



# City/School Liaison Committee Minutes



## City/School Liaison Committee Meeting Wednesday, February 27, 2008

8:15 AM to 9:30 AM  
City of Palo Alto Civic Center  
Council Conference Room  
250 Hamilton Ave  
Palo Alto

In Attendance:

### City of Palo Alto

Pat Burt, Council Member, Chair of Committee

Larry Klein, Mayor

Emily Harrison, Assistant City Manager

Steve Emslie, Director of Planning and Transportation

Wendy Hediger, Sustainability Team

Katie Whitley, Administrative Assistant

### Palo Alto Unified School District

Camille Townsend, Board Member

Melissa Baten Caswell, Board Member

Scott Lawrence, Assistant Superintendent

Handouts: **All handouts can be viewed in the City Manager's office at 250 Hamilton Ave**

Meeting convened at 8:15am

**1. Oral Communications:** None

**2. Approval of Minutes from November 28, 2007**

Council Member Klein moved to approve; since he is the only returning member of the Committee, minutes were approved 1-0.

**3. Climate Protection Plan**

Ms. Harrison introduced Wendy Hediger, a member of the City's Sustainability Team, to give the presentation on the Climate Protection Plan.

Ms. Hediger presented an overview of the City's Climate Protection Plan. The plan included rough numbers of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and emission reduction goals. City emissions include municipal energy use, fuel use and materials. The largest portion on the pie chart of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions was 35% coming from biogenic from the Water Quality Control Plant. 30% was from natural gas leakage that came from when the City purchased the natural gas and then metered out to users. There may not necessarily be leakage in the atmosphere but the calibrations could be off.

Ms. Townsend asked if pipes are bad. Ms. Hediger said Utilities was looking in to the numbers.

Council Member Burt said it was important to recognize this first phase is a baseline and within that there are two aspects. One is to go back and look at the elements and the other is to begin the process on where to go from there.

Council Member Klein said the number of community emissions for Palo Alto is 728,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e and the City's portion is only 65,000. The community at large needs to be addressed.

Ms. Hediger said they looked at transportation, solid waste and energy use as the big areas for emissions. There are no numbers in the presentation because that data will come later.

Council Member Burt said Palo Alto was unique because the proportion on both the emissions for the City and the community for electricity is abnormally low. This is because a great deal of the power comes from hydroelectric, and Palo Alto has one of the strongest renewable green programs in the country.

Ms. Hediger said the transportation emissions were 333,400 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. Ms. Baten Caswell asked what the difference was between Palo Alto commute and non-commute. Ms. Hediger said the commute within is working and living in Palo Alto and the non-commute is taking kids to school.

Ms. Baten Caswell asked how that data is gathered. Ms. Harrison said the Planning and Transportation department gathered it from surveys.

Ms. Hediger said energy use produced 295,016 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and solid waste produces 100,304 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. This is 2005 data so it adds the emissions for 2005 waste but also looked at the waste at the landfill. It also included the upstream emissions, what is generated by the community activities.

Council Member Burt said the baseline was from 2005 and asked if going forward there would be a two year lag in data or if the gap would close. Ms. Hediger said the

numbers were coming in from the state and they hadn't completed the 2006 data yet. There is definitely a one year lag.

Ms. Harrison said Karl Van Orsdol would get back to Council Member Burt on the specific information on the goals being based on the most recent data.

Ms. Hediger said there were three goals the City set for reducing emissions, short term, medium and long term. The short term include goals that could be achieved quickly with minimal additional cost. By July 2009 a 5% reduction in emissions for the City was set. The medium term goals were a 5% overall reduction in emissions including community and City by 2012. There may be additional cost benefit analysis and also the need to get the community involved.

Ms. Harrison said on the short term goal, one of the things the City is currently doing is preparing to give each department a list of target carbon reduction items.

Ms. Hediger said it is important to get the community involved. There is a chapter in the Climate Protection Plan devoted to community education and outreach. One of the education and outreach ideas is the Community Environmental Action Partnership (CEAP). There is already a lot going on out in the community such as the Sustainable Schools Committee. It gets the parents, students and school staff together building teams working on green projects. There is also the Palo Alto Businesses Go Green that encourages businesses to get certified. There is the Interfaith Power and Light program in the faith community. The goal is to get new people involved in the existing programs and build with what is currently out there.

Ms. Townsend suggested one way to get the word out is to target groups such as housing complex boards and newsletters. Ms. Hediger said she would send the information to Ms. Townsend.

Council Member Klein said there would be a big effort in Earth Month to pledge for the community to reduce its carbon footprint. Another issue to look at is the local numbers versus the national numbers of transporting kids to school and why the numbers are worse today than 30 years ago.

Ms. Baten Caswell suggested having pledges around the carpool issue.

Ms. Harrison said at the quarterly report from the City/School Traffic Committee, the City/School Liaison Committee would be updated.

Ms. Townsend asked if there is a checklist as to what citizens can do to reduce carbon footprints. Ms. Hediger said Acterra has one; the recycling program puts out action items for citizens in earth month. She said she could provide a list to the group if so desired.

Council Member Klein said the City is not adverse to mandatory rules. The City will have much stricter green building standards for commercial buildings as of July 1, 2008 and residential will follow at a later date.

Council Member Burt asked how we move forward after the information presented at this meeting. He suggested the item be carried over for a later discussion.

Ms. Harrison asked if this was to come back at the next meeting or later in the year. Council Member Burt pointed out the next meeting falls during the PAUSD spring break. Ms. Harrison suggested the Committee meet on March 19<sup>th</sup> instead of the regularly scheduled meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>. The Committee decided they would change the meeting to March 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **4. Priorities**

Council Member Burt asked if this agenda item was to set priorities for this Committee. He said with in the meeting so far there have been 2 carry over items, one is the Climate Protection Plan and the other is the ABAG housing numbers.

Ms. Baten Caswell said she would like to include financing measures. Council Member Burt said the Council and staff split the Public Safety Building and the Library issue and the Library is certainly something that has a strong element of interest in the school community.

Ms. Harrison suggested as a way to prepare for the upcoming relationship between the City and the School District over the Library bond issue to have a presentation to the group in May or June. She said the April/May meeting is usually a meeting about the budgets for both PAUSD and the City. Council Member Klein said it would make more sense to have the Library bond measure discussion in April. Ms. Harrison said the April meeting will have the financing measure agenda item, May will have the budget discussion and March will have the continued discussion of climate protection. Ms. Townsend said it would be helpful to have a discussion before April on the bond issue for PAUSD. Ms. Harrison said that could be included in the March meeting.

Council Member Burt asked if there were any other priorities. Ms. Harrison said the City/School Traffic Committee would need to be fit in for the quarterly update. Mr. Emslie said the committee could be flexible as to when they presented to the group.

Council Member Burt said the priorities identified so far are climate protection, ABAG housing numbers and financing, including the bonds. One other possibility is emergency preparedness. Ms. Harrison said it was a priority last year and the other items from last year included libraries, sustainability and traffic issues.

Council Member Klein said an interest would not only be the building of the library but the synergy between the City libraries and PAUSD libraries. Ms. Harrison said the chief librarians would be invited in to participate in the discussion.

Ms. Harrison clarified that the March 19 meeting would include the continued discussion on the Climate Protection Plan and update on school bond measure. The April meeting would have the update on joint library programs and the City presentation on library facility needs.

Council Member Burt said the list of priorities may not be able to get agendized in the next couple of meetings so they may need to be looked at. He wanted to know what the purpose of the group and what the outcomes would be and should there be a more deliberate discussion about actions. Ms. Townsend said an important outcome would be sharing of information in an informal way. Ms. Harrison reminded the group that procedurally this committee follows the same guidelines as the other standing committees by making recommendations to the Council and getting direction from Council to take action.

**5. Update on ABAG Housing Numbers (ongoing discussion item)**

Mr. Emslie informed the group on the appeal letter that was prepared last year is now going before the regional housing numbers allocation committee this afternoon. He passed out copies of the letter to the group along with the letter from ABAG with the appeals.

Council Member Burt said there are two upcoming events on pro housing and wanted to make sure PAUSD folks were informed. Mr. Emslie said he would get the information to Scott Lawrence.

Council Member Klein said the District sent a letter to ABAG that was extremely helpful. Santa Clara County Cities Association has made this one of its 3 priorities for the year. There are other cities involved and a dialogue ongoing. This issue is fought out every decade. There will be further discussion on this throughout the year.

Ms. Harrison said for agenda purposes both the ABAG and financing are ongoing items and could be continued.

Council Member Klein said on the topic of climate protection that no idling signs would be posted at some of the schools in the district. Mr. Emslie said the schools have not yet been identified and would report back to the group when he had that information.

**6. City and School Financing Measures (ongoing discussion item)**

Ms. Townsend notified the Committee the School Board passed the bond at the meeting the night before.

**7. Future Meetings and Agendas**

Council Member Burt said the future meetings and agendas were covered during the course of the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:35am.