butler spoke in support of maintaining a small-town character in the downtown area and keeping development concentrated in the venture capitol area and in east Menlo Park
- Lawrence Zaro questioned how successful the plan will be and expressed concern regarding the cost of preparing the plan and that expenditure of that amount should be put to a vote of the people; he stated that development will affect the character of the downtown ([Attachment](#))
- Howard Crittenden, Park Theater owner, spoke in support of the plan.
- Michael McCracker spoke in support of the plan and asked Council to consider zoning the old Park Theater for commercial office space.
- Frank Carney stated that the highest priority for Menlo Park residents is to maintain a small-town character and that the plan will not accomplish this. He asked the Council to carry out the wishes of the people.
- Vincent Bressler spoke in support of maintaining architectural oversight and establishing a committee to define public benefits.
- Deborah Miller spoke in opposition of the plan. She stated that the plan will create traffic and parking issues and does not represent the vision of the community.
- Gail Sredanovic spoke against the plan.
- Andrew Boone spoke regarding the need for improved bicycle routes in the downtown area, more and wider bike lanes, and increased bicycle safety.
- Steve Elliott, Stanford University, spoke in support of the plan and thanked the Council for the work that has been done on the plan.
- Patti Fry spoke in support of preserving a village character downtown, the need for public benefit and increased East-West connectivity. ([Attachment](#))
- Fran Dehn encouraged Council to provide clear design guidelines to business and property owners and potential developers, encourage mixed use designs, support the housing element and other various floor area ratio and zoning elements, and preserve community values and assets. ([Attachment](#))
- Adina Levin spoke in support of an environmental perspective and approach.

- Jo Eggers expressed her concerns with building new parking plazas downtown & the need to repair existing parking plazas for beauty and safety.
- Chuck Bernstein stated that the plan lacks vision and spoke regarding his observations on the financial analysis of the plan. ([Attachment](#))
- Jamie Morgan stated the need for a comprehensive bike plan in order to mitigate congestion and reduce the carbon footprint.
- Annie Berlin stated that she is representing the task force of College Avenue and Partridge working on the 389 ECR development project. The group supports future development of that portion of El Camino Real in connection and addition to the downtown plan.
- Anne Moser urged the Council to take into consideration the needs and lifestyle of the next generation of Menlo Park residents.
- Henry Riggs spoke regarding public benefits for the Northeast portion of El Camino Real and flexibility in design when developing the lots owned by Stanford in the Southeast portion of El Camino Real.

Council discussed the proposed review process.

**ACTION:** There was Council consensus to give the following direction to staff regarding the Draft Specific Plan review process:

- 1) Direct the Finance and Audit Committee to review the Financial Impact Analysis and provide an executive level summary
- 2) Develop different levels of zoning
- 3) Hold advanced discussion regarding public benefit, possibly form a committee to examine this
- 4) Increase bike and pedestrian circulation and improve East-West connectivity

Council discussed the recommendations for the Station Area portion of the Draft Specific Plan.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Fergusson/Ohtaki) to adopt the following recommendations and revisions to the Station Area portion of the Draft Specific Plan passes unanimously:

#### Station Area

- 1) Planning Commission recommendations endorsed, unless otherwise modified/preempted below
- 2) Revise the plan to remove any elements (e.g., curb extensions) that would preclude the ability of the City to modify the central portion of El Camino Real to provide 3 lanes of automobile travel in each direction and/or Class II bike lanes (potentially limited to peak hours)
- 3) Revise the plan to include “quad gates” as an option at Ravenswood and Oak Grove Avenues rail crossings
- 4) Revise Civic Plaza (D30-D31)
- 5) Include additional tree options consistent with Kadvany correspondence
- 6) Add enhanced pedestrian connection to Oak Grove Avenue
- 7) On Alma Street portion of SA E zoning district, increase minimum upper-floor setback from 10’ to 15’
- 8) Reduce SA W maximum height from 60’ by one full story
- 9) Explore options for use regulations regarding live-work lofts and report back at 9/20

#### Overall

- 1) Add language clarifying that “Illustration of Standards + Guidelines” graphics are not binding in and of themselves (*specifics to be revised and presented at 9/20 City Council meeting*)

#### **K. PUBLIC COMMENT #2 – At 11:30 p.m., this item was called out of order**

- Bob Gomez spoke regarding support for Willow Oaks school.

At 11:35 p.m., Councilmember Fergusson exited the Council chambers for the discussion on the recommendations for the El Camino Real Southeast Zoning District portion of the Draft Specific Plan due to a conflict of interest that her husband's employer, Stanford University, owns property in the specified area.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Cohen/Ohtaki) to adopt the following recommendations and revisions to the El Camino Real Southeast Zoning District portion of the Draft Specific Plan passes (4-0-1, Fergusson recused):

El Camino Real Southeast Zoning District

- 1) Planning Commission recommendations endorsed, unless otherwise modified/preempted below
- 2) Explore potential revisions to the development regulations in response to Stanford University correspondence regarding development feasibility; return with any recommendations that address Stanford concerns and still achieve Plan objectives
- 3) With regard to rear setback requirement, consider potential for ped/bike access at RR tracks
- 4) Explore potential revisions regarding retail uses and whether/how they could be encouraged/required

**F3.** Consider 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. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – None**

**H. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION – None**

**I. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – None**

**J. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS**

**J1.** Discuss and consider a recommendation on the San Mateo County Member-at-Large position for the League of California Cities, Peninsula Division Executive Committee ([Staff report #11-153](#))

This item was removed from the agenda by the Mayor at the start of the meeting. Councilmember Fergusson withdrew her name from consideration for the Member-at-Large position on the League of California Cities, Peninsula Division Executive Committee.

**K. PUBLIC COMMENT #2 – This item was called out of order (see above)**

**L. ADJOURNMENT at 12:03 a.m., August 31, 2011**

/S/  
Pamela Aguilar  
Deputy City Clerk

Minutes accepted at the Council meeting of September 27, 2011