

MINUTES
HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS COMMITTEE
July 28, 2009
CITY HALL
Council Chambers
1017 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD
7:00 - 9:30 PM

Housing and Human Concerns Committee Members Present: D. Brosseau, K. Bondonno, M. Manuel, B. Miller, R. Dickinson, J. Richardson, C. Robinson and C. Wright

Housing and Human Concerns Committee Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Chin, Jones-Thomas, Mees and Webb

Staff Members Absent: None

Guests Present: Laura Stetson of Hogle Ireland, Tom Passanisi, Redwood City Principal Planner and Kristen Anderson, Redwood City Childcare Coordinator

1. Approval of Minutes

M/S (Bondonno/Wright) to approve minutes from May 26, 2009.

Approved 6-0-2 (Manuel/Miller abstained)

2. Oral Communications

None

3. Public Hearing

None

4. New Items

4.a. Threshold 2009 Update

Committee member Bondonno reported Threshold 2009 was moving forward as planned. There were 20 people signed up for training as facilitators on Saturday the 25th. Staff Member Webb added there are three community conversations planned on August 5, August 25 and August 29.

Committee Member Richardson recused herself.

4.b. General Plan Element, Building Community

Tom Passanisi, City Principal Planner, addressed the Committee and said they had received a draft of the Building Community element of the New General Plan, which describes the goals, policies and programs for social programs and needs. The purpose of tonight's meeting was to highlight some of the important programs in the Building Community element and make sure it covers the items that are important to the Committee. Following the input, staff would revise the document and submit it to the other boards, committees and commissions and the Planning Commission in mid August. A refined version would be

presented to the Planning Commission and Council in the fall. Mr. Passanisi introduced Laura Stetson of Hogle Ireland who would give a presentation.

Ms. Stetson addressed the committee about the Building Community element. Two key questions posed to the HHCC are: 1. Does this draft element address the committee's area of interest and 2. Does it establish a plan for action? The General Plan program is based on the Guiding Principles the community adopted several years ago through an extensive community outreach process. Some of the areas identified as important to the City were as follows:

- Jobs/housing balance
- Housing for all income levels
- Employment & education
- Transit/Mobility accessibility
- Healthcare access

Some of the areas of concern to the HHCC are as follows:

- Fostering a caring community and making sure the humans services needs are met
- Opportunities for education or lifelong learning enrichment
- Community safety
- Inclusiveness and open governance

Within the Building Community section of the General Plan are several subsections titled Public Places, Trails & Connections, Recreation and Human Services, Health, Lifelong Learning, Libraries, Schools, Child Care, Culture and the Arts and Governance.

Public Places addresses parks, plazas, community centers, libraries and similar gathering places. The City did a park needs strategy in 2008 which has been incorporated into the general plan. The City has a goal to provide three acres of park space per 1,000. The City is currently providing about 2.99 acres per 1,000.

Trails and Connections-The City has some bikeways and pedestrian connections. There is talk of creating a connection of a 400 mile trail that goes around the San Francisco Bay. The purpose of this trail is for recreation and also to give people access to nature and open water areas.

Recreation and Human Services deals with the programs the City provides to meet the recreation needs of all people and meet basic human needs such as providing food and the importance of partnerships that provide these services.

Health talks about the importance of access to healthcare and access to healthy food choices.

Lifelong Learning, Libraries and Schools addresses the programs the library offers to educate kids and provide literacy education. There may also be partnerships that develop to get the most out of limited resources such as joint use agreements for use of school fields and after school program partnerships.

Child Care addresses a desperate need for good quality childcare in the community. One of the challenges is day care is very expensive and becoming increasingly necessary. One way to address this issue is to look to some of the major employers attracting workers to Redwood City. Can they be partners to provide facilities to meet the needs of the community and their employees?

Culture and Arts has one goal in the plan which is to make Redwood City the preeminent place for arts and culture on the peninsula. People come to be entertained, have fun, and experience diverse cultures. The plan establishes a program to look at an art ordinance assessed on commercial and industrial development for to create public art and programs.

In regards to governance, the City wants to involve people in the decision making process and have many advisory bodies that are a valued part of the community and city governance. The General Plan makes sure there are many opportunities for the citizens of Redwood City to get involved and those opportunities would extend well beyond the life of this plan.

Kristen Anderson, Childcare Coordinator for the City reported to the committee. The City has been involved in childcare planning since the mid 1980's and adopted a policy in 1990. The most cost effective role for the city to play was identified to be as facilitator and coordinator of childcare and early education activities in the community in order to maximize resources and new funding that becomes available. Our community has a diverse and extensive childcare and early education system. Some of the issues faced are availability, affordability and quality of childcare. The city can play the biggest role in the availability. The affordability component comes from subsidizing by the federal government so the city's role should be focused on advocating for legislation. There are approximately 120 licensed childcare homes in our community. Currently there are approximately 800 children on the waiting list for subsidized childcare.

Some of the barriers to childcare are lack of affordable childcare sites, neighborhood perception of childcare centers and lack of childcare in surrounding cities. The Plan includes a section on minimizing constraints to the development of new facilities such as reducing new barriers in zoning and permitting.

Ms. Stetson opened the floor for comments from the committee.

Vice Chair Dickinson said he had concerns about the lack of adequate parks in some of the community. He felt there might be areas where milestones could be set to indicate what progress, if any had been made. Ms. Stetson said there would be a matrix that will show all the General Plan programs with a timeframe for implementation, responsible city departments or other agencies and possible funding sources. Mr. Dickinson also expressed concern in making sure certain health issues were addressed and suggested going back to the joint meeting with the Senior Affairs Commission for recommendations of the speaker from the San Mateo Health Department. Mr. Dickinson would like to see a connection between community gardens and Hetch Hetchy as possible land availability for the gardens. Mr. Dickinson said he was pleased by the goals listed in the governance section and would be interested in having a governance task force created for review of the city's governance process. He also pointed to the city being a charter city and possibly having periodic review of the charter.

Committee Member Miller felt there should be more description of what the Fair Oaks Community Center does on page BC-14 and the Redwood City Child Development Program is not listed at all. In the description of the HHCC, there is no mention of housing and would like to see the Mission Statement go in this section. Ms. Miller said she didn't see anything on the CERT or disaster trailers. Ms. Stetson said she would check to make sure this was included in the Public Safety section.

Committee Member Cherlene Wright felt it would be helpful on page BC-70 if each BCC could have their mission statement added instead of the description of the committee and the CERT program could be mentioned under the governance section since it is sponsored by the city.

Committee Member Robinson would like to see a better description of the Fair Oaks Community Center. Further he said there was mention of some organizations and wanted to know if the document would adapt to changes in the future. Ms. Stetson said the document would extend over a long period of time and many of the references were there as examples. On page BC-73 under policy BC 12.1, Mr. Robinson suggested changing the work fair to equal.

Committee Member Wright would like to see section BC 12.1 extended to include sexual orientation and other groups who might have been omitted.

Staff Member Jones-Thomas said there is no mention in the plan of a commitment to accessibility being a policy or a priority.

Chair Brosseau said she would like to see the aging population and elderly care addressed and said it would be helpful to have a table of contents included in each section. Chair Brosseau said she did not see any mention of jails. Ms. Stetson said jails were not addressed in any section and advised letting the council take the lead on this subject.

Committee Member Wright said she didn't recall seeing any mention of the homeless services the city has because Redwood City houses a significant number of homeless families and individuals. Staff member Chin said she could work with the consultants on both issues relating to people coming out of jails and the homeless services provided and how these are addressed in the Housing Element.

Chair Brosseau asked if the city risks becoming a community where no one wants to build if ordinances keep being assessed to developers and builders. Ms. Stetson said the city will have to weigh the decisions as they come up, but it is helpful to have it in the General Plan in case the city has a plan or a program they think might work.

Committee Member Manuel spoke and said he would like to see Redwood City take a leadership position in using technology and take advantage of the latest technology for communication and collaboration.

Committee Member Richardson rejoined the committee.

4.c. Report Back and Proposal for CDBG/HOME and HSFA Funding Process for Fiscal Year 2010/2011

Committee Member Robinson reported on the Ad Hoc Funding Committee. The committee discussed changes to both the CDBG/HOME and HSFA Rating Criteria Form and Application. The decision was made to use the median ranking and show the averages of the scores for each agency but not the highest and lowest score.

4.d. Schedule Monitoring Visits

A sign up sheet was passed around for the committee members to schedule the monitoring visits with the CDBG agencies.

5. Continuing Items

None

6. Items of Committee Interest

6.a. Committee Questions and Issues

No report

6.b. Sub Committee Reports

Human Services Subcommittee:

Committee Member Robinson reported the Human Services Subcommittee reviewed the Building Community section of the General Plan and the committee will be working on human service needs and will be a presentation to the full committee sometime soon with some possible recommendations to Council. The subcommittee also discussed a possible strategy and recommendations to review with Council should HSFA funding become less in the future. The subcommittee decided the city's priorities should be keeping the FOCC open and making sure city staff knows the importance of the services provided by the agencies to the community.

Housing Subcommittee:

No report

Outreach Subcommittee:

Committee Member Manuel reported the Outreach Subcommittee provided oversight for Threshold 2009 and the Consolidated Plan and assisting in choosing the consultant.

Vice Chair Dickinson said the interviews for the Consolidated Plan outreach were held and a selection was made to go with PMC and the contract is currently being prepared. The consultants should be ready to begin in August.

Committee Member Manuel said the past few subcommittee meetings were focused on the housing website marketing plan with the consultant and would have something to present to the whole committee, at least in mock up form.

6.c. Other Updates

City Council Report:

Staff Member Webb reported the Council had a joint meeting with the Planning Commission and the draft General Plan was presented for comments.

Planning Commission Report:

Planning Commissioner Borgens reported the joint study session was held on July 27th and all the General Plan elements were currently being reviewed. Some of the comments received were the public wanted flexibility and thought of the General Plan as a marketing tool.

Commissioner Borgens said the Planning Commission also had two plans to approve, Kentfield neighborhood and Finger Avenue, both of which were appealed.

Staff Updates:

Staff Member Webb reported the city has a Green Building ordinance ready to go to the City Council for the first reading on August 24th. The HHCC has received a draft of the ordinance for their review and comments.

Staff Member Chin said the Council approved the purchase of 1306 Main Street and escrow should close at the end of this week.

7. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn until the next regular meeting of August 25, 2009

M/S: (Dickinson/Manuel) to adjourn

Motion Passed, approved 8-0

Meeting was adjourned at 9:53 PM