

SCHOOL/CITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: March 25, 2009

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MARCH 25, 2009

Opening

The School City Liaison Committee held a meeting in Room A, 25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto, California. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m.

City of Palo Alto

John Barton, Council Member
Larry Klein, Council Member
Steve Emslie, Deputy City Manager
Gayle Likens, Manager, Transportation
Julie Weiss, Environmental Compliance

Palo Alto Unified School District

Camille Townsend, Board Member, Chair of Committee
Melissa Baten Caswell, Board Member
Cathy Mak, CBO
Ron Smith, Construction Manager
Tina Allen, Secretary, Superintendent's Office

Others Present

Penny Ellsen, PTA, Traffic Safety
Tom Hodges, O'Connor Construction
Arnold Teten, Gilbane

Oral Communications

There were no requests to speak.

Approval of Minutes –
December 17, 2008

MOTION: Barton moved to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2008 meeting. Klein seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Earth Month

Sustainability

Emslie introduced Weiss, who gave a presentation updating the group on the City's sustainability work, including:

- News
- Climate protection goals
 - City plan
 - Climate Protection Team
 - Carbon budget by department
 - Presentation to Council on April 27
 - Quarterly monitoring of emissions
 - Use of methane
 - Certification of buildings – business and residential
 - New construction and major renovation
- Green procurement
 - Discontinued use of antibacterial soaps
 - Greening of contracts related to paper products
 - Use of LED street lights
 - Presetting copiers and printers to double-side
 - Zero waste goal - currently at 63%
 - Waste hauling contract changes on July 1, with Green Waste taking over from PASCO
 - Will include collection of compostable food from businesses
- Pollution prevention

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- Reducing toxicity of pesticides and change to new contractor
- Our Water, Our World program educating people about the least toxic products for home use
- Ecowise Certified Program
- Plastic bag and polystyrene ordinances
 - Items break down structurally but not biologically
- Cell phones
 - Disposal is very expensive
 - Working on legislation requiring manufacturers to bear some of the burden
- Disposal of pharmaceuticals
- Green Ribbon Task Force
 - Monthly community meetings
- Website
- Earth Day Events
 - Green Tech Expo on April 27

Climate Protection Plan

Ellsen gave a presentation focusing on:

- Educating families, via the PTA, on things that can be done in the home
- Working with both elementary and secondary sites
- "Cancel Car Trips for a Cool Climate" at Elementary Level
 - Informing parents about carbon emissions created when driving kids to school
 - Educational projects for kids
 - Carpooling or other alternative modes of transportation

Townsend told Weiss about the District's Sustainability Committee, suggesting she get in touch with the group to share information. Barton said a lot of research could be shared, such as procurement. Baten Caswell suggested Weiss also get in touch with the PTA in order to disseminate information to parents. She also said Dan Dykwel, the current PTA Council President, would soon be leaving and Terry Godfrey would take over. Ellsen said a Green Tech Expo would take place at El Carmelo.

School Bond Measure A Capital Improvement Plan

Hodges said the bond was passed in June and three architects were now on board. He also briefly described the District's use of CHiPS (Collaborative for High Performing Schools) standards in construction. In addition O'Connor Construction would be overseeing work, up to schematics, and Gilbane was overseeing schematics on to completion. The District also was monitored by a Citizen's Oversight Committee. Hodges then described current efforts:

- Reopening Garland in Fall 2011 as a four-strand school
 - Two-story classroom building
 - Multi-purpose building
 - Library
 - Beginning the schematic design phase
 - AEDIS incorporating sustainable measures
- Ohlone Elementary school
 - New two-story classroom building
 - Gelfand's plan for sustainability
- Adding teaching walls at elementaries
- Planning future elementary site projects
- Middle schools still in planning phase
 - New classroom buildings being added at JLS and Jordan to accommodate additional enrollment growth
 - Classrooms being added at Terman to make smaller existing classrooms larger
 - Terman library and administration wing to be expanded
- High school priority lists developed with Site Councils
 - Two new buildings at Paly to be added: video arts, and a classroom building with teacher

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offices

- Design will soon start on a new theater near the Haymarket Theater.
- A theater committee has been formed and is doing research
- Paly Tower building
 - Bathrooms
 - Elevator
 - Windows
 - Central plan
- Gunn High School plans
 - New classroom buildings
 - Auxiliary gymnasium
 - Rework of parking and drop off system

Baten Caswell and Townsend said both firms were being challenged to provide increased air flow and natural lighting. Townsend asked if the idea of losing swimming pools had come up. Hodges said he had not been told to fill in any pools. Baten Caswell said Skelly had told her no pools would be lost. Townsend added that the theater committee includes representatives from all performing arts groups at Paly. Barton asked if Likens was up to speed on the District's plans. She said her engineer had attended all the meetings. Teten described Gilbane's commitment to sustainability in new construction, as well as current projects, such as fields at Paly. Klein asked how bidding was coming in related to estimates. Teten said that so far bids were coming in about 10% below projections, and it was hoped the District could continue to take advantage of the current economic situation. Townsend noted that the day after the bond passed, the first project came before the Board for approval. She then added that there were master plan committees for each high school. Barton asked when the Gunn pool would be complete. Teten said it should be done in May or June. Barton said the fields looked great. Smith said a lot of sustainable jobs were done around the District during the summer, such as replacing lights, which makes a huge difference in energy use.

Oregon Expressway Improvements

Likens discussed the Oregon Expressway project plans. Townsend noted that the weeds along the Oregon Expressway near 101 and Bayshore needed to be cut. Likens said CalTrans would need to be contacted. Her presentation focused on:

- Upgrading street lighting
- Improving pedestrian walkways
- Middlefield intersection
- County meetings with focus groups, school representatives, and other groups
- Ross Intersection
- Louis Intersection

Baten Caswell said there was not always enough time to cross Oregon Expressway at some intersections. Likens said this was being addressed and would be based on a child's walking speed. Baten Caswell asked if feedback would be solicited after the improvements. Likens said it would. Baten Caswell asked if underpasses had been discussed. Likens said they had not due to the expense. She then said the City Council would discuss these plans in May. Townsend asked if community input was still being accepted. Weiss said the deadline was last week, but the District could still submit its input. Barton said he had received e-mails saying that people felt the County had done a great job. Baten Caswell asked Ellsen if she felt these plans provided the bike and pedestrian safety she wanted to see. She said they did. She also asked about child safety after the intersections had been improved. Likens described how the current six-phase signals and the new eight-phase signals functioned.

Future Meetings and Agendas

The next meeting would be held on April 22, 2009, and discussion topics would include emergency preparedness and the Center for Jewish Life.

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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Upcoming meetings:

May 27
June 24