



# School/City Liaison Committee Minutes



## School/City Liaison Committee Meeting Wednesday, January 25, 2006

8:15 AM to 9:30 AM  
City of Palo Alto, Civic Center  
Council Conference Room  
250 Hamilton Ave  
Palo Alto

In Attendance:

### City of Palo Alto

Larry Klein, City Councilmember, Chair  
Dena Mossar, City Councilmember  
Emily Harrison, Assistant City Manager  
Steve Emslie, Dir. Planning and Community Environment  
Kathy Durham, Commute Program Coordinator  
Gayle Likens, Acting Chief Transportation Official  
Rob DeGeus, Recreation and Youth Services Division Manager  
Katie Whitley, Administrative Assistant

### Palo Alto Unified School District

Jerry Matranga, Associate Supt, Business Services  
Pete Pearne, Mgr Maintenance, Operations and Facilities  
Gail Price, Board Member  
Barb Mitchell, Board Member

Handouts: Safe Routes to School  
Canopy  
Healthier City of Palo Alto

Meeting convened at 8:16 a.m.

Chair Klein announced that Council Member Dena Mossar would be on the Committee and not Vice Mayor Yoriko Kishimoto.

Gail Price welcomed the two new members Larry Klein and Dena Mossar to the Committee

### **1. Oral Communications**

None

## **2. Approval of Minutes – November 30, 2005**

Ms. Price moved to approve, Ms. Mossar seconded. Minutes approved 4-0.

It was decided that item number 3- Report from Canopy be moved to item number 4.

## **3. Follow up on Joint Resolution on Traffic Safety**

Ms. Harrison introduced City staff members Steve Emslie, Gayle Likens and Kathy Durham.

Mr. Emslie explained this presentation was a follow up to an item on the agenda of the November meeting. Mr. Emslie introduced Kathy Durham who would be giving the presentation.

Ms. Durham passed out 3 documents. 1) consensus statement from the National Safe Routes to School; 2) a resolution in City format; 3) a resolution in School District format. Ms. Durham said there was one bullet point that Board Member Mandy Lowell had asked that the language be changed. Under solution, the 5<sup>th</sup> bullet from the bottom, the phrase “not along busy streets on the edges of neighborhoods” was taken out. Ms. Durham pointed out on the parallel resolution the 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet on the City’s format refers to the City’s policy, while the School District’s refers to their commitment of the safety of kids.

Mr. Klein asked if Palo Alto High has been tracking how kids are getting to school. Ms. Price answered yes, that a lot of community activists have taken charge on that. Mr. Klein asked if the number of kids arriving by cars has increased and Ms. Price answered there are still a number arriving by foot or by bike. Mr. Klein asked if an attitudinal adjustment is needed in our society as people don’t walk or ride to school anymore. Ms. Price said they are restating and reemphasizing their commitment to these goals. Ms. Price said the City and the District have an interest in promoting healthy activities.

Ms. Mossar said the committee has been working for 2 years with the PTA representatives on this partnership to improve school commute safety and encourage kids to walk and great progress has been made. Ms. Mossar said once a quarter the Committee meets with the PTA representatives to go over the status of the projects and gather information. Ms. Mossar told Mr. Klein that his concerns are part of an ongoing formal conversation that the Committee had agreed to have with the PTA reps.

Ms. Durham explained the document Safe Routes to School Task Force was passed out to this committee in 2004 and the resolutions before the Committee now are the result.

Mr. Matranga asked in terms of the wording how they might not have the expectation the district is in the position to provide more bussing unless that were to become a priority. Ms. Mossar said the Committee developed this language not the City. Ms. Harrison suggested the wording be changed to "public transportation". Ms. Price suggested that when this item comes back on the agenda at the quarterly meeting with the PTA reps it be brought back as a clarification.

Mr. Klein asked what feedback comes back from the group about elementary school or high school students driving because it's the thing to do. Mr. Price said these are ongoing conversations. Ms. Mitchell said there has been excellent education on these issues from the PTA and Police Department. Ms. Mitchell said with the elementary students one issue is a longer commute. With the high school students some factors are: after school jobs, sports off campus and growth in enrollment.

Mr. Klein called for a vote for the Committee to go back to their respective bodies to take action on the resolutions. Ms. Price so moved and Ms. Mossar seconded.

Ms. Harrison said the resolution would be put on the February 6, 2006 City Council agenda. Ms. Price asked Mr. Matranga to make sure the District has it on its agenda at their February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **4. Report from Canopy**

Ms. Catherine Martineau, Executive Director from Canopy introduced Susan Rosenberg, Chair, and passed out handouts. Ms. Martineau began the presentation to the Committee by announcing Canopy's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ms. Martineau said Canopy works with a number of other organizations, and they would like to work with this Committee and the School District.

Ms. Martineau said there were 3 points she was going to talk to: 1) maintenance of campus trees; 2) plantings on campuses; 3) tree education for students.

- 1) Maintenance of trees on campuses: Ms. Martineau proposed that the School District adopt a resolution recognizing the value of campus trees and its intent to improve their treatment. Ms. Martineau also proposed the District initiate a dialogue with its landscape crews in order to adopt ANSI tree care standards and devise a plan to teach them to enforce compliance to these standards. Another proposal brought forward by Ms. Martineau was the School District have a similar arrangement to that by which the City crews maintain school playing fields, and ask the City arborist to consult or more for the School District on tree matters.
- 2) Plantings on campuses: Ms. Martineau said there is state funding for planting shade trees on school grounds and campuses take advantage of this opportunity. If there are any questions Ms. Martineau said Jennifer Kane

(project leader for Ohlone School planting and parent) or Canopy could help with the process and answers.

- 3) Tree education for students: Ms. Martineau said Canopy proposed that the School District offer a district-wide Project Learning Tree training workshop. It is available for grades Pre-K-8 and conforms to California standards. Canopy also proposed working with student activity leaders or clubs to create a tree walk for each campus. Ms. Martineau said that since Canopy has experience in this process it could offer coaching to student groups.

Mr. Pearne would be interested in meeting with Canopy to discuss the care of trees.

Mr. Matranga inquired about the grade level for the Project Learning Tree and whether Ms. Martineau had met with any of the science resource teachers. Ms. Martineau answered the grade levels go all the way up through 12 and she had not been in touch with the science resources. Mr. Matranga suggested that Ms. Martineau get in touch with Rachel Jordan from the District.

Ms. Price suggested that Ms. Martineau get in touch with the PTA Council and focus on aspects on the Tree Walk. Ms. Mitchell provided the contact name and number for the PTA president.

Ms. Harrison said the City arborist and Canopy are working closely together. Mr. Pearn has been in contact with Dave Sandage, City arborist, when there has been a need. Ms. Harrison suggested a discussion to talk about a coordination effort in the upcoming contract with tree services.

Ms. Price asked if Ms. Martineau would speak to Ms. Jordan about the possibility of getting a grant going for planting and suggested that she also contact the PTA.

Mr. Klein asked if there was a formal program for planting. Mr. Matranga said the District was in the middle of working on the facility master plan and this is a very good time to look at coming up with a plan.

Ms. Mossar suggested that during the Read Across America the books focus on trees.

Mr. DeGeus suggested putting the Tree Walks in the Enjoy catalog.

##### **5. Draft Resolution “Take Action for a Healthier City of Palo Alto”**

Mr. DeGeus passed out a draft resolution to “Take Action for a Healthier City of Palo Alto. The draft was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission on 1/24/06. Ms. Harrison said Vice Mayor Kishimoto asked to bring this draft resolution forward to the City School Liaison Committee. Mr. DeGeus modeled the draft resolution from one that was done in San Francisco that came from Strategic Alliance. Mr. DeGeus revised that and drafted something for Palo Alto with 3 main points: Obesity, Take Action, and Support Strategic Alliance.

Ms. Harrison said if the resolution moves forward, staff would draft one in the School District format as well.

Ms. Price said she was interested in bringing the resolution back to the School Board.

Ms. Mossar pointed out the Strategic Alliance recommendations and actions were not spelled out and suggested putting those in the resolution. Ms. Mossar felt uncomfortable with a resolution to support an organization she knows nothing about but is comfortable with the concept of the resolution.

Ms. Price expressed concern about not having enough information about Strategic Alliance.

Ms. Harrison suggested the focus of Strategic Alliance be taken out of the resolution and instead put emphasis on the City and District efforts for more healthy living.

Mr. Klein said he was concerned with the language about the Governor's summit and wanted more information and clarification on the Strategic Alliance. If the summit already occurred, remove the language in the resolution. Or put in language such as the Governor's summit occurred on such and such a date.

Ms. Harrison said she would work with Mr. DeGeus and the resolution would be brought back to this Committee at the next meeting.

Ms. Mossar asked that the 4<sup>th</sup> whereas be changed from "prevent disease" to "reduce risk". Ms. Mossar also suggested the language about the increasing of park space be changed since this would imply Council action.

This item will be brought back to the Committee at the next meeting.

## **6. Future Meetings and Agenda Items**

Mr. Klein asked if Wednesday mornings are still a good time to meet. Ms. Price said the fourth Wednesday at 8:15 worked best for her. The Committee agreed on the day and time.

Ms. Harrison said the Committee took time at the beginning of the year to set the priorities and milestones for the year. Ms. Price thought it was helpful to have update meetings and progress meetings.

Ms. Mossar said the transportation issue should be brought back in February.

The February meeting was moved to March 1 due to school break.

It was decided to cancel meetings in July, August and December.

Ms. Price said the Committee would set priorities at the next meeting.

Ms. Harrison said she wanted to bring back Emergency Preparedness to the Committee since it is now a City Council Top 3 Priority.

Future Agendas: March 1- Transportation update  
Priority Setting

March 29 – Emergency Preparedness

April 26 – Financial Briefing

Future Topics: Long Range Facilities Planning  
Update on Long Range Funding Proposals  
Resource Conservation & Policies & Practices

Meeting Adjourned at 9:40