

City of Palo Alto

Date: October 27, 2010

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF October 27, 2010Opening

The City/School Committee held a special meeting in the Council Conference Room at 250 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto. The meeting was called to order at 8:20 a.m.

* All handouts can be viewed in the City Manager's Office 7th Floor 250 Hamilton Ave.

City of Palo Alto Representatives Present:

Greg Schmid, Chair of Committee, Council Member
 Nancy Shepherd, Council Member
 Steve Emslie, Deputy City Manager
 Rob De Geus, Community Services Division Manager of Recreation
 Curtis Williams, Planning Director
 Jaime Rodriguez, Transportation Mgr
 Cathy Durham, Coor Trans Sys Mgmt
 Greg Hermann, Management Analyst
 Katie Whitley, Administrative Assistant

Palo Alto Unified School District Representatives Present:

Dana Tom, Board Member
 Cathy Mack, CBO
 Bob Golton, CBO and Bond Manager
 Amy Drolette, Student Services Coordinator
 Stefan Rosner, Palo Alto Council of PTAs Traffic Safety Committee Co-chair
 Boris Foelsch, Palo Alto Council of PTAs Traffic Safety Committee Co-chair
 Penny Ellson, Palo Alto Council of PTAs Traffic Safety Committee Member

Public

Sunny Dykwel – Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison

Oral Communications

There were no oral communications.

Approval of Minutes –
September 22, 2010

MOTION: Tom moved to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2010 meeting. Shepherd seconded. Minutes were approved 2-0 with Board Member Townsend Abstaining and Chair Schmid arriving after this item on the agenda.

Review of Recent City
Council/PAUSD Board
Meetings

Shepherd said Council voted to pass on having a High Speed Rail station in Palo Alto. She said Palo Alto does not have the bandwidth to work with the High Speed Rail Authority, there was not adequate parking and Stanford was not interested in having the station on their property. Emslie said the HSR funding was earmarked for the Central Valley.

Shepherd said there were a number of recent retirements: City Attorney, Library Director, Public Works Director, Assistant to the City Manager and the City Manager's Executive Assistant.

Townsend thanked the City for being the fiscal agent in the Summer School programs at the Recreation center Camp Jive.

Tom said the School Board approved sending a formal letter to the City Council regarding the Housing Element.

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Townsend passed out handouts on the SAT trends that showed how well Palo Alto was doing.

Safe Routes to School

Jaime Rodriguez wanted to update the Committee on Safe Routes to School and to introduce Stefan Rosner and Boris Foelsch the 2 new co-chairs of the 2010-11 PTA Council Traffic Safety Committee. He said in the past they have always followed the Safe Routes to School 5 E's: education, encouragement, enforcement and engineering. He said this year they focused on the 5th e: evaluation.

Durham presented the evaluation (e) on slide 3.. She explained the slide showed data about how students got to school broken down by year and method. She said there was a bussing and carpool decrease. She said they just finished the 3rd grade bike extravaganza that was started in 1994. The focus is on skills that target the most frequent crashes, how to deal with a 2-way stop running stop signs and how to stay in the bike lane.

Stefan Boris introduced the Walk-n-Roll information. He said there are events twice a year in the fall and in the spring. There are posters, PTA newsletter, E-News that promote the events. They have special guests, collages, punch cards and raffles. He said there needs to be more bike racks available to provide parking accessibility. They want to expand the middle school bike skills for students and parents to continue to learn good habits now so they continue to high school. He said the Enjoy catalog now offers a Bike Skills course.

Rodriguez talked about the enforcement. He said there are 4 motorcycle officers although only 3 are filled right now. The priority is to patrol during the morning and afternoon peak school commute. They have targeted school route enforcement. They are coordinating with the supervisor of the crossing guards at the locations to increase pedestrian and cyclist safety.

There is a partnership program funding Safe Routes to School for \$550k VTA grant which would expand the current program, create development of uniform maps, evaluation of locations/add crossing guards, have count stations. There are 2 ways to do the count stations by either inferred by tracking body heat and microwave that can also track directional.

Tom congratulated Boris and Foelsch on their new roles. He asked Rodriguez how long we have to use the grant. Rodriguez answered 2-3 years.

Rodriguez gave an update on the Arastradero road project. He said the major construction was completed in Aug/September. There are still pending Arastradero Road Improvements such as final bike lane/parking lane, bike lane stencils, Clemo Ave/Suzanne Dr crosswalk and Coulombe Dr traffic signal. He said this is a one year trial period where they are monitoring. He said they hosted the 1st community meeting and there were about 50 people that attended. He said he had received emails and calls regarding the trial and that every one was responded to. He said they addressed the community areas of concerns and slide 13 shows the concerns and responses.

Chair Schmid asked if along the Arastradero corridor there is a long term plan to reduce car trips and if there was a possibility of a shuttle on that street. Ellison said the shuttle was eliminated along that route because of VTA.

Shepherd asked if there was a possibility of the Police traffic control to operate the traffic controls at Caltrans. Rodriguez said if the Police department determined there was a need.

Palo Alto Shuttle Schedule and JLS

Rodriguez said the Shuttle arrives at JLS at 3:07 pm and the bell rings at 3:05 pm leaving students only 2 minutes to get to the shuttle. They are suggesting to have an immediate 2 week trial to hold

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the shuttle at JLS until 3:10 pm and see what the impact is at the other stops and whether or not it will cause a ripple effect. They can still make the change but it may have to wait until January when the contract with the new shuttle provider begins.

Chair Schmid asked if we have data on the number of trips and how it is divided by school. Rodriguez said no data now but will be able to gather that with the new provider. Schmid said he wanted to get a sense of the demand for shuttle use and that information would be helpful.

Update on Teen Mental Health and Trackwatch

De Geus said Project Safety Net (PSN) is getting legal support to draft the MOU. They are pushing forward on the developmental assets. There is a Big 10 Conference in November that 14 members of PSN are attending including DeGeus, Drolett and some teens from the Youth Council.

DeGeus said that the sister of one of the teens that committed suicide from Paly in 2003 is working on creating space for students to use as an art studio to focus on healing, health and hope.

Drolette said they are working on the extended serve grant of \$250k and the duration of the implementation would be 18 months. The grant needs to focus on intervention not prevention strategies so it will be challenging fine tuning the language and making sure everyone understands the correct definitions for the terms used in the grant.

Drolette said there was a meeting at Barron Park last night to discuss Project Cornerstone and the Developmental Assets. They did a great job and it will be revisited at midyear.

Chair Schmid asked if there was any coordination from the schools/PTA/PSN on grade crossing. De Geus said it has not been a topic of PSN.

Future Meetings and Agendas

The next meeting is scheduled for November 24. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday and the Winter holidays it was decided to combine the next meeting to December 8. On that agenda will be an update on High Speed Rail and Cubberley.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.