

City of Palo Alto

Date: February 24, 2010

**MINUTES FOR MEETING OF February 24, 2010**Opening

The City/School Committee held a meeting in the Council Conference Room at 250 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m.

\* All handouts can be viewed in the City Manager's Office 7<sup>th</sup> 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  
Curtis Williams, Planning Director  
Rob DeGeus, Recreation and Golf Director  
Katie Whitley, Administrative Assistant

**Palo Alto Unified School District Representatives Present:**

Camille Townsend, Board Member  
Dana Tom, Board Member  
Bob Golton, CBO and Bond Manager  
Cathy Mack, CBO  
Carol Zepecki, Student Services Director

Oral Communications

There were no oral communications.

Approval of Minutes –  
December 16, 2009

MOTION: Shepherd moved to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2010 meeting. Townsend seconded. Minutes were approved 4-0

Priority Setting and Meeting  
Dates

MOTION: Shepherd moved to change the date for the September 1 meeting to September 8 to accommodate Council Break. Chair Schmid seconded. Motion Approved 4-0

Chair Schmid asked if there were additions to the list that was created at the last meeting. He said he would like to add High Speed Rail to the list and asked if the District had an interest in that.

Golton said yes, it is an issue for the District and would like to add it.

Chair Schmid said there are timing issues around the Alternatives Analysis regarding the High Speed Rail (HSR) issue and suggested they agendaize it for March/April timeframe.

Shepherd announced the City Council HSR Subcommittee would be meeting at 8:30 am on Thursday, February 25, 2010 if anyone from the District was interested in attending. She said the Draft EIR was coming out around March 15.

Townsend said that today's agenda has the housing projections and enrollment and part of the traffic updates. She suggested that at the next meeting a document be provided with the topics from each month to assist in the scheduling/prioritizing for this year.

Golton said he could have Betty Munoz put that together for the next meeting.

Chair Schmid said the City Manager would be addressing the budget at the end of March so that should go on the April Agenda.

Tom said the District budget would be voted on June 22 so they could update the Committee on the

## MINUTES FOR MEETING OF February 24, 2010

June agenda.

Chair Schmid said he thought Stanford should be discussed on the May agenda and that he would like to keep update on teen mental health a constant reference point.

### Update on Teen Mental Health

Zepecki said several groups are continuing to meet on this issue. She said she or Skelly attend the Santa Clara Strategic Planning meetings where a variety of agencies are involved.

She said Project Safety Net had 30 representatives that meet every 6 weeks. The next meeting is on March 11, 2010. An executive committee has been formed that both she and Rob De Geus are on that meet prior to the meeting every 6 weeks. The next executive committee meeting will be on March 2, 2010.

Townsend asked if a list of the names of everyone on the committee was listed somewhere. De Geus answered yes, on the project safety net website: [www.cityofpaloalto.org/safetynet](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/safetynet)

Zepecki said one thing the executive committee continues to ask is where they are headed, how long they will continue to meet, what has changed and what can be left behind in institutional changes? What kind of paper trail can be left for others? She said they continue to discuss this and will hopefully have a package of materials at the end of the school year.

Townsend asked if there was media buy in. Zepecki said yes. Greg Hermann from the City Manager's Office is working in that area.

De Geus said there will be a meeting on March 2 where all the editors in the area will be coming to discuss this topic and what is appropriate coverage and Greg Hermann from the City Manager's Office is heading that up.

Chair Schmid was concerned that these committees continue beyond the end of the year. Zepecki clarified that they were only hoping to have a materials package put together by the end of the year, not end the program.

De Geus said that a report would be presented to the City Council and PAUSD with recommendations on how this program can be sustained.

Shepherd suggested that they may want to follow the City Manager's lead by placing a ad banner at the top of Palo Alto Online. She said they were inexpensive.

De Geus said Track-watch met yesterday and the security at Meadow would be funded through at least the end of the school year and more likely the end of the calendar year and this was a downstream strategy. He said for long term solutions, the focus should be on upstream strategies.

Shepherd asked if PAUD was looking at structural change to help.

Zepecki said yes, bell schedules and late starts and no assignments over the breaks have been implemented with. One of the other things they are looking at is how friendly the counseling support is to students.

De Geus reported out on the first session of the Youth Forum. He said there were 100 very engaged teens that showed up and they had a great dialog.

The second session is next Saturday, February 27 at Mitchell Park Community Center from 2-5 pm where 40 adult leaders will be working with the teens in small break out groups to find if there are

## MINUTES FOR MEETING OF February 24, 2010

things that can change in the 3 area of interest from the teens (school environment, community events, and local businesses). At the 3<sup>rd</sup> session on April 3, they can look at potential action coming out of the forum.

Shepherd said that one of the Council Priorities this year is to have collaboration on Youth Mental Health.

### Update on Paly/Town and Country Traffic Signal

Williams said the traffic signals are essentially finalized. There is one thing left but it will not impact traffic, the pedestrian signal needs to be changed. He said he has gone over there several times over the last month. Since the video cameras were installed, the most important piece, it tells the controller that someone is at the light. Before the cameras, the signals were on a fixed timer. The time of the day there seems to be back up is the end of the school day, 4 pm. Traffic gets backed up on El Camino. The main reason is the crossing kids. There have been some adjustments made but usually between signals there is 500 feet and we have 200-300.

Shepherd said the intersection at Embarcadero and El Camino heading West is not clearly marked that it is a 3 way signal. She said people hesitate to turn left because there is no arrow and are unsure if traffic is stopped. Williams said this is a Caltrans signal but if there is additional specific information like this please email it to him at [curtis.williams@cityofpalto.org](mailto:curtis.williams@cityofpalto.org). Please specify the time and day so he can go out and observe.

Golton said he uses the new signal at Town and Country almost daily and it has gotten much better and the City has done a great job.

### Enrollment Projections/Housing Element

Golton passed out copies of the District-wide Enrollment Projections. He said PAUSD budgeted at the mid level for enrollment projections. The report shows that from 2010-2014 a 10% increase in total enrollments roughly 2% per year. He said even with the recession property turnover is down but students are still coming in.

Townsend asked how it could be that the turnover is low but enrollment is growing by 2%. Tom answered that Lapkoff said there was no one specific reason spelled out. Tom said on page 1 second paragraph states that during the next 5 years housing growth accounts for about half of the enrollment growth but on page 2 in the last paragraph before the table it says the district has been gaining about 200 students from turnover from older housing and 100 from newer. He said either way, it is about 1/3 – 1/2 coming from new housing. In the last sentence on page one, it shows the demographers are looking very closely at each type of new housing. Tom said by looking at the types of housing, the forecasts are getting more accurate.

Chair Schmid said the projections have been under every year prior but it looks like it's getting caught up. He said he thinks one of the issues is the nature of the Palo Alto market. People come in young, buy and put their young kids into the school system and stay for 40 years. When they leave, they don't have kids coming out of the schools. It is then replaced by a house that generates kids. Given Palo Alto's population of over 65 it is a fair assumption that it will continue to be that way.

Tom said the chart on page 33 of the report supports Chair Schmid's comments. He said that up until 2004 there were fewer enrollees than births and now that has switched.

Shepherd asked where the numbers came from. Townsend said the births are tracked from the state by zip code.

Chair Schmid said from the City perspective there is a current housing element and he would like to get an update in the Stanford development and ABAG in the future. He said he knows that the District has been in touch with Stanford on this important issue.

## MINUTES FOR MEETING OF February 24, 2010

Golton said there is a meeting on this topic coming up.

Chair Schmid said he thought the only official settlement would be the agreement so if there are any school fees, they have to be in the agreement. Emslie said yes. The dates will be in April or May so if there is a response from the District, it should be then.

Tom asked how the District participates in the development agreement. Golton answered, through the City. He said the District has the ability by working with the City to influence to some extent the path of the agreement.

Townsend asked if there was a formal process for providing input. Golton asked Emslie to run through the EIR process for the Committee.

Emslie said there are a couple of key actions the City will take. One is that we will certify the EIR and that is what Chair Schmid was mentioning that would be out at the end of April. There is a period of time to review that and make comments. The comments will be responded to and the final EIR would come back through city boards and commissions and the City Council. It covers many actions like all the land use entitlements and also part of that document is the development agreement. The is the contract (voluntary) between the City and Stanford that spell out all the additional items the city would negotiate with Stanford in exchange for giving them longer time to exercise their land use entitlements. The District and Stanford and the City agreed Stanford and PAUSD will negotiate their own deal and once they have finalized the city will import that into the development agreement. It will then go through review process of the Boards and Commissions and finally before Council and we are looking at doing that before the end of the year.

Shepherd asked if this was the non-profit section of Stanford campus so some of these things are being offered so they would not be required to do a development fee for required to do the development fee for the District.

Emslie said they are required to pay the school impact fee regardless as a base line. The development agreement is a way to negotiate benefits above and beyond what is required.

Tom asked if there was a separate negotiation between PAUD and Stanford that what is between the City and Stanford. Emslie said they offered to do it combined but easier to let PAUSD negotiate and then be the conduit for the report. Golton said the City and PAUSD are in very close contact on this issue. He said while they may be in the room alone with them, they are always going to be soliciting input from the City.

Tom asked Golton to find a way to appropriately apprise the Board on the potential impact. Golton said the 2 person committee would provide an update

Chair Schmid said he would like to add this topic to the next agenda as Stanford EIR follow up.

Shepherd had one last comment. She said the City has sent out for the Google contract for fiber to the home and now everyone is being lobbied to go and nominate Palo Alto and it would be a great thing for the District. If there is anyway to catch that wave, ride it. Please contact Council Member Yiaway Yeh for information.

Townsend said on the agenda for March is Stanford Hospital, Youth Mental Health.

**MINUTES FOR MEETING OF February 24, 2010**

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Chair Schmid said we could touch on the City's budget on the next agenda as well.

Townsend suggested that we look at what was on last year and go over that at the next meeting.  
Golton said they would transmit that and have it for the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.