



City/School Liaison Committee
November 17, 2016
Transcript



Chair DuBois called the meeting to order at 8:06 A.M. in the Community Meeting Room, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California.

City of Palo Alto

Tom DuBois, Council Member, Committee Chair

Cory Wolbach, Council Member

Khashayar "Cash" Alaei, City Manager's Office

Palo Alto Unified School District

Terry Godfrey, Vice President

Melissa Baten Caswell, Board Member PAUSD

Cathy Mak, District Chief Business Officer

Present: DuBois, Wolbach, Godfrey, Baten Caswell arrived at 8:17 A.M.

Absent:

Oral Communications

None.

Agenda Items

1. Approval of Minutes - October 20, 2016

Chair DuBois: We moved that to the end, which I think is good. Can we approve the Minutes from last month?

Vice President Godfrey: Does that mean approving the transcript or is there different Minutes?

Chair DuBois: These are the Minutes.

Vice President Godfrey: The transcript. I move we approve the transcript.

Council Member Wolbach: Second.

MOTION: Vice President Godfrey moved, seconded by Council Member Wolbach that the City School Liaison Committee approve the Minutes from October 20, 2016.

Chair DuBois: All in favor.

MOTION PASSED: 3-0

2. Update on the City's Comprehensive Plan Process.

Chair DuBois: Welcome, Hillary. Can we get an update on the Comprehensive (Comp) Plan?

Hillary Gitelman, Planning and Community Environment Director: Yeah. I'm sure that, Tom and Cory, this will be a repeat for you. I have a handful of slides just to explain what we're doing and why we're doing it. Every jurisdiction in California has a General Plan. Ours is called the Comp Plan. A lot of what's contained in it is required by State law. You're always willing to go beyond what the State law requires, to include a number of other topics. The Plan is used by the City and the community in making decisions about capital improvement, about development. It's an opportunity to respond to current events and current issues. We've been crafting this Plan in a period where there's a lot of concern about growth, so there's been a focus on growth management strategies and parking and transportation issues. It's also really an opportunity for the community to come together and forge a collective vision. You don't ever think of it as we're going to reach consensus on everything, but this is going to express the vision of our community. It's been going on for a long time. Our current Plan is called Embracing the New Century, and it was supposed to sunset in 2010. The Council recognized the need to start the update in 2006, and it really started in 2008. The Planning Commission worked on it diligently for several years and delivered their recommendation to the Council in early 2014. At that time, the Council said, "It's been dragging on so long, we want to get some more community input before we finalize." We started a kind of new revived process with a Summit in May of 2015 and then formation of a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), which is now making its recommendations to the City Council.

Vice President Godfrey: Years ago, I remember these meetings, these One Palo Alto meetings. Was that kind of the last iteration of getting this started or was that something ...

Ms. Gitelman: That was around 2014 when we were kicking off this new phase to try to get more people engaged in the process and participating. The goal now is to get this finished next year.

Chair DuBois: I would say the Planning and Transportation Commission (PTC) was supposed to be an update, and there wasn't a lot of community involvement. That was kind of an issue.

Ms. Gitelman: There were some initial workshops, but then it went on and on and on, and there were a lot of subcommittee meetings in the office with three Commissioners and a staff person. The public kind of lost touch with what was happening. The restart was ...

Vice President Godfrey: It's hard, though. You have a lot of people, and they put up a lot of ideas. It's hard to pull them together to make them coherent.

Ms. Gitelman: Right. One of the challenges is we don't just have to do the Plan; we have to do an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to go with it. EIRs take so much time and energy. They hadn't even started that by the beginning of 2014. We've been working on that as well. This is a little summary chart of the process. We've been working on three things at once. The City Council has been working on vision statements and providing policy direction. The Citizens Advisory Committee has been working their way through each of the chapters or elements of the Plan, and then the staff has been working on the environmental review process. In 2015 and 2016, we formed the CAC. They've been going through all the policies and programs. We've been doing the EIR analysis. 2017 is when it all kind of comes to a head. The Council will in early 2017 finish reviewing all of the recommendations from the committee. We'll pull together the draft, which will be available for public comment at the same time we try and finalize the EIR process and get this adopted. The current schedule is for September or October of next year.

Vice President Godfrey: What demographers do you use?

Ms. Gitelman: We have an environmental consulting firm, Placeworks. They're the ones who are developing our projections with the policy based on Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) projections. We look out to the year 2030. We don't do any nearer-term projections; it's just straight 2030. The Citizens Advisory Committee has been a great group. It's interesting. We had a meeting earlier this week, and they're kind of rushing for the finish line now. I think everybody is exhausted. They've done a great job. The group is getting along very well, even though philosophically it can be divisive at times. They've done a super job. Early on, they discovered that—rather than sort of duke it out and take votes and have majority and minority opinions, what they've been doing is where there's disagreement, they just frame up options. The Council's going to see the Land Use Element in a week or two. They'll see there are all these different options for growth management strategies and height limits. It was a way for the committee to feel like they were creating something that was going

to be useful for the Council in decision-making. The structure of the Plan is these variety of chapters or elements around different topics. We have a couple of elements that are not required by State law, Business and Economics, Community Services and Facilities, Governance. Those are things that you typically see in General Plans. They've been a part of this Plan for a long time. The structure of the Plan is every chapter has a vision statement followed by goals that are sort of the organizing framework. The Council has been instrumental in setting those vision and goals. The policies and programs implement the vision. The programs are to-do items. They're sort of implementation tasks over the 15-year life of the Plan. One of the challenges we're going to have as we bring this project to the finish line is we have so many great ideas for programs. We're overflowing with programs.

Vice President Godfrey: And endless money.

Ms. Gitelman: Yeah. We're going to need help at the end prioritizing and making some tough choices about what ...

Vice President Godfrey: Can I go back for just a second?

Ms. Gitelman: Yeah.

Vice President Godfrey: The current Comp Plan and the proposed Comp Plan, the difference is the safety one?

Ms. Gitelman: Yeah. We took out safety. It is currently contained within the natural environment section. It was just a subsection with ..

Vice President Godfrey: I see. Was there a heightened concern on safety that made that happen or is it just ...

Ms. Gitelman: I think everybody recognized there was more to say than we had said in the past. The next steps. November 28th is when the City Council will look at Land Use. It's unfortunate we're getting it to the Council right at the end of this year. A few of the Council Members won't be on the Council that makes the final decision. We felt it was important, because they put so much time and energy in, to at least give a preview and let people give us their thoughts. The element will go back to the new Council early in the new year with the Transportation Element as really the guts of the Plan for in-depth review. At the same time, we're finishing our analysis of two more EIR planning scenarios. In March or thereabouts, we'll be asking the Council to select a preferred scenario, so that we can get a draft

Plan and a Final EIR published the middle of the year. That's kind of where we are. Happy to answer any questions.

Vice President Godfrey: Do you really need a replacement to be this far along in the process?

Ms. Gitelman: Pardon me?

Vice President Godfrey: Do you really need a replacement School Board Member to be this far along in the process?

Ms. Gitelman: Good question. That is a good question. We have probably three or four monthly meetings of the CAC to happen in the new year. It's kind of up to the School District, do they want to send someone. We've had a conflict, and Heidi hasn't been able to come to the meetings that overlap with School Board meetings, just because of the ...

Vice President Godfrey: The timing of meetings.

Ms. Gitelman: ... timing of the meetings.

Chair DuBois: They were technically nonvoting, but was she (crosstalk). Are the nonvoting members speaking up?

Ms. Gitelman: Yeah, they participate in the discussions.

Vice President Godfrey: Would you add me to your distribution list?

Ms. Gitelman: Sure.

Vice President Godfrey: That way we can send somebody to those meetings.

Ms. Gitelman: I would also be happy to just come back to this group if that would be easier. In a few months, we could do another check-in. Then, you wouldn't have to assign someone to come to four meetings.

Vice President Godfrey: That would be great, if it's okay with Tom. That would be a good solution.

Chair DuBois: You won't be here, and I may not be here. On Slide 3, you have the Jobs Forecast. It might be useful for Terry and also just for me. I can't remember the answer. There was some question about which job numbers we were using (inaudible) entire—no. ABAG was revising them down.

Ms. Gitelman: This is always a challenge. Our planning process takes longer than the biennial cycle that ABAG updates their projections. The convention is that you basically use the projections that were available when you start. We're using ABAG projections 2013. ABAG and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) are putting out their new draft of the Regional Plan, and it has different projections. To make it even more complicated, they haven't just changed the numbers for 2030-2040, for the out years; they changed the 2010 numbers. It'll be backwards and changing the baseline.

Chair DuBois: Those are actuals?

Ms. Gitelman: It's crazy. They have a different definition and a different—I talked to Steve Levy about it yesterday. He's just incensed that they changed horses. Different model, different projections.

Vice President Godfrey: A different model.

Ms. Gitelman: It's crazy. It makes it a little challenging to explain what we're doing. I feel very confident. If you look at what they've come up with, the numbers that they've suggested are very much within the range of the scenarios that we're looking at. It seemed quite reasonable.

Chair DuBois: They must have had a reason to change models, though.

Ms. Gitelman: Pardon me?

Chair DuBois: They must have had a reason to change.

Ms. Gitelman: I don't really know what it was. The two agencies, ABAG and MTC, are in this big dispute and merging their planning staff. I think it may have had something to do with "it's our turn now, you've had a shot at this, now we get to do the modeling."

Vice President Godfrey: That's mature.

Chair DuBois: What about the population forecast, is that changing relevant to the schools?

Ms. Gitelman: The ABAG changed as well. That changed as well. Again, I think what they're now showing is within the range of scenarios that we're showing. We are analyzing—this might be of interest—five and six, the scenarios that we've added to the analysis. One of them is a lot more housing. It's going to be kind of the limit on this. We're trying to bracket

where the Plan might end up. Scenario 6 has like 6,000 new housing units over the 15-year period, which seems unlikely. It's conceivable, I guess, if we really put all of our energy into that and identify a lot of new sites that aren't easily apparent.

Vice President Godfrey: Do we—I'm sorry. This is a Cathy question. Do we have kind of in parallel with those scenarios how many students we think that would produce? I know the different kinds of housing have a different ratio for the number of students produced. Do we keep in touch that way and say their Scenario 4 would be X number of kids and their Scenario 6 would be ...

Cathy Mak, District Chief Business Officer: You mean for the enrollment projection?

Vice President Godfrey: Mm hmm.

Ms. Mak: Our demographer gets updated information every year from the City with all the projects that are in the pipeline, which typically would be homes that will be built within the next three, four years. Starting last year, if you recall, what we've done is we kind of project out to the 10 years. It's about 70 new homes every year. Over the 10-year period, we would project about 1,000 units in the next 10 years.

Chair DuBois: If we had a dramatic policy change like this, I think it would be different from what you've done before, because all of a sudden there would be this big shift in policy.

Ms. Mak: Probably 6,000 over 15 years. How realistic is that?

Board Member Baten Caswell: I think one of the things that has been a little challenging in our communication back and forth is the difference between—I'm Melissa by the way.

Ms. Gitelman: This is Roland Rivera on our staff. He handles our projections.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Is the difference between projects that have been approved and what you have to do for ABAG in terms of just saying, "We have lots where you could build houses on." That's been a confusing conversation between the two entities, particularly since lots where you can build haven't been built on.

Chair DuBois: I think this is different. That's kind of business as usual. If there's a dramatic shift in policy where, as Hillary said, we put a lot of effort into finding places for housing, I think that would be something you guys should really consider if we went with, say, Scenario 6.

Vice President Godfrey: Even if we just—if when you're doing the planning, you know what the ratio is for us, these kinds of units produce 0.2 kids each or whatever, so that you at least can have on your chart if it was 6,000, we'd expect this many kids.

Ms. Gitelman: We do that. This is a very good point. We're sort of doing apples and televisions. You guys are doing a shorter-term projection based on our historic track record and actual permitting. We're doing these projections for our EIR purposes based on ABAG. It's more based on capacity, and it's looking out for a longer period. We're using the data we have on the ratio of children to households in multifamily and in single-family. We project the number of units in 2030, how many of those units will be multifamily. Based on that, we calculate school-age children.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Maybe the confusing thing that I don't think any of us have looked really into is the fact that the birth rate is dropping across the country and across the area.

Chair DuBois: We've looked at it.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Now, will you have it in?

Chair DuBois: Part of the Comp Plan is about kind of growth of the senior population.

Ms. Gitelman: We do show after 2020—even if the 2030 forecast adds a lot more units and school-age children, it slows after 2020. I think that's a factor. I'm just guessing.

Board Member Baten Caswell: I guess I'm bringing up a different thing, and that is that we all sort of missed the fact that the birth rate was dropping. I don't know. We have to make sure that that's in the projections.

Ms. Gitelman: It's always a crystal ball exercise.

Council Member Wolbach: I was just going to say I do hope that there's some level of coordination perhaps staff to staff before the selection of a preferred alternative comes to Council, so that we have a good understanding. I think there are potentially benefits and costs to each of the

scenarios. If there is a very limited growth in population and what population growth we have tilts more and more towards senior, that might mean a substantial decline, even escalating what we've seen recently, in school-age children in Palo Alto. Having an understanding of what the implications of that would be for Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD), I think, would be useful for the Council in our discussions in March. Similarly, if there's a big boost in school-age children between now and 2030, at least getting a preliminary sense of what that might potentially mean for the School District would also be useful. That would just help close the gap in the decline that they've seen recently. Would it be a negative impact? Is it something that they can manage as long as they have advanced warning? Having a sense of what the impact would be and then touching base with the School District might be really useful for us in March.

Ms. Gitelman: That's a really good point. School-age children and school capacity is only one of the metrics. When we put out the last round of scenarios, we had a whole chart of everything from traffic trips. There's just so many potential impacts and benefits of each of these planning scenarios.

Council Member Wolbach: It would be interesting for you guys to provide, if you have an opportunity, feedback even before March on the various scenarios, even if it's informal, even if it's not a full analysis like an analysis in an EIR or was more a comment in response to a Draft EIR. Just a general sense of if you do this, we can manage it but we need to know. If you do this, we can manage it. We need to know if you do this, there's no way we can handle it. It would be too much growth or too much shrinkage of our school-age kids. It would be useful if we could have that.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Cathy, I know we have a demographer's report coming up. Since this conversation hasn't happened, is there a way to get this in so that when we have the report from the demographer, at least there's a conversation that includes this, where there's some thoughts from the demographer? Is the demographer done with their work?

Ms. Mak: They're done with the work.

Board Member Baten Caswell: They're done. I do think this needs—if we have a conversation at the Board meeting that doesn't include this, even if we decide at the end this isn't going to be important to the decisions we need to make short term, we need to have that conversation.

Ms. Mak: Can you send me that information?

Ms. Gitelman: Sure.

Ms. Mak: I can take a look at it. Do you have it—the 6,000 units, do you have that sort of broken out by year?

Chair DuBois: You mean just the chart of the scenarios, Scenario 1-6?

Ms. Gitelman: I can send you some basic information.

Board Member Baten Caswell: I think the scenarios are even more important, just for us to ...

Council Member Wolbach: (crosstalk)

Board Member Baten Caswell: ... sort of look at do any of these scenarios change what we would do.

Ms. Gitelman: Be happy to send you something.

Ms. Mak: I'll take a look at that.

Council Member Wolbach: At first glance, are they manageable changes? It's like we can deal with that, but thanks for letting us know. You would need to know quickly to prepare for that, whatever direction it might be. Or is it a couple of these not only would be a change but would be a potentially unmanageable change or unmanageable if we don't get, say, higher school impact fees or something like that.

Chair DuBois: There's a next level down, which we've talked about revisiting, our Housing Element itself and where in the City houses would be. I know there's certain schools that have more room than others. It would be interesting to get a report from you guys of which schools can handle (crosstalk).

Board Member Baten Caswell: I think we have that actually already written up, which schools have empty classrooms and which don't.

Ms. Mak: Yes.

Chair DuBois: Is it generally the northern?

Board Member Baten Caswell: Actually it's because there's a lot of ...

Ms. Mak: It's in the north and south.

Board Member Baten Caswell: North and south. It's scattered around.

Council Member Wolbach: That might be useful for us (crosstalk).

Board Member Baten Caswell: For example, Fairmeadow, because we did a lot of construction there, has a bunch of empty classrooms. Yeah, we have that information; we can share it. That is really important. I remember last time when we were on a big enrollment, we thought we were on a big enrollment continuation, because we had 20 years of very consistent enrollment growth. When I came back to the School District with what looks like thousands going to be around the transportation (inaudible) have we had any conversation. We hadn't. This is important, to not just know what the scenarios are going to bring overall but where it's going to be.

Ms. Gitelman: We can send you a summary of that. I had a question for you, if it's okay, on school impact fees. There was some recent court decision that will potentially allow school districts to increase fees above Level 2. This is not a field that I'm really familiar with. In our analysis where we indicate that we could exceed school capacity, we then say, "But the School District can pursue these impact fees." Are you thinking that you will start that process?

Ms. Mak: Not for Palo Alto. Level 3 has very specific criteria that we need to meet. We're in declining enrollment, so we're not seeing a lot of growth.

Ms. Gitelman: You wouldn't be able to take advantage (crosstalk).

Council Member Wolbach: If we're seeing a likely increase in enrollment, then you could potentially charge higher impact fees.

Ms. Mak: Right. It's possible.

Chair DuBois: You have to see the growth first to quality?

Council Member Wolbach: Or you just have to predict it?

Ms. Mak: It's very specific. We talk to a consultant, and then they do a justification study whether or not we qualify for a Level 3 Impact Fee. Currently, we're not.

Ms. Gitelman: That's good to know.

Board Member Baten Caswell: The Impact Fees don't give us huge flexibility. We just got the Report.

Ms. Mak: It's about \$1 million that we received last year.

Board Member Baten Caswell: It sounds big, but then when you look at ...

Ms. Mak: It is one time.

Board Member Baten Caswell: ... we have a budget of \$230 million (crosstalk).

Council Member Wolbach: There wasn't also a lot of development last year.

Chair DuBois: No, but it's been capped for a long time. That's a very old number.

Board Member Baten Caswell: We can't build a school based on the school impact fees.

Vice President Godfrey: We can't even run a school based on school impact fees.

Council Member Wolbach: That's useful to know. I was just actually going to point out it's interesting looking at the comparisons between cities. Neighboring Mountain View, which isn't much bigger than Palo Alto in terms of population size, currently has about—they're planning for about 18,000 or more new housing units in the next few years. That's not just in their Comprehensive Plan; that's planned, almost in the pipeline already between (inaudible) San Antonio or Bayshore and El Camino. ...as much controversy as there is around going as radically high as 6,000, a third of what Mountain View and some other cities are facing. Interesting point of comparison. I'm ballparking the Mountain View numbers, so don't ...

Vice President Godfrey: Don't quote you on that.

Council Member Wolbach: It's substantial, like multiple of what we're looking at, even as our maximum.

Ms. Gitelman: We'll get Cathy some information on the scenarios with the housing numbers, school-age children and the sites that we're projecting to 2030.

Chair DuBois: If you guys could give us...

Board Member Baten Caswell: We can give you ...

Ms. Gitelman: ... can get your new report, that would be great.

Ms. Mak: I'll send it to ...

Chair DuBois: Where the empty schools are, or less full.

Ms. Gitelman: And the location ...

Board Member Baten Caswell: The (inaudible) Report probably is the right one.

Ms. Mak: There's a table there.

Board Member Baten Caswell: (inaudible) right now, but we will help you find it.

Ms. Gitelman: If you have a new Demographer's Report, we'd love that too, when that's released.

Ms. Mak: That would be—when's the next Board meeting? December 6th?

Vice President Godfrey: It's on our December 6th Board meeting. It's coming.

Ms. Gitelman: Happy to come back any time.

Vice President Godfrey: I think we had planned for this December 15th meeting to bring the enrollment report. Right?

Khashayar Alaei, Management Analyst: Yes, that was on the Agenda for the December meeting (inaudible).

Vice President Godfrey: If you want to come back and hear it live.

Board Member Baten Caswell: We can get it to you before that, so you can take a look at it.

Chair DuBois: Do you guys have any other questions on the Comp Plan overall?

Ms. Gitelman: 2017 (crosstalk).

Vice President Godfrey: Put this baby to bed.

Chair DuBois: Thank you.

Mr. Alaei: Could you email that to me? I think Cathy likes to email the PowerPoint to the whole Board.

Ms. Gitelman: Sure.

Ms. Mak: Yes, thank you.

Mr. Alae: Just saving an email from Cathy.

3. Review of Recent City Council/PAUSD Board Meetings.

Chair DuBois: (inaudible) get out of here potentially early this morning. This last item is just a review of recent Board meetings and City Council meetings.

Vice President Godfrey: Did we have a Board meeting this week? Yeah, we did. I hardly remember it.

Council Member Wolbach: I can kick off this.

Vice President Godfrey: Yes, why don't you kickoff.

Council Member Wolbach: Just a couple of things. Tom will help me out if I miss anything that's really critical for you guys. Just a couple of interesting things that we've been working on. Professorville Historic Guidelines, updating the guidelines around house remodeling, etc., in the Professorville area. We're also giving direction to Staff to start putting together a Citizens Advisory Committee to look at what the best mechanism and structure would be and needs would be for a potential tax measure probably for Fall 2018 to help pay for local transportation initiatives. We just had one pass at the County level, but it'd be great to have a little bit more for some of our local transportation efforts like our Downtown Transportation Management Association, bike safety, etc., improving our City shuttle system which, I think, a lot of your kids ride, I think, especially to Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle School (JLS) or Palo Alto High School (Paly).

Board Member Baten Caswell: And Jordan too.

Council Member Wolbach: And Jordan both.

Board Member Baten Caswell: It's like seniors and young people.

Chair DuBois: This was framed broadly, but it's also looking at a tax on businesses.

Council Member Wolbach: As the most likely, but it's not guaranteed that that's the most likely type of tax it would be. The purview isn't limited to that. That's where a lot of us are leaning. At least some of us want to at least see other options even if that's where we still end up. We are moving forward with having a bridge at Adobe Creek, for those who are interested in

biking or walking across Bayshore and 101 to get to the Baylands. That's something that we've—it's been a long torturous process. We picked one contractor; it didn't work out. We've just gone with a new Request for Proposals (RFP), and we're fine with moving forward with a new plan there. We're also updating our guidelines for architectural review, in general our criteria for architectural review in general. Those are some of the things that—on cannabis, we passed it. It'll go into effect in a couple of weeks. We passed a prohibition on the outdoor cultivation of cannabis in Palo Alto. It has a one year sunset. The idea being—we actually passed this before the proposition passed at the State level, before the election. The idea is that we want to get a better opportunity to understand what the implications of the ballot measure would be for cultivation in cities that don't have anything on the books. We passed something with a one year sunset to buy us an opportunity to have a conversation to see what the effects are going to be, to see if the measure passed.

Chair DuBois: The State measure—I'm sorry to interrupt you.

Council Member Wolbach: Real quick. The idea is that hopefully within the year we'll have that conversation and decide do we want to maintain the prohibition, do we want to make it more nuanced or does the State law provide enough guidelines that we don't need additional local guidelines.

Chair DuBois: The State law allowed cities to preempt it. It was really about getting some conditions around it, like you can't grow near schools, you can't grow in the front yard near the sidewalk. Those kinds of things.

Board Member Baten Caswell: I have a question about—have you talked at all about smoke?

Chair DuBois: Yeah. Smoke is under the same Ordinance as our current Smoking Ordinance.

Board Member Baten Caswell: It is, which is 75 feet or something. What's the current Ordinance?

Chair DuBois: I know you can't sell 500 or 1,000 feet from a school. You can't smoke in public areas. Smoking outside is fairly limited, but I'm not sure about the exact Ordinance.

Khashayar Alaei, City Manager's Office: I can get you the details. I don't know off the top of my head. The recent items that the Council approved were about Downtown and California Avenue (Cal. Ave.) and how to limit smoking in those zones.

Board Member Baten Caswell: In those zones. Does that cover Town & Country?

Mr. Alae: It does not, I don't think.

Board Member Baten Caswell: It would be really good for us to just have that. I know we probably could look it up. The fact that I'm confused about it tells you something.

Chair DuBois: We also passed it on multifamily apartments.

Mr. Alae: Did we do that? I think that's coming back.

Chair DuBois: Is it still?

Mr. Alae: Yeah. Multifamily is coming back.

Chair DuBois: It's taking a long time.

Mr. Alae: I don't think multifamily has come before the Council, but it's in the pipeline. It's being worked on.

Board Member Baten Caswell: I'm asking because after spending a little time in Denver last winter, I was shocked with what the town smells like. I had students complaining to me that it doesn't seem like the same place it used to be. I was just wondering if that was part of the discussion.

Chair DuBois: (inaudible) really haven't heard much either way. I don't know how Palo Altans feel about this new law and about growing outside or inside.

Council Member Wolbach: That's why we passed this. Basically to give us a chance to have that conversation.

Vice President Godfrey: I didn't realize you had put a sunset on that when you passed it, whenever that was, a couple of weeks ago.

Chair DuBois: It just means it's going to come back within a year.

Council Member Wolbach: Hopefully that also forces us to have the conversation.

Vice President Godfrey: To do something about it. Parks are also no smoke zones, right?

Chair DuBois: Yep.

Board Member Baten Caswell: It would be good for us to just have that, so that we know what it is.

Chair DuBois: That was a pretty good summary. We did pass ...

Vice President Godfrey: Can I ask a related question? When there's an area that's park-like but not really a park, is there any advantage or disadvantage to calling it a park? I think of that area down at the end of Cal. Ave. by the train station, which has some benches and the fountain and that sort of thing. If it's called a park so that you can call it a no smoke zone, does that create other disadvantages?

Chair DuBois: Cal. Ave. and Downtown, I believe you're not allowed to smoke on the streets in general.

Vice President Godfrey: I just used that as an example.

Council Member Wolbach: (inaudible) basically.

Vice President Godfrey: Right. Is there a disadvantage to including those or ...

Chair DuBois: If they're dedicated parkland, they cannot be used for anything else. A park is pretty stringent. When you say is there a difference between a park and park-like ...

Vice President Godfrey: And a plaza.

Council Member Wolbach: That's a good question. I'm not sure how to ...

Mr. Alae: I guess what I'm hearing is that there's concern about where people can smoke generally across the City and then what measures can be put in place to control those areas.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Or what measures do you already have in place. We might just not know. It's to our best interest for us to educate our kids about that and our staff so that we're setting the right example. I'm not saying that we have smokers everywhere, but how that's going to change.

Council Member Wolbach: Is it possible to email around the current Ordinance?

Mr. Alae: I'll do that. Just so you guys know, we're already looking at—we're starting to get asked can we put a dispensary or a retail store in Downtown or University Avenue. Right now, the State won't issue any permits until January 2018. The dispensary or a retail store would need a State permit to operate.

Council Member Wolbach: Again, we've got a year to (crosstalk).

Mr. Alae: A year to think about that. We're going to be coming back to Council with a package to address these issues. I think we could wrap this into that. There's one more thing. We are working on a website that is going to be simple Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about this. We just predict a little bit into the new year entrepreneurs are going to start knocking at the door.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Also, having been recently up in Portland, there's billboards everywhere. Are we going to have any restriction around signage and billboards?

Chair DuBois: We're pretty strict on billboards and (crosstalk) already.

Board Member Baten Caswell: There are signs around for different businesses. I don't what the restrictions, if any, there are.

Mr. Alae: We'd also have to look at the State rules or the Federal rules. I don't know if you guys have been seeing the commercials with vaping on TV.

Board Member Baten Caswell: With who?

Vice President Godfrey: Vaping.

Mr. Alae: The vaporizer.

Board Member Baten Caswell: I don't watch TV.

Mr. Alae: There's commercials on TV.

Chair DuBois: They're not allowed to advertise cigarettes on TV.

Mr. Alae: Companies now are advertising ...

Board Member Baten Caswell: Vaping's okay?

Mr. Alae: Yeah, vaping advertising is okay. We'll have to see how that all meshes. It may be a State or Federal issue too we want to just maybe add to our legislative advocacy stuff.

Chair DuBois: One last thing, and then I'd love to hear about School Board meetings. We had our second Annual Veterans Event, which was really awesome. They had a Pearl Harbor survivor, a 97-year-old guy who was on the Pennsylvania; a World War II prisoner of war, Korea and Vietnam, Iraq. These are great events. I don't think we advertise them very well. It'd be great to ...

Board Member Baten Caswell: I never heard about it.

Chair DuBois: It'd be great to have some high schools kids show up and really make it more—it was at the Mitchell Park Community Center this year.

Board Member Baten Caswell: (crosstalk) this is a good thing. We're not great at communicating about our great events either. Is there some place that we can share this information?

Chair DuBois: This event, I don't even think we advertised well. I'd love to see it promoted more.

Vice President Godfrey: I think this is the someplace that we should (crosstalk).

Board Member Baten Caswell: I'm not sure it is. It's good after the fact. I'll bring up something in advance for us here. It would be great if there was staff people that would share with each other. When things are blasted out, for example, you know that Parent Teacher Association (PTA) blasts out—that's not run by the School District—activities all the time that are going on around town. I don't know who on your Staff sends this stuff to the PTA communications people. I don't know who we are supposed to send it to. Maybe our staff knows who we're supposed to send it to on your side. Do we know?

Ms. Mak: I think it would be Jorge, our communications (inaudible).

Chair DuBois: Just getting Claudia and Jorge in sync.

Board Member Baten Caswell: That would be good.

Mr. Alae: The problem may be there's too much for them to issue, not to go the other way. I'll be honest with you, we send out so many newsletters

and so many different e-blasts from the City. I'm pretty certain the Veterans Affair was in multiple things.

Chair DuBois: It was probably easy to miss, but it's a good event.

Mr. Alae: I think people are just maybe a little overburdened with information. Nevertheless, I will mention to Claudia that we should add the PTA contacts to all of the City distribution newsletters. Hopefully, they can ...

Board Member Baten Caswell: They can then pick and choose what they decide to tell people about.

Chair DuBois: Maybe not all of the newsletters.

Mr. Alae: Just the key ones, the Mayor's and maybe the main City e-news blast.

Vice President Godfrey: That's enews@paloaltopta.org.

Mr. Alae: What is it?

Vice President Godfrey: enews@paloaltopta.org.

Board Member Baten Caswell: As the people change, the repository does not change.

Council Member Wolbach: Actually, I just remembered specific events, two other things. This actually is a really good City/School connection thing. We have two Town Halls coming up. We did two Town Halls going into the holidays last year. We have two Town Halls coming up on the 7th and the 14th of December respectively. They're both at 7:00 P.M., and they're both at PAUSD schools. Thank you for listening. On December 7th at 7:00 P.M., I will be at a Town Hall at Escondido School for College Terrace. Also it's not just for College Terrace neighborhood; it's really for that whole part of the City or anyone from around the City who wants to go.

Board Member Baten Caswell: What's the topic?

Chair DuBois: Just things relevant to that area and part of the City.

Council Member Wolbach: More a chance for the City and City Council Members and staff to hear from the community than anything else. We can give a quick update about things we're working on. It's like these meetings but between the City and the neighborhood.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Basically, it's an open forum for the City.

Chair DuBois: We try to tailor it again to that neighborhood, if there are any issues happening. I would imagine the College Terrace Centre, the Residential Preferential Parking Program (RPP) in Evergreen Park are probably things we'd talk about at that one.

Vice President Godfrey: We should probably have our school liaison for Escondido or Nixon or Jordan there, because those are the schools served by—that neighborhood is served by those schools. It's not crucial because the topic is not going to be schools, but sometimes that comes up.

Council Member Wolbach: Again, it's really for that whole chunk of the City. Southgate ...

Vice President Godfrey: Evergreen Park, that's part of that part of the City.

Council Member Wolbach: I hear that some people love it.

Vice President Godfrey: Yes, some do.

Council Member Wolbach: Evergreen Park, the northern part of Ventura and College Terrace, etc. On December 14th also at 7:00 P.M., the following week, at Barron Park school for Barron Park, Greenmeadow, Greenmeadow II—Green Acres II, southern and southeastern part of the City.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Would you really get people from Greenmeadow coming over to ...

Council Member Wolbach: I misspoke. I meant Green Acres, which is right next to Barron Park. That's my (inaudible). Why I'm bringing it up is tell your friends.

Board Member Baten Caswell: We will tell our friends.

Vice President Godfrey: For us, as I mentioned before Melissa arrived, we do our transition to new Board earlier than you guys do. We did our goodbye shindig on Tuesday. We have our new Board being sworn in on December 6th. Congratulations to Melissa for rejoining us.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Thank you.

Vice President Godfrey: We have two new Board Members. Jennifer DiBrienza and Todd Collins are joining us. We said our goodbyes, as I said, to Camille Townsend and Heidi Emberling; although, they're not finished yet.

We have more work to do between now and when the new Board starts. Things that we've discussed most recently. We've having a discussion about weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) in the district. That's not particularly interesting to the City folks. You just may hear about it from people.

Chair DuBois: Is that settled?

Vice President Godfrey: No.

Chair DuBois: I thought you just voted.

Vice President Godfrey: We did; we voted. The implementation wasn't as expected. There were more complications in implementing it than we expected when we voted. We're doing a special session on it on Monday at 4:00 P.M. We will discuss it one more time. We are making some changes to our benefits for our employees. That's not ratified yet but will be shortly. I assume you guys have the same ...

Board Member Baten Caswell: We actually should share with you what the changes are. I think you may hear about it.

Chair DuBois: What are they at the high level?

Board Member Baten Caswell: The high level is we'll have two plans, Kaiser and Sutter. Stanford's not part of either of those. That's not because we don't love Stanford. It's because this is what the unions preferred based on the costs. The costs were dramatically different to go with those two plans rather than to ...

Chair DuBois: You're not allowed to add an expensive plan where the employee plays a larger share?

Board Member Baten Caswell: We are. They were uninterested in that.

Vice President Godfrey: It's a change for us, for sure.

Mr. Alae: Sorry to interrupt. Sutter gives them access to Palo Alto Medical Foundation, right?

Board Member Baten Caswell: Yeah. It's Palo Alto Medical Foundation and all of the Sutter hospitals. There are Sutter hospitals.

Vice President Godfrey: Just not Stanford. Not a part of that.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Stanford's not a Sutter hospital.

Vice President Godfrey: Full-day kindergarten started. We had voted on that last year, but it started mid-October.

Board Member Baten Caswell: One family has opted not to go full-day. Out of all the people that were so worried about it, one has opted not to. It seems like it's going okay.

Vice President Godfrey: It seems like it's going okay. What else? We are starting to talk about more construction at the elementary schools. I think you all know that Addison has construction planning underway. At the next Board meeting, we'll look at the queue of what's next. There's plenty of old multipurpose rooms out there, things like that. As you probably know, the central building at Gunn High School comes down in January. There'll be lots of construction at Gunn.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Just for you to know, we have not put any investment into Hoover for a very, very, very long time. That's likely to be—that's one of the recommendations, that that's one of the first ones that we invest in next.

Chair DuBois: It looks like a lot of the schools—are you going to rebuild some of it?

Board Member Baten Caswell: Even just basic stuff that we did at other schools, like changing the electrical and things like that, wasn't done there. Classroom enhancements and things like that. We're not building another school there. Just renovating the existing is the recommendation.

Vice President Godfrey: We have Audit Reports on our bonds and things like that. You won't be surprised to know those audits are nice, clean audits. Let's see. That's it that I can think of. What else would you add?

Board Member Baten Caswell: Not from the Board meeting per se, but if you want to know about some events that are happening, we have a Town Hall scheduled for ...

Vice President Godfrey: The 29th.

Board Member Baten Caswell: ... 29th. It's a webinar (inaudible) could be online as well as live.

Vice President Godfrey: I think (inaudible).

Board Member Baten Caswell: We're trying to do these—our parents have encouraged us to have more webinars so that people can sit at home while they're taking care of their kids and also participate.

Vice President Godfrey: The 29th, 6:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. I think.

Board Member Baten Caswell: I don't remember the time. That sounds like a typical time, but I don't remember.

Council Member Wolbach: For people who do want to go in-person, will that be just at your usual offices?

Vice President Godfrey: Yes.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Just in the boardroom.

Chair DuBois: Is that really the Superintendent or do you guys participate?

Board Member Baten Caswell: It's usually the Superintendent, but we will probably be there sitting around. We also have something fun for the holidays. The madrigal feast will be happening on the 3rd and 4th at the Palo Alto Theatre. If you haven't been at the new Performing Arts Center, that's a nice thing to go to. It's very holiday focused. It's always about King George VIII. It's always a different story about King George VIII. It's a brand new one this year. If you saw last year's, it's different. There will be food served, like a high tea, during the intermissions. You can get tickets online. It's really fun to go to. I'm sure there's some other performances as well. I just don't have them all.

Chair DuBois: *The Crucible* is over, right?

Board Member Baten Caswell: *The Crucible* was fantastic.

Vice President Godfrey: It was so good.

Board Member Baten Caswell: *The Importance of Being Earnest* was fantastic. What we should do is we should get you a plays and performances calendar, I'm thinking. I wonder how we could do that. Maybe Jorge could figure that out. This is not on either agenda. I know that there's been some bicycle and pedestrian incidents around town with kids, not on campuses. I don't know if there's been more. When they happen, people call me.

Chair DuBois: Is this like Police Reports?

Board Member Baten Caswell: You know that weird flashing thing going off of Embarcadero before you go down to go over to Paly? Do you know that? You know the dip before you go into Town and Country? As you're going in that direction, there's a ...

Council Member Wolbach: Some flashing lights for pedestrians.

Board Member Baten Caswell: ... flashing light for crossing there. That's not working particularly well. There seems to be regularly close calls, and there have been recently, at least one that I know of, of a kid being hit off their bike. The kid was okay.

Chair DuBois: By a car?

Board Member Baten Caswell: By a car. The kid was okay. I did hear from some people about that, like why is this still a problem.

Mr. Alae: I'll take a note and talk to Transportation and Police Department (PD) and see what's going on there.

Chair DuBois: We did pass some improvements there, but they're obviously not done.

Board Member Baten Caswell: The thing is if we do an improvement to see if it'll work and if it works, great. If it's not working, what happens?

Chair DuBois: There's further improvement. That whole area is going to be redone.

Council Member Wolbach: I can't remember if we talked about that one last time.

Chair DuBois: We did, I think.

Council Member Wolbach: We're going to be substantially redesigning the area around it. Is it between Bryant and El Camino? It'll be redesigned pretty dramatically.

Board Member Baten Caswell: In the interim ...

Council Member Wolbach: When you guys hear stuff like that, if there hasn't a report to the police—I'm trying to think what the best way is for us to get that information, so we can be aware of it.

Board Member Baten Caswell: I'll just tell you. When I get a call like that and the person doesn't know the name of the kid that it happened to, they could just tell me, "At 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, I saw a kid on the ground that had just been hit by a car, seemed okay, could get up." I'm not sure. Is that a report that we should be giving to somebody?

Mr. Alae: Certainly our dispatch number, 911 or the nonemergency, is a City-wide communications number. Residents and everyone should feel free to call that with even a just a report.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Even several hours afterwards, someone calls me and just wants to make sure that somebody reported this.

Mr. Alae: What they'll do is they'll just tag it. They'll send it to an officer. An officer, when they get free time and if it's not urgent, will call you, get a report, and it'll go into this thing. Our officers provide great service, and they're there. They help on many different issues. Secondly, the more we can push our Palo Alto 311 website, our app—I don't know if you guys have heard of it, downloaded it ...

Board Member Baten Caswell: I have heard of it.

Mr. Alae: ... or used it. Please tell all residents to use that. If there's an intersection they find that there's an issue with, take a picture of it, load it, and it'll go in. We're really trying to get a lot of usage on that app, because it helps our departments track and monitor and fix issues around the City. I think between those two, we could start to mitigate a lot of the incidents.

Board Member Baten Caswell: That was just one example. I don't want to say, but there's a zillion things just at that place. I do get these calls. You probably get these calls too.

Council Member Wolbach: I guess the best thing is probably call the nonemergency number or Palo Alto Police. Will our police also let the Planning Department know so they can track where those incidents are, so they can be aware just in the long term (crosstalk).

Vice President Godfrey: When you use the 311, don't you have to pick a department it's going to go to?

Mr. Alae: You pick a topic.

Vice President Godfrey: Having tried to use it recently, was not intuitive to me.

Mr. Alae: We've told the app and IT that we need to add an "other" category. It's not just you don't know where ...

Chair DuBois: If you send it to the wrong place, it'll still get routed.

Mr. Alae: It'll get routed.

Chair DuBois: They'll figure it out.

Vice President Godfrey: I'm so glad you said that. I'm going to just pick a random one. I'm standing there, and I'm thinking, "I want to report this, but I can't figure out on the list of things to whom I'm supposed to report this. Forget it."

Mr. Alae: If for some reason you submit it, and they close it out, and you notice it's not right, then reply and say wrong thing.

Chair DuBois: To switch to a more serious topic, going back to events. Do both the schools do TED Talks, the high schools?

Board Member Baten Caswell: Yes, in the spring.

Chair DuBois: I was thinking we have a lot of great City staff with expertise in different areas. I don't know how they pick Talk speakers.

Board Member Baten Caswell: The kids pick the speakers. They usually pick themes. If you have some ideas and you want to send them over, I'm sure they would be (crosstalk).

Chair DuBois: It's more—I know they pick the topics. It might be just making them aware, depending on the topics, that there are a lot of experts that could probably give some pretty interesting talks.

Vice President Godfrey: Those are—career month at Paly would probably be a good place.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Career month at Paly is probably one where the adults make the—the kids are at that too. You could have more influence. If you have a list of topics and speakers ...

Chair DuBois: Do you guys include public service for those?

Board Member Baten Caswell: Usually at career week we do. The way career week works at Paly—I don't know exactly how they do it at Gunn—is every day they pick probably three or four speakers for a week at lunch

time. A lot of kids come because there's free pizza. They pick which topic they want to come into. There's usually two rooms, so maybe there's four speakers.

Chair DuBois: Just a thought.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Who organizes that now? It was Christina Owens [phonetic] but not anymore.

Vice President Godfrey: I don't know who it is anymore.

Board Member Baten Caswell: We'll find out. If you have a list or whatever, we'll find out who is organizing it.

Vice President Godfrey: We just started getting this rolling list of events, like the special education family fun day, gala opening of Paly Performing Arts Center, walk and roll day. We just have asked our communications person to do this for us. Buena Vista Posada is on here. Would that be of use to you?

Chair DuBois: Could you ask him to send that to the City Clerk? That would be just one place.

Board Member Baten Caswell: I'm not sure that is the right venue, though, for what he's asking for.

Chair DuBois: This could go to Council Members (crosstalk) to the City Clerk.

Vice President Godfrey: I was thinking something they're particularly interested in, like this kind of—it has plenty of things you don't care about. A pie rally, you probably don't care about that. I'll do that.

Chair DuBois: We've got one more meeting before the end of the year.

Mr. Alae: We do.

Chair DuBois: Terry told me she can't make that.

Vice President Godfrey: I cannot make the last meeting. This is my last meeting.

Chair DuBois: We'll make sure both of you can.

Council Member Wolbach: What's the date?

Vice President Godfrey: The 15th, I believe.

Board Member Baten Caswell: I can make it.

Council Member Wolbach: I should be able to.

Board Member Baten Caswell: I apologize. I had a child issue this morning.

Chair DuBois: You sound like you're fighting a cold too.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Yeah. I can fight a cold, but ...

Chair DuBois: Either that or you've been smoking.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Because that's something I really like to do.

Council Member Wolbach: That's fine for me.

Chair DuBois: We're going to do the Enrollment Report. Anything else on the agenda?

Mr. Alaaee: That's all we have on the agenda, the Enrollment Report. Were you guys able to get Staff here and everything for that?

Council Member Wolbach: There was something maybe (inaudible) for that or to start the new year. I think it is on your minds, the School District. I think it's on our minds here and everybody's minds. Preventing hate crimes, harassment, the general concerns and some very specific and real concerns about discrimination, harassment, hate crimes, etc., and how Palo Alto will deal with that as a whole community, the City, School District, residents, how our Police Department deals with things like that and the changing political culture at the national level. We've had obviously student protests, peaceful, about this recently. That might be something we might want to discuss at an upcoming meeting.

Board Member Baten Caswell: Are you thinking of having the Police Department come in and talk about how they handle these things?

Council Member Wolbach: Potentially. There might be other aspects to this as well. That's why I'm just kind of raising it. I'm sitting down with our Police Chief next week just for coffee. We've spoken very briefly this week. Apparently the Police Department's already doing some outreach to some partners in the community. I think everybody's looking for opportunities to send a positive message that, even though there is an apparent trend nationally to see more incidents that are racially, gender, etc., rooted, we

want to make sure that doesn't happen here, and that people feel that Palo Alto's a safe place. I'm not sure what the best way is to move forward with that between us. It might be something we'd want to talk about at a future City/School Liaison Committee meeting.

Vice President Godfrey: Our wellness centers put out a standalone note to students and parents about the environment and resources and expectations of inclusiveness and good behavior. We certainly on the campuses have no tolerance for any of the kinds of bullying. Even the stuff that just feels like joking, it's not joking to the people who are experiencing it. It would be interesting to know if you have witnessed or if you're aware of any of that type of behavior around the City. I thought the peace marches were awesome. They seemed very positive. The follow-up comments online and on Facebook (inaudible) were not great.

Board Member Baten Caswell: I was just wondering where exactly you're going to... We have policies on bullying and harassment. If you'd like to see what they are so that you're aware of how we handle this ...

Chair DuBois: It strikes me too that it's like the more you call attention to it, you create an issue where we may not even have an issue in Palo Alto.

Board Member Baten Caswell: I think the place that we may need to focus is some education with our students on something that seems funny to you doesn't come across that way, then we're not going to have tolerance for it. I don't know that that's a City/School discussion.

Vice President Godfrey: You probably saw, since you don't have kids in the District, this note from (inaudible) about ...

Chair DuBois: I didn't see it (crosstalk).

Vice President Godfrey: I'll send it to you, Cory, because I know you have ...

Board Member Baten Caswell: Cory, you've got children in the District that we don't know about?

Vice President Godfrey: I'll just send it to you.

Chair DuBois: Again, you're making a big deal out of it, where it maybe gets picked up in the papers and things, feels like it could be counterproductive if it was ...

Board Member Baten Caswell: I think what happened was the collaboration or at least the communication on the peace march worked pretty well. There was some collaboration to make sure that it would be calm and peaceful. That may be the thing we want to focus on more, how do we make sure that we communicate when something comes up that could be handled in many different ways. We could, by working together, handle it smoothly.

Chair DuBois: My daughter is very interested. Denise sent out an email to parents the night before. Of course, my daughter doesn't want to break the rules, so I'm encouraging her to break the rules.

Board Member Baten Caswell: I didn't see Denise's, but I did see the one that went out at Paly. It said this is our ...

Chair DuBois: Policy.

Board Member Baten Caswell: ... policy, and it sort of left it with that.

Chair DuBois: That's funny. My daughter took it as we're not allowed to do this.

Vice President Godfrey: She's a rule follower. I'm sending you what we got from the wellness centers that went to the students and the parents, and then what was in the Superintendent's weekly so you can see that messaging from the Central Offices.

Mr. Alae: Before we wrap up, maybe we could talk about the next meeting. Historically in our first meeting in the new year, we talk about the items for the whole year. I was just wondering if maybe this Committee wanted to do some prep work and maybe put together a recommendation list for the new Committee and the new Chair. Maybe that helps the new Committee.

Chair DuBois: You could do that. If you guys wanted to put together what we did this year, what we did last year.

Mr. Alae: Are you okay with that?

Board Member Baten Caswell: I think doing a pure rollover doesn't serve anyone. We inherited sort of a peer rollover and then had to adjust it.

Chair DuBois: I tried something different. Last year we locked the agenda in January for the entire year. This year, I tried to keep it a little more fluid. I don't know if that worked or not.

Board Member Baten Caswell: I think it was good. I do think that when you come in and you have this, what we narrowed it from last year with no thoughts from the last group, it just sets you back a little, probably a meeting.

Chair DuBois: You're saying it is worth doing?

Board Member Baten Caswell: I think it's worth doing, even if not everyone's here. I think it's worth at least just talking through it.

Mr. Alae: To be the starting point for the next Committee.

Chair DuBois: Sounds good. Should we adjourn? I guess.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 A.M.