



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

**Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025
City Council Chambers**

Mayor Cline called the Special Session to order at 6:05 in the Council Conference Room, first floor of City Hall with all members present. There were no members of the public present for comments on the two closed session items.

1. Closed Session pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9 (b) regarding potential litigation – 1 case involving the congressional redistricting plan
2. Closed Session pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9 to conference with legal counsel regarding existing litigation – 1 Case
Local 829, American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO; and Local 521, Service Employees International Union v. City of Menlo Park – San Mateo Superior Court, Case No. CIV 508435
Attendees: Glen Rojas, Starla Jerome-Robinson, William McClure, Glen Kramer

Mayor Cline called the Regular Session to order at 7:07 p.m. with all members present.

The pledge of allegiance was lead by Mayor Cline.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

There will be no action taken on the Congressional redistricting plan. The City Council believes that the community is working hard to come together as one community and the redistricting split the city into two districts right down the middle of the City.

The Council voted unanimously (5-0) to defend the City's position in the lawsuit stated above. The City Attorney has been directed to seek outside counsel for the defense. There will be a discussion on the budget impacts at a later time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The State of the City address will be on Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 5:15 p.m.

A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS: None

B. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

Applications are still being accepted for the Environmental Quality Commission, Housing Commission and Transportation Commission.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1: None

D. CONSENT CALENDAR: None

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

F. REGULAR BUSINESS

F1. Review of Planning Commission recommendations on the draft El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan (Meeting 3 of 3) ([Staff report #11-160](#)) ([PowerPoint](#)) ([Bicycle Commission Comments](#))

Staff presentation by Thomas Rogers, Associate Planner

Public Comments:

- Chuck Bernstein reviewed the Fiscal Impact Analysis (“FIA”) portion of the Specific Plan “Plan”. ([PowerPoint](#)) ([Excel](#))
- Sam Sinnott spoke regarding the Floor Area Ratio (“FAR”).
- Clem Molony stated that he attended every meeting on the Plan and he feels positive of the process and urged the Council to continue with the process.
- Tim Cremin, Counsel for the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, spoke about the Plan and the Fire District Expansion Plan. They are requesting an exemption under the plan and removal of the Use Permit requirement.
- Keith Davis representing the Sierra Club stated that they are in support of the Plan as it was submitted by the Planning Commission. He made comments regarding adding a lane to El Camino Real. The Sierra Club has concerns with the “Public Benefits Committee” and what they are presenting as it undermines the work that has been done.
- Vincent Bressler spoke about public benefits as well as provided a definition for public benefit. He requested that his handout be included in the Plan. ([Handout](#))
- David Crabbe speaking on behalf of the Land Use Committee of the Sierra Club addressed open space for future generations. They urged the Council to approve the Plan as presented by staff. They do not want to see the density reduced.
- Mical Brenzel stated that she appreciates the consideration the Council is giving the Plan. She does not want to see many changes to the downtown.
- Henry Riggs spoke in opposition of the document presented by Vincent Bressler. The Plan was written over a period of four years, including the visionary process.
- John Sobrato with Sobrato Development Company suggested that the city needs more shoppers with less traffic. There needs to be more office density around the train station. He suggested underground parking only and four story office buildings.
- Michelle Daher talked about the children who bicycle and want to cross El Camino Real and recommended that bike lanes be added to El Camino Real.
- Jamie Morgan spoke in support of the Bicycle Commission recommendations. There is a need for a Bicycle Plan to include a bike network.
- John Beletramo summarized his letter of September 17, 2011 and the seven concerns raised in the letter.
- Steve Elliott representing Stanford University spoke regarding the comments made in a previous letter to the Council and other issues that relate to the Stanford Properties on El Camino Real.
- Leah Strichartz encouraged the Council to adopt the recommendations of the Bicycle Commission. She also addressed concerns with widening El Camino Real and requested that the Council keep the parking on El Camino Real as it serves as a buffer for cyclists.
- Richard Li spoke against the ad hoc “Public Benefits Committee”.
- Patti Fry spoke about the mix of uses, the existing housing-jobs imbalance and the processes that will improve for the citizens. (Attachment) (Handout)

- Adina Levin encouraged the Council to support the Bicycle Commission recommendations and ways to increase bicycle safety. (PowerPoint)
- Mike Tevis stated that this is about getting people on their feet and this can be accomplished with density.
- Kevin Conner spoke regarding the recommendations from the Bicycle Commission. Bikes are better for your health and the environment.
- Bob McIntire stated that high density in the train station area is a benefit. He requested that the processes in Menlo Park become easier.
- Steve Schmidt spoke regarding the bike undercrossing that would go between Big 5 and the Stanford property and urged the Council to keep the easements as they currently are.

Recess at 9:11 p.m.

Reconvene at 9:20 p.m.

Council consensus on the following:

Public Benefit

- Move forward with base/public benefit standards as proposed
- Provide more information/documentation of how standards were determined and potentially propose revisions if warranted
- Review and consider options for incentives for retail
- Retain general Development Agreement approach and provide a list of benefits (review CC comments and supplement as needed)

Bicycle Commission recommendations

- Endorse the Bicycle Commission recommendations except as amended:
 - Remove recommendation (4)
 - #5 amended to more generally consider/examine other north-south improvements, including a potential path along CalTrain tracks/Stanford lands
 - #6 – Add schools on Valparaiso
 - #8 – see earlier City Council direction on using parking plazas for bicycle/pedestrian circulation/parking
 - Add – Examine potential for improvements at Ravenswood/ECR (in particular westbound) [signage, lanes, etc.]
 - Add – On Menlo Avenue (west of ECR), potential for bike lanes

Land Uses

- Restaurant/Live Entertainment – change to A (Administrative)
- Restaurants (Limited Services) – reexamine comprehensively
- Day Care Center – change to A (Administrative)

Public Safety Facilities

- Consider adding a new category for Live/Work Lofts, in particular around Station Area

Other

- Staff to continue to work with the Fire District
- Staff reach out to John Hickson /Live Oak Lions Club to ‘debrief’ on City Council direction and review how to reach out to Farmer’s Market

F2. 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

K. PUBLIC COMMENT #2: None

L. ADJOURNMENT: 1:41 a.m. on September 21, 2011

/S/

Margaret S. Roberts, MMC
City Clerk

Minutes accepted at the Council meeting of October 4, 2011