

**JOINT MEETING OF
CIVIC CULTURAL COMMISSION
PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2009**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Civic Cultural Commission	Parks, Recreation & Community Services Commission	Senior Affairs Commission
Chairperson Dale Commissioners Beard, Fischer, Jackson, Newblanc, Simoulin	Chairperson White, Commissioners Joseph- Hover, Lynch, Truscelli, Slusser, Wright	Chairperson Kinsella, Commissioners Britschgi, Cooperman, Simon, Jones

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Cultural Commission	Parks, Recreation & Community Services Commission	Senior Affairs Commission
Commissioner Cortez	Commissioner Swope	Commissioner Truscelli

GUESTS PRESENT: Lisa Brownfield of Hogle, Ireland, Inc., Cherlene Wright

STAFF PRESENT: Director Corinne Centeno, Superintendents Chris Beth and Gary Hover, Community Services Manager Bruce Utecht, Administrative Assistant Denise Monroe, Planning Manager Jill Ekas, Principal Planner Tom Passanisi

The joint meeting of the Civic Cultural, Parks, Recreation and Community Services and Senior Affairs Commissions was called to order at 7:00pm by Parks, Recreation and Community Services Chairperson Shawn White in the Sunset Room of the Veterans Memorial Senior Center, 1455 Madison Avenue, Redwood City, California.

Oral Communications

None

ITEM 1 – PRESENTATION OF DRAFT REDWOOD CITY GENERAL PLAN, BUILDING COMMUNITY ELEMENT

Planning Manager Jill Ekas introduced Lisa Brownfield of Hogle, Ireland, Inc. whose firm was selected to develop the new General Plan for Redwood City. Ms. Brownfield spoke about the general plan process that began over one year ago, the purpose of a general plan, and the various elements that are covered in the general plan. She noted that the General Plan should include goals the City would like to accomplish over the next 20 years and as well as provide guiding principals to accomplish those goals.

Ms. Brownfield asked for comments regarding the "Building Community" (B.C.) element which includes chapters: Public Places; Trails and Connections; Recreation and Human Services; Health; Lifelong Learning, Libraries, Schools; Child Care; Cultural and the Arts; and Governance. She noted that sustainability was the overarching theme in all General Plan elements.

Planning Manager Jill Ekas explained that the next steps are to have the Planning Commission review the document as well as other groups and agencies. Staff is planning to have the revised General Plan completed in October followed by an environmental review. Winter/Spring is the target for final completion of the document.

The following were comments received from the Commissioners:

- Governance – other venues beyond boards, committees, commissions
- Vetting with other groups – who? e.g. health care providers
- Technology – include as plan for future – how people connect, social networking; e.g. RWC Mothers Club, Twitter, shut-ins/pandemics
- Guiding principles – Quality of Life (QOL) = connecting people (higher level)
- Parks / Noise – re-look at contours / what is appropriate
- What have we done to “estimate” or envision 30 year change?
- Add cross references or links to other sections of the General Plan document
- Can plan be amended if not achieving the vision? Check in? When? How?
- New senior/wellness center – Where is it in document?
- Where have we identified community profile, need to provide this up front as summary for B.C. Element – cross reference
- % population – now and into future
- Need “shelf appeal” for seniors
- “Oatmeal” shelf appeal; we have an entire section childcare – what can we do to better address seniors – seniors safety/security – economics – relevance – housing – mobility
- Senior Center - real place for building community. Seniors neglected in document. Include how you can engage senior population.
- Right kind of space – places defined – but how will 3 acres per 1,000 in population ensure that we have the right kind into future and how to adapt overtime to solve future evolution
- How much focus on seniors? Not enough – need to show basis (qualitative vs. “the conversations” #'s)
- Is there an employment services agency/emphasis for seniors? Skill matching – training (e.g. County program)
- Families with dogs – dog parks – 2008 master plan – but can add
- Non-profit / for-profit partnership – develop this concept – make \$ go farther
- Volunteerism
- Sidewalks; funding for programs, 50/50 programs available, provide financial assistance to seniors
- Process governance (PCRC) – “ad-hoc” – allow support of alternate process
- Being green – where is it? Only touched on in Building Community element as “A promise to our community...”.
- Background basis – archive
- Suggestion to update data after next census; Planning staff will be monitoring
- Parks needs assessment – page BC-13, acreage of parks needed

- Do we update population – other data when it comes out after 2010 Census
- Include LEED in parks / landscaping sections
- KEEP in document – community / cultural events
- Do we need community events committee?
- First few pages jump around – hard to read
- Services from other organizations partnerships
- What are liabilities of City using other facilities? Can it be overcome discussion is disjointed – what is intention? E.g. fields on corporate campuses and liability risk to City
- Special needs residents – what does this population need and how are we going address and support this population; needs to be included in document

Public Places

- Downtown growth – need more places in this part of town – a park
- Dog parks needed on west side of Highway 101
- Include more downtown places for increased housing population
- Community gardens – Downtown needs to address downtown parks
- Rooftop options – leisure/play/gardens – green roofs
- No vision for public places – designing public places connected with bicycle and pedestrian friendly paths (reverse text statement in document)

Trails/Connections

- Daylighting – where else in document is this mentioned?
- Bair Island trail has changed; update mapping trail with changes
- Very difficult to get to Redwood Shores using a trail connection
- Bay Trail – provide access to the Bay. Need pedestrian and bike access across 101.
- Would like to see completion of Bay Trail in Redwood City
- Produce map showing Bay Trail and the path closest to Bay in Redwood City
- Port – pedestrian access?
- Connection – Edgewood Park to Ridge Trail; Ridge Trail not referenced in document.
- Street car – does not connect to west side of El Camino Real; would like connection to senior centers
- Transit needed to senior center and other centers such as Canada College
- More transit support needed west side with 3 senior centers and a high school
- Suggest bike trails from east side 101 to San Carlos

Recreation Human Services

- Teens – is there enough about this age group in element?
- Page BC-35 – pre-schools/children/teens, adults/senior 20-50 yr. olds – employment volunteerism
- Volunteers – center – commission
- Family services – ages 20-50
- Split adults into seniors, non-seniors groups
- Need for new sports complex in Redwood City

Health

- Physical activity mixed with education
- Labyrinth (e.g. Electronic Arts)

Lifelong Learning Libraries – Education/Schools

- Expand Fair Oaks Library – e.g. needs assessment
- KEEP – Farmers Market and community gardens
- Utilize libraries – bring more people together – cultural events – access – internet – conduit for building community
- Re-use facilities we have

Childcare

- Policy 9.4 (page BC-59), add congregations, churches as child care locations
- Place child care facilities in senior centers

Culture and the Arts

- Civic Cultural Commission – leverage...shapes their participation
- Likes 1% art program concept
- Relationships of public art and beautification – where is it?
- Page 63 – change wording; don't limit types of arts, add others – promote community discussion and improve QOL
- Cultural events for seniors – Sunday afternoons
- Relationship – exposure – experience of culture and arts – as education/learning event/enrichment
- Page 65 – children – public schools – arts programs. Industry demands creative workforce
- Economic/enterprise of events
- Page 64 – what is goal related to "synergy" of clustering events and restaurants
- Downtown oriented – elsewhere – partnership to expand other goals

Governance

- Add ad-hoc groups to list
- Encourage use of new media + public participation and social networking/blogs
- Central connection – "welcome wagon" on-line
- 2-3 year cycle – discussion issues – report back on progress – Cupertino connected to boards & commissions
- KEEP CERT – in public safety element
- KEEP Neighborhood grants – e.g. funding for neighborhood events
- Sports complex

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Centeno and Planning Director Ekas thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for providing important feedback on the Building Community element. The Commissioners were advised that the General Plan is on the City's website and they are welcome to email comments on the other elements of the plan.

Director Centeno was asked about how the State's new budget cuts would impact our City. She stated the projected cut to the City is \$2.9 million (or approximately 4% of General Fund revenues). The State will not be taking our Gas Tax funds, but is expected to take \$4 million from Redevelopment. Director Centeno explained that each department is looking at 2%, 4% and 6% cuts and a list of recommendations will be presented to City Council on September 14. These potential cuts would be effective December 31, 2009.

The joint meeting of the Civic Cultural, Parks, Recreation and Community Services, and Senior Affairs Commissions was adjourned at 9:45pm. The Civic Cultural Commission will reconvene at 7:00pm on Thursday, September 3, 2009 at the Community Activities Building. The Senior Affairs Commission and Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission will reconvene at a joint meeting at 7:00pm on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at the Community Activities Building.