

City of Palo Alto

Date: September 22, 2010

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF September 22, 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
 Ron Babiera, Senior Planner
 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

Public

Sunny Dykwel – Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison

Oral Communications

There were no oral communications.

Approval of Minutes – May 26, 2010

MOTION: Shepherd moved to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2010 meeting. Tom seconded. Minutes were approved 3-0 with Board Member Townsend Absent.

Review of Recent City Council/PAUSD Board Meetings

Shepherd said Council had a long conversation last Monday night about the Refuse Rates and made some temporary decisions that will be lasting for 12 months and making incremental changes but will be coming back with a Study to see how the costs will be allocated. She said then Council went into High Speed Rail which was an outcome from the meeting the week before which was the 66 slide PowerPoint presentation by staff. It explained all the parts of the processes that led to a no confidence resolution. Mark Simon was there from Caltrain and he presented the Caltrain letter that explains they would like to see their version of phasing which is different from a no build but they still need to do a better job explaining it. The Council was left with a lot to think about for the week. Finally the resolution was brought and original draft resolution was passed and colleagues are strengthening that. They are determining how to address the HSR issues going forward which is to build a coalition up and down the peninsula and the state to see if they can't get this better managed. Council then went into Closed Session and it was announced today in the papers that Palo Alto will be joining in a lawsuit with Atherton and a number of non-profit organizations.

Emslie added that we will make available copies of the Peer Review by engineering firm Hatch Mott McDonald to PAUSD because it does identify some issues of impacts of HSR and right-of-way and Palo Alto High School.

Shepherd wanted to add that the City will still be responding to the HSR authority. The other thing that happened was they received a letter from Stanford saying they are not interested in a Caltrain station in Palo Alto and it is on their land. She said it would be discussed at the HSR Committee.

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Tom said the latest projection from the County was there would be very modest assessed growth. Mak would be presenting a report about revising the budget to address that. PAUSD and the City of Palo Alto are the only ones in the County to be showing positive growth at this time.

Golton said the Board had established its goals for the year which are:

- Academic Excellence in Learning: subcategory is improving student connectedness and strengthening support systems, building on existing site and district initiatives, supporting efforts to improve post secondary advisement and guidance services, developing strategies that focus on academic needs
- Staff Recruitment and Development
- Budget Trends and Infrastructure
- Governance and Communication

11th Day Enrollment and Housing Element

Mak passed out a report but it's not the final report. She reported out that the final numbers are still being reconciled so that is why this is still draft. She said as you can see from the report there is substantial growth at the elementary level with a growth of 218 students. At the middle schools the growth is 36 students and at the high school level the growth is 17 students. These numbers will change slightly when the final numbers come in. The 11th day enrollment report is scheduled for the October 12th Board meeting.

Shepherd asked if the kids at the hospital are included in the report. Mak answered at the bottom of the page under alternative programs. She said right now the numbers of the hospital children look a little high compared to last year and that is one of the areas they are reconciling for this report. The enrollment at the hospital changes daily.

Tom said the hospital programs changed a great deal because of the change in patient profile in terms of the treatments they are receiving and the duration of their stay.

Tom said the kindergarten growth of 73 was more than 1/3 of the entire elementary growth compared to the previous year.

Chair Schmid said he has the enrollment forecast from 2005 and the elementary school is just at the high forecast and the others are in the medium. Mak said the growth in the elementary is a little higher than the high projection. The others are a little over the low projection from the previous year.

Chair Schmid asked where is the growth coming from because traditionally yields in new housing and asked if the yields figures are dramatically different than what they were expecting. Mak answered the demographer needs to analyze the growth so they will update the projection based on this information.

Chair Schmid asked if there was any speculation on where the kids were coming from. Tom answered about 1/2 the growth came from housing turnover and the other half came from growth. Mak said this also supports the fact that the assessed valuation in Palo Alto has grown even with the negative inflation. We had more than 200 new parcels this year which explains new homes that were sold last year.

Chair Schmid asked if specifically when those houses were approved was the notion that they would be fairly low yield houses that were not oriented toward families. He said it seems as though there was a striking change in expectation for yields. Golton said from the housing projects the yield was .9 which was quite high.

Tom said the thing that was most surprising to the demographer was even though the amount of housing turnover dropped in the last year, we still had a large inflow from housing turnover. Of the

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houses that did turnover a very high percentage compared to before must have gone to families.

Chair Schmid said the student yields from 2005 for K5 the numbers are very low, below .5. Tom said the demographer increased many of them. He said in the more recent analysis they have historical data and the yield projections.

Chair Schmid asked if there was a geographic concentration. He said most of the houses post 2005 was in South Palo Alto. Was the K5 number showing up high in South Palo Alto? Golton said Palo Verde is impacted as well as Carmelo; they are filled with a limited amount of overflow. Golton said they are able to adjust the class size because the State is more flexible with the 20:1 ratio than in the past allowing for less overflow.

Chair Schmid said when PAUSD says full it is a relative term because the class size can be increased. Mak said yes, they K3 is now at 22 and 4th and 5th are at 24 so they fill up to that level. Chair Schmid asked if the number of kids per site is going up and Golton said yes.

Chair Schmid asked where excess capacity existing. Golton said he could name all the schools with vacant class rooms. He said Baron Park has 2 vacant class rooms, Duveneck has 1, Escondido has 1 and Ohlone has 1. He said Addison has one every other year because they are on a half strand so this year they have 1 but they are a 3.5 strand school.

Chair Schmid said it was interesting that Ohlone had a vacant classroom. Golton said it was because the Chinese emersion is expanding by grade. He said as you may know there is an expansion program at Ohlone so they needed to move in one relocatable for this year and another for next year. They had an opportunity to move the second one a year early so they did because of cost savings. So that is why they have an available class.

Chair Schmid asked if Baron Park lost a class. Tom said it was a class and a half for kindergarten.

Chair Schmid said they key question is what the implications from this are for the City's Housing Element and transitioned into the City's presentation on that topic.

Curtis Williams, the Planning Director for the City introduced himself and said he would be making the presentation on the Housing Element. He said the thought processes have been consistent going into the housing element and the direction from Council as they talked about some of the key development policies in the comprehensive plans like being able to look at smaller units and senior units. He said they would be focusing on to balance and not minimize the amount of families units that tend to be the market rate units. He said the question becomes does the council try to develop a housing element that complies with the state and ABAG numbers for the regional housing need. He said the short term and focus really is finding ways to focus on smaller and senior units less likely to produce school age children.

Tom asked if the historical data from the demographer. Williams said yes. Williams said they had been sharing their numbers.

Chair Schmid asked if there was any yield data on housing over the last 5 years. Williams said there is something more recent. Tom said PAUSD will make sure the City gets the link. Chair Schmid said the data shows very clearly that the historical data is not such a good tool, it underestimates the numbers.

Tom asked if the remodeling increasing the housing unit capacity and if we track those numbers. Emslie said we track major remodel and there are about 150 per year over the last couple of years. Williams added that it could be a few hundred square feet to an entire second story added and it is not specifically tracked by square footage.

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Chair Schmid said Palo Alto has a high percentage of rentals and its increasing and that tends to bring in families with small kids and asked if we track the rentals. Williams said no the only way is by affordable housing like apartment units but not single family homes.

Ron Babiera senior planner, wanted to add that he works over at the development center counter and said most of the people coming in to look at houses for sale are younger families with children. Williams added that renters would most likely not come in to the development center to get permits for remodel it would be the owner so we wouldn't get the renter information.

Chari Schmid said that one of the striking things in economics is that the rental incomes are now a bargain so people think differently about where to go and schools are a nice magnet for someone who is renting for a period of time.

Sunny Dykwel added when we were talking about remodeling and making it bigger it doesn't necessarily mean that the family is getting bigger but getting more value from their home. She said secondly on the rentals in this area, they are very expensive so you are not going to see as many people able to afford them. She said what she is seeing is a lot of people coming in and looking in the South because of Gunn High. She said it is very hard to get a loan right now so that is why the rental market has increased.

Chair Schmid asked what is considered below market and has that number changed dramatically. Williams said it was based on median income. Babiera said it went down by 3-5%.

Williams said we are in the process of updating the housing element and going to the Planning Commission in October with a draft and going to the Council before the end of the year. He said he'd be happy to make this same presentation to the School Board to go over where the numbers came from.

Tom said he had some questions. He asked if the City was going to the Planning Commission in late October with a draft and then after input and full vetting, bring it to Council with revisions by end of the year. Williams said yes, they will have a Study Session and then have an action item on the draft Housing Element to send to the State Housing and Community Development Department. The Council is not actually adopting the document at that point they are approving the draft that will be sent on to the State. The State will review and come back with changes that will be taken to the Planning Commission and the Council to finalize. Tom asked when it would be sent to the State and Williams answered the day after it goes to Council.

Chair Schmid asked as we go through this process will we have the demographers numbers for this year. Mak answered the report would be out in December. Chair Schmid said that was too late and we would be using last year's numbers. Tom said it would be good to send last year's demographic report to the entire Council along with the 11th Day Enrollment Report.

Shepherd asked if it would be helpful to Planning to have any of PAUSD numbers to understand the interest around growth for the planning process. Williams said it certainly wouldn't hurt but most of the document is data that they already have. There is a section about community service impacts and PAUSD is part of that. Golton added they have shared the data with Planning so they are in contact if not constantly than intermittently.

Chair Schmid said he had a process question – what is the ability both formal and informal of the City Council to take into account the PAUSD impacts in their planning and critical process. Williams said in the Housing Element there are sections to talk about the constraints to housing so you can talk about if there are physical constrains in terms of geology as well as financial constrains like the cost of land being difficult to build housing particularly affordable housing. There are also Public Service

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constraints as well such as structure issues, parks and schools. Williams said the Council can look at that and say housing needs to be limited because of this impact or that impact whether the State looks at it and agrees is a low likelihood. It is information that we should provide.

Chair Schmid asked if PAUSD should be an advocate in the process. Williams said they can send information on a parallel track to support the City's position.

Tom asked what would be the most productive and effective ways for the either individual Board Members or the Board as a whole or for staff to provide input. Williams said the most productive way for the Board or staff or the District to provide the City with their position on development and the impact on the capacity of schools that the City can reference in the document. Tom asked if the City wanted hard data from staff or opinion from School Board Members. Williams said the hard data we have to have. The opinion is important from a City standpoint but he doesn't know how important it would be from a State standpoint. Tom asked who to send the information to. Williams said the hard data can come from Golton to Emslie or himself and the Board opinion should go to Council directly.

Update on High Speed Rail

Emslie said there are a few items coming down the tracks. The work on the project level EIR is continuing to move in spite of the ambiguity on the program EIR. It is still scheduled to be released by the end of this year so sometime in December. Once that is done there would be the minimum amount of time to comment which would be 45 days which would put us into the first part of February to get our comments on the project level EIR and there would be a response period. They are looking at completing the EIR in the mid to late 2011. The next technical question that HSR is asking various involved cities is whether or not they want to be a station. Palo Alto is a candidate city for a station and there will be a community forum on October 7 to discuss a possible station here. We have staff team and team of experts that are going to be preparing comments on the Program EIR. We need to expand that because the project EIR is going to have broader discussion of impacts in the area of noise and vibration. We are in the process of getting an expert to comment on that and that is one area that the City and PAUSD will have common interest especially as it impacts schools adjacent to the tracks. He said noise and vibration are going to be huge issues so that is one area we can collaborate on and utilize the same services to quantify our comments and be as specific as possible.

Shepherd asked if there would be any interest to PAUSD joining the lawsuit maybe not this one but the next one. Emslie said on the Project Level EIR. Shepherd said that is the one that will be most abusive to the community and the schools. Emslie said the impacts will be more clearly defined and the question to whether or not they are complying will be there. It is something the Board might want to consider.

Shepherd said the importance of the current EIR is the project and this will solidify once the Pacheco Pass route in the bay area. She said not necessarily holding firm to the ridership numbers that can continue to be protested along the way it is an important component. If the ridership numbers continue to stay the way they are mean it will need to be this voluminous track where as Caltrain is saying they are supporting a more nimble pass through the peninsula keeping the track system similar to what it is now which will reduce noise and vibration.

Emslie said the timing based on the schedule is they have the lawsuit would be after they certify the final would be mid 2011. There will be 30 days after the certification to file the lawsuit.

Chair Schmid said Paly is certainly an interest for the District and asked about El Carmelo. Shepherd said she thought they were right on the line.

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Update on Teen Mental Health and Trackwatch

Emslie introduced Greg Hermann who has been working with PAUSD on behalf of the City for the Mental Health Issues. Golton introduced Amy Drolette who is the District's coordinator of student services.

Hermann said he wanted to give the Committee some updates that have been happening at the City level. He said he and De Geus met with the Policy & Services Committee on September 12 to digest the Project Safety Net (PSN) report that was delivered to Council and PAUSD over the summer. The idea behind it was it is a smaller group and could distill all of the recommendations into what the City's specific long term involvement would be in this effort. He said out of that came 5 general areas of focus:

- Sustainable structure for PSN – in the interim that will be in the form of an MOU between the partner agencies and individuals that are currently participating
- Developmental Assets that includes a resolution by the City adopting those
- Youth Outreach – increasing youth voice
- Adopting a suicide prevention policy
- A commitment to the reduction to lethal means of self harm policy in the form of Trackwatch

Now that that direction has been received, De Geus and Hermann will go back to Policy & Services on October 12 with some formal proposals. P&S will then approve and send to City Council for action in November. He said there are a number of things happening in parallel with that process.

- Developmental Assets: there is another community collaborative in sync with PSN that is moving that effort in the community. There was a community wide Assets 101 training on 9/16 that was well attended. There will be another one on 10/9.
- PTAC event tonight: the idea is to provide different levels of knowledge and engagement in the community.
- Youth Council Retreat: focus on the Assets
- Palo Alto Asset Champion Training Series: much more in depth training how to apply each of the assets in their daily lives.

Amy will discuss the survey going out.

Hermann said Trackwatch is on the agenda and is one of the strategies that the city is supporting. This is more of the City supporting a community initiative more than a City program. How it worked previously is that the City will act as a fiscal agent to support a contract with paid security staffing to supplement the volunteers that are helping. That was the initial role of the City and funds were raised by the community to support the program through the end of last school year. The City will continue to act as the fiscal agent for that contract which has been extended through the end of this calendar year and also the city through its budget process has allocated \$30k for guard staffing at a reduced level. He said the Police Department will continue to work with volunteers so we can transition at the end of this year to them solely taking over the effort.

Chair Schmid asked if the privately funding continued at the same rate or dropped off. Hermann said it dropped off significantly. He said it would likely be supported more by volunteers rather than monetarily but said they are having a tough time getting volunteers.

Shepherd asked where the money is coming from and if it was a Council project. Emslie and Herman said it was from the General Fund in the Police Budget.

Tom said on the volunteer effort after the transition would the attention go to East Meadow as well as Charleston. Hermann said he thought both would try to be staffed equally.

Drolette said the PAUSD's goal was Student Connectedness. The individual sites have taken this goal as well. PAUSD signed an MOU with PSN. Some of the major points of the MOU include looking at what is happening at each individual site so they can build assets. In addition to how we can incorporate the initiatives of project cornerstone and the 41 developmental assets. She said at this point the report back is 50% of schools size incorporating services through project cornerstone. She

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said surveys are taking place the first week of October. She said they are pushing the 5th grade sites to maximize participation. The MOU will also include have gatekeeper training. Gunn will be first on October 13 and financial support will be provided from PAUSD. For Gunn with 120 staff it is about \$2400 so they are looking for additional sources from the County. They are looking at trying web trainings. Also as part of the MOU all secondary sites will have their staff go through the training this year. In addition, they are supporting the 3 6 sessions referrals from providers for mental health support throughout the year. In March the survey results will be available. The next step is to look at trainings for teachers.

Shepherd said she noticed in an article the Weekly that Barb Spreng found standards the State has for mental well being for student and wondered what the standard is in the classroom. Drolette said it's a multi layer approach. There is ability to train teachers to embed that into their curriculum but also educating the community and parents.

Shepherd asked what the requirement for the State was and Drolette said she didn't know but could get back to Shepherd with that information.

Chair Schmid wanted to ask a basic political question to tie this to our previous topic of HSR. He said he assumed there was an interest in grade separation is PSN an advocate. Hermann said the prudent thing would be to bring it back to PSN group. Shepherd said if PSN wanted to get involved they might be spun into the highly political agenda that is going on with HSR which is very difficult to manage but said they should weigh in on the rail corridor study.

Future Meetings and Agendas

The next meeting is scheduled for October 27. On the agenda will be Safe Routes to School.

Shepherd wanted to add access to Greendell from San Antonio/Cubberley to a future agenda.

Adjournment

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