



HSR City Council Committee

Members

Patrick Burt

Larry Klein

Nancy Shepherd

Gail Price

Special Meeting

Thursday, June 3, 2010

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Council Conference Room

Civic Center

250 Hamilton Avenue

Palo Alto, CA

Minutes

1. Oral Communications

Bill Warren said he went to a recent meeting that local Senators held. Last night, there was a small meeting held at Elizabeth Alexis' house for neighborhood members to discuss basic facts, presented data, etc.

Karen Chapelle said she lives in South Palo Alto. Construction of a tunnel would create chaos and interfere with gas and sewer lines, telecommunications, creeks, etc.

Jerry Carlson said a tunnel in San Jose would be at a two percent grade. Therefore, this option would be feasible for both South Palo Alto and Atherton.

2. Approval of Minutes from the May 6 and May 20 Meetings

CM Shepherd moved to approve. CM Price seconded the motion. All ayes. Minutes approved.

4. Format for Response to Alternatives Analysis

Steve Emslie stated our consultants will be presenting draft comments for the Alternatives Analysis to staff later today. We can accept any comments from the Committee to be taken back today. The format lines up the Comprehensive Plan, Policies, etc.

Mr. Emslie also said the Alternatives Analysis does not provide sufficient information – there are gaps. We cannot select a preferred method because of the lack of information. We are working closely with the



HSR City Council Committee

school district. We have also identified some conflicts with our Utilities department regarding the underground reservoir at El Camino Park.

Chair Klein stated that 75% of the Palo Alto High School would be affected by the project.

Mayor Burt asked if the school district was putting together their own response to the Alternatives Analysis as it affects them.

Mr. Emslie responded yes.

Mayor Burt asked if the school district is appreciating their ability to speak politically for themselves, as opposed to solely relying on the City.

Mr. Emslie answered yes.

Mayor Burt recommended the letter being sent out by the Committee be copied to all cities in the Policy-Maker Working Group and all their Council Members receive a copy as well.

CM Price said it is not typical for the Alternatives Analysis to be released before the EIR. This is our window. The quality and comprehensiveness of our response to the Alternatives Analysis is critical in shaping the EIR.

Mayor Burt stated that the Committee is not talking about inadequate details, but more about fundamental aspects. A common letter that Mr. Emslie was mentioning needs to be drafted right away.

CM Shepherd said we should notify the Authority that we want High Speed Rail to share tracks with Caltrain. We need to tell them what we want, and not just respond to what they give us.

Erin Chapelle said no one has mentioned anything about the City spending one million dollars on drainage on Alma. If the deep tunnel option is not used, this would all be a waste.

Chair Klein said we should strive to have a preferred Alternative. We should let the HSRA know we are against the elevated alternative.



HSR City Council Committee

Mayor Burt motioned that we submit a letter by Monday identifying our objectives to the Alternatives Analysis. We need to request that our corrections are made. We should proceed with providing our preferred Alternatives based on what we consider the best design and lowest impacts on Palo Alto. We should also eliminate the elevated and at-grade options for our preferred Alternative. Chair Klein seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion passed.

Mayor Burt said he spoke with Mayors from Mountain View and Menlo Park to hold joint meetings to discuss transitions between Palo Alto and those cities.

Mr. Emslie confirmed there will be individual meetings with the northern and southern cities of Palo Alto regarding transitions.

5. Legislative Update

Chair Klein motion that we oppose AB 289. We should write a letter to oppose this piece of legislation. There are conflicting views of what the peer review committee should represent. CM Shepherd seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion passed.

CM Shepherd asked if we should oppose AB 1375, which is comprised of similar language. Chair Klein responded yes yes.

CM Shepherd stated that since this is going to be an ongoing issue for years, we should as a City, allocate expenditures for HSR.

3. Discussion of PCC Core Message

Mayor Burt proposed a change under the Mission Statement that the HSRA should consult with the PCC if any changes are made. He also pointed out that the 4th bullet point should go under legislative impacts. "Secure funding" should be changed to "Provide funding" in the first bullet point of the last section. In the last section, under the 2nd bullet point, "feedback" should be changed to "City's response".

Chair Klein proposed "compensate" should be changed to "reimburse".



HSR City Council Committee

Mayor Burt said we assume the HSRA commits to outcomes of the CSS Toolkit.

Mr. Emslie said he would incorporate the changes and distribute to the Committee before the weekend. He urged the Council Committee members to make their edits and have them ready for the full Council meeting on Monday.

6. Status of Requests for Information from HSRA; Strategy re same

Mayor Burt asked if there was a deadline.

Mr. Emslie responded the middle of next week. If we can get it out sooner, we will.

Chair Klein asked if we should ask for a schedule for when we would like a response.

Mayor Burt said that is a good idea. We should it include in our cover letter.

7. Discussion on CalTrain

CM Shepherd said we should have some background information on Caltrain at the next meeting.

8. Updates and Informational Items

None

9. Future Meetings and Agendas

Chair Klein said we need to have a discussion on whether we want a station in Palo Alto. Our next meeting is on June 17, 2010.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, listening assistive devices are available in the Council Chambers and Council Conference Room. Sign language interpreters will be provided upon request with 72 hours advance notice.