



SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 8/23/2016
Time: 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

6:30 p.m. Closed Session

Mayor Cline called the closed session to order at 6:35 p.m. Councilmember Keith was absent. There was no public comment.

CL1. Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section §54957 to confer regarding employee performance evaluation: City Manager

Attendees: City Attorney Bill McClure, Human Resources Manager Lenka Diaz

A. Mayor Cline called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Carlton, Cline, Mueller, Ohtaki
Absent: Keith
Staff: Assistant City Manager Chip Taylor, City Attorney Bill McClure, City Clerk Pamela Aguilar

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Cline led the pledge of allegiance.

D. Report from Closed Session

Mayor Cline stated there was no reportable action from the closed session.

E. Presentations and Proclamations

E1. Certificates of recognition for student ambassadors to Bizen, Japan

Mayor Cline and Councilmember Carlton presented certificates to the following Menlo Park student ambassadors: Erik Paul Bjerknæs, Catherine Carlton-Ridenour, Lauren Hall, Anna Teason Paczuski, Javier Ramos, Ninarose Roybal, Kumali Schoen, Sohalia Schoen, Violet Taylor, and Alexander Wire

F. Commissioner Reports

F1. Parks and Recreation Commission 2-Year Work Plan update and proposed goals for May 2016 to May 2018 ([Attachment](#))

Commission Chair Christopher Harris gave the report, highlighting accomplishments from the last

two years, summarizing the Commission's review of drones in Bedwell Park and the upcoming master plan projects.

G. Study Session

- G1. Study session on Willow Road transportation improvement options with a focus on emergency response and signal timing modifications ([Staff Report# 16-142-CC](#))([Presentation](#))

Transportation Manager Nikki Nagaya made a presentation.

Public Comment

- Elias Blawie spoke regarding the history of the Dumbarton bridge and the distribution and flow of traffic in the surrounding area
- Pamela Jones spoke regarding access and traffic on Willow and the need to find creative solutions

Discussion ensued and staff was directed to follow up on the following: a stakeholders meeting to discuss the timeframe for grade separations at Willow Road and Bayfront, potential for roundabouts, impacts of the current Highway 101 construction and potential shifting of shuttle routes.

H. Public Comment

- Paul Cilker spoke regarding school traffic and safety on Oak Court
- Elias Blawie spoke regarding the future of Menlo Park as it relates to the General Plan and assessing needs
- Candace Halloway showed a short video excerpt of a 2014 Council meeting, spoke regarding an agreement between the City and the school district regarding restricted access and traffic through the Oak Court neighborhood
- Bitu Arabian spoke regarding the Oak Court agreement and read a statement from a fellow resident
- Greta Kim spoke regarding Oak Court and keeping it a pedestrian area
- Remmelt Pit spoke regarding Oak Court and following through on the agreement with the school district
- Chuck Bernstein spoke regarding the potential school bus traffic on Oak Court and the encroachment permit issued to the school district
- Ana Pedreiro agreed with the other speakers

City Attorney McClure summarized the background of the encroachment permit and status of the agreement with the school district. City Attorney McClure was directed to follow up with County Counsel regarding the agreement. If the agreement is not executed within the next two days, this item will be placed on the August 30 Council meeting agenda for full discussion.

I. Consent Calendar

Councilmember Carlton requested Item I2 be pulled from the Consent Calendar for further discussion.

- I1. Approve the Parks and Recreation Commission 2-Year Work Plan goals ([Staff Report# 16-143-CC](#))
- I2. Adopt a resolution amending the Council's Community Funding Program Guidelines to include arts

programs among the “verified community needs” eligible to apply for funding
([Staff Report# 16-135-CC](#))

- I3. Adopt **Resolution 6333** delegating authority to the City Manager to make and certify determinations of disability to the California Public Employees’ Retirement System ([Staff Report# 16-144-CC](#))
- I4. Introduce an ordinance correcting an error in the Municipal Code text for the R-1-S (FG) Zoning District ([Staff Report# 16-136-CC](#))
- I5. Approve minutes for the City Council meetings of July 19, 2016 ([Attachment](#))

ACTION: Motion and second (Ohtaki/Carlton) to approve all items on the Consent Calendar except I2 passes 4-0 (Mayor Pro Tem Keith was absent)

Regarding Item I2, Councilmember Carlton requested that funding for arts be kept separate from funding for critical services. There was Council consensus to table this item for a future Council meeting.

At this time, Mayor Cline called Item K1 out of order.

K. Informational Items

- K1. Update on approved Santa Cruz Street Cafes ([Staff Report# 16-138-CC](#))

Housing and Economic Development Manager Jim Cogan gave a brief update.

J. Regular Business

- J1. Review and consider an amendment to Menlo Park Municipal Code Section 8.28.130 to prohibit drones and other unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in City parks ([Staff Report# 16-145-CC](#))([Presentation](#))

Assistant Community Services Director Derek Schweigart made a presentation.

Public Comment:

- Anne Moser spoke in favor of banning UAS and requested a ranger for enforcement
- Silas Kwok spoke against a ban of UAS
- Margarita Bekker spoke regarding bike lanes on Marsh Road
- Greg Ashford stated that Bedwell Bayfront Park is intended for passive use which includes flying UAS and spoke regarding safety and minimal noise
- Andrew Harris spoke against a ban and stated that he uses the park and flies model aircraft with his daughter
- Leslie Flint, Sequoia Audubon Society, spoke in favor of banning drones due to their disturbance to birds in the park
- Jo Killen stated that drones disrupt her quality time at Bedwell Bayfront Park and supports a ban on drones and a ranger for enforcement
- Richard Bright played a short video regarding a variety of aircraft
- Anis Upatnieks stated he is a park user as a line of sight flyer and spoke against a complete ban and considering regulations
- Harry Ackley stated he flies a radio controlled glider and spoke against a complete ban

- Michael Otrada spoke regarding his passion for model aircraft and against a ban and that many pilots are responsible and respectful
- Mitch Brenner stated that hand launched gliders are silent, safe and lightweight and that there have been no complaints involving gliders
- Frank Dickinson stated he flies model airplanes and this activity adds to the enjoyment of the park experience
- Tom Calvert, Battalion Chief MPFPD, stated that the department flies drones for emergency response purposes and asked that language be added to the ordinance taking this exception into consideration ([Attachment](#))
- Michael Baum, San Carlos Airport Pilots Association, spoke in favor of a ban ([Attachment](#))
- Carol Ford, San Carlos Airport Pilots Association, spoke in favor of a ban
- Jerome Miller stated that he flies power gliders and expressed concern that this has become a large issue and asked Council to make a thoughtful decision
- Nancy Borgeson spoke in favor of a ban in order for park goers to enjoy peace and quiet at Bedwell Bayfront Park
- Chris MacIntosh spoke in favor of banning drones because they disturb wildlife and are inconsistent with park values
- Allan Bedwell, Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park, spoke in support banning drones due to health and safety risks, diminished peace and quiet, and impact on wildlife
- Lennie Roberts, Committee for Green Foothills, spoke in favor of banning UAS due to safety risks, threat to wildlife and incompatibility with passive use of the park
- Diane Hart, VP Santa Clara Audubon Society, spoke regarding the benefits of spending time in nature and that noise from drones interferes with this enjoyment and supports a ban
- Eileen McLaughlin spoke in favor of a ban to protect wildlife in the park
- Elias Blawie stated that it isn't the place of the Council to regulate airspace and that drones are not going away
- Shani Kleinhaus, Santa Clara Audubon Society, spoke regarding the threat to coastline birds

As part of Council's discussion, Councilmember Ohtaki presented information regarding the glide slope for San Francisco International Airport, the Menlo waypoint and the flights over Bedwell Bayfront Park ([Attachment](#))

There was Council consensus regarding public safety and staff stated that signage and other communication tools can be implemented to inform the public. Research on options for non-motorized and radio controlled aircraft can be explored during the Parks Master Plan project.

ACTION: Motion and second (Ohtaki/Carlton) to introduce an ordinance amending Menlo Park Municipal Code Section 8.28.130 to prohibit drones and other unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in City parks and authorize the City Manager to take the necessary steps to execute excepting emergency services and providing that a violation of this section will constitute an infraction passes 4-0 (Mayor Pro Tem Keith was absent).

- J2. Request from Councilmember Mueller to form a subcommittee to investigate a regional solution for Ravenswood educational equity ([Staff Report# 16-146-CC](#))

Councilmember Mueller introduced the item.

Public Comment

- Jay Siegel spoke regarding the inequity among the 23 school districts in San Mateo County and

that property values and taxes in the Ravenswood district are below other areas and do not add significantly to funding education ([Attachment](#))

- Dr. Gloria Hernandez-Goff spoke in support of forming a subcommittee and finding a regional solution and thanked Councilmember Mueller
- Elias Blawie spoke regarding Menlo Park's need first, that adequate funds aren't available, and the education issue should be resolved by other bodies such as the State

By consensus, Council approved forming a subcommittee to investigate a regional solution for Ravenswood educational equity and appointed Councilmembers Mueller and Carlton as members.

- J3. Adopt a resolution to install No Stopping zones on Oak Court, French Court, Elliott Drive, O'Connor Street, Byers Drive and Falk Court, appropriate \$20,000 from the Transportation Impact Fee fund and authorize the City Manager to amend agreements with Quality Striping, Inc. and Chrisp Company as part of the Citywide Street Signing and Striping Program to implement the Safety Improvements ([Staff Report# 16-147-CC](#))([Presentation](#))

Assistant Engineer Kevin Chen made a presentation. Transportation Manager Nikki Nagaya was also present.

Public Comment:

- Jen Wolosin spoke in support of an Upper Laurel School Safe Routes to School study
- Steve Curaud expressed concerns regarding no stopping and parking restrictions ([Attachment](#))
- Sandy Lee spoke in support of a broader safe routes study
- Ana Pedreiro spoke regarding traffic at the Oak Court gate and requested the No Parking sign be esthetically pleasing
- Maurice Ghysels, Superintendent, spoke regarding working together for the safety and benefit of school children
- Joe South spoke in support of a Safe Routes to School study
- John Woodell spoke in support of a bus and bike safety study

ACTION: Motion and second (Ohtaki/Carlton) to adopt **Resolution 6334** to install No Stopping zones on Oak Court, French Court, Elliott Drive, O'Connor Street, Byers Drive and Falk Court, appropriate \$20,000 from the Transportation Impact Fee fund and authorize the City Manager to amend agreements with Quality Striping, Inc. and Chrisp Company as part of the Citywide Street Signing and Striping Program to implement the Safety Improvements with a friendly amendment by Councilmember Ohtaki to accelerate a full study of safe routes to school passes 4-0 (Mayor Pro Tem Keith was absent)

L. City Manager's Report

Assistant City Manager Chip Taylor gave an update regarding the Hwy 101/Willow Road project

M. Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Mueller inquired when the Fire District lease for Station 77 would be agendized. City Attorney McClure indicated it would be on the September 13 agenda.

N. Adjournment

Mayor Cline adjourned the meeting at 12:00 a.m., August 24, in memory of Roslyn Morris, the namesake of Little House, who was a dedicated member of Peninsula Volunteers since 1962 and served as its President in 1980.



Pamela Aguilar, CMC
City Clerk

These minutes were approved at the City Council meeting of September 13, 2016.