

Redwood City Community Participation Program  
General Plan: Be a Part of the Plan in Your Neighborhood  
**Palm Park and Redwood Oaks Neighborhoods**  
Sequoia YMCA 1445 Hudson St.  
**Thursday, December 11, 2008**  
6:30-8:30 PM

**Notes**

Over 20 community members attended this community meeting on the General Plan for the Palm Park and Redwood Oaks neighborhoods in Redwood City.

Tom Passanisi, Redwood City Principal Planner welcomed participants and introduced City staff, and facilitators from the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center (PCRC.)

**PRESENTATION:**

Mr. Passanisi gave a power point presentation on the General Plan including:

- General Plan
  - What it is/Why it is important
  - Brief history of Redwood City
  - Work on the Plan so far
  - Guiding principals
    - o Sustainability
    - o Healthy neighborhoods
    - o Neighborhood character
    - o Economic development
    - o Diversity and heritage
    - o Community building
    - o Transportation choices
    - o Place making
  - Data from meetings in 2004
  - Map of area and proposed changes that may have impact
  - Neighborhood character and demographics
    - o Historic neighborhood
    - o More renters than home owners
- Themes for community input
  - Mobility
    - Driving/walking/biking
  - Neighborhood/Community Character
  - Safety
- Traffic/transportation

Display Boards on the General Plan for the Palm Park and Redwood Oaks neighborhoods and other areas in Redwood City were available for review.

There was a question and answer period followed by small group discussion. Redwood City staff members were available as resources.

### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

Participants broke into 3 small groups to discuss the following questions:

1. *What do you like about your neighborhood?*
2. *What type of development would you like?*
3. *What concerns you about your neighborhood?*
4. *How could your concerns be addressed?*
  - by the General Plan
  - within the neighborhood
5. *What routes do you take in your neighborhood when biking or walking?*
6. *Is there any other information you would like to share about the General Plan?*

### **GROUP 1**

1. *What do you like about your neighborhood?*
  - Neighbors
  - Near park facilities
  - Low density single family dwellings
  - Convenient to major transportation corridors
  - Convenient to Downtown
  - Like what is happening with Downtown concerts
2. *What type of development would you like?*
  - No new development until already existing structures are used. Fill up empty buildings downtown before building more
  - Only single family homes
  - Nodes need parking, not sure how nodes would work
  - No more Starbucks
3. *What concerns you about your neighborhood?*
  - Skateboarding on tennis courts instead of at skate-park. Think skateboarders are not from neighborhood
  - Safety concerns for everyone. No policing, no security. Ride at your own risk
  - Hate new parking meters Downtown. Don't like that there are more meters either
  - Woodside Rd - too much traffic - filthy - full of trash - no maintenance - foliage is dead
  - Concerned about traffic on side streets

- Flooding at Oakwood Blvd and Selby Lane
- Walgreens going in on Oakwood Dr. would impact safety for Selby Lane School – kids walking and traffic jams
- There are absentee landlords not maintaining their properties
- Lost of trash around apartment buildings and empty lots
- Maintenance of buildings is lax – particularly older buildings
  - Example: Copenhagen restaurant allowed to stay vacant, trash in parking lot

**4. *How could your concerns be addressed?***

- Better code enforcement
- At Red Morton Park have on-site security
- Woodside Rd. double-deck or go underground
- Clean up traffic mess at 101 – need another lane
- Solution: re-direct water from sewers – recycle, create rain gardens
- Maintenance of buildings – notify owners of code violations
  - Neighbors could call in and notify City of problem buildings
- Have code enforcement plan for current and future owners

**5. *What routes do you take in your neighborhood when biking or walking?***

- Participants marked aerial map of their neighborhood
- On El Camino Real there doesn't appear to be any collaboration with County on beautification
- Want more streets with sidewalks
- Bike to Safeway Store but will not cross Woodside Road on bike or on foot
- When driving use Brewster and Hudson – avoid Woodside

**GROUP 2**

**1. *What do you like about your neighborhood?***

- Tree lined street
- The history of the neighborhood
- Great neighbors
- Neighborhood parks – Fleischman, Maddux
- Cheap rent
- Able to walk to Woodside Plaza
- Walk to shopping, close to Downtown
- Neighbors are homeowners

**2. *What type of development would you like?***

- Speed bumps
- Single family homes
- Not change density
- Needs to be adequate parking and underground parking
- Landlords need to provide more parking

- Well thought out development complementary to neighborhood
- Designs that do not distract
- More greenery, more trees

**3. *What concerns you about your neighborhood?***

- Parking
- “gathering places”
- Density
- Garbage
- Lack of street lights
- Sidewalks not wide enough
- Traffic and traffic flow
- Buildings and building density near single family neighborhoods
- Speeders
- Water consumption
- Infrastructure – water systems
- Noise ordinance – hear ice cream trucks, motorcycles, unlicensed motor scooters
- Livability – use to be more welcoming, is not so livable anymore
- The nodes concept may cause more problems
- Concern about Cargill Development at salt flats – bad idea, development on Bay would reduce density in other areas available for building (infill)

**4. *How could your concerns be addressed?***

- Put higher density near the trains
- No change in density in our neighborhood or reduce density
- Require reasonable number of people in each unit
- Transportation that is efficient
- Improve transportation flow
- Rezone to single family residential

**5. *What routes do you take in your neighborhood when biking or walking?***

- Participants marked aerial map of their neighborhood

**6. *What do you like about the Plan for your neighborhood?***

- That water conservation is a concern
- Good that transportation is being considered

**7. *What if anything would you like to see modified in the Plan for your neighborhood?***

- Shift density to the core transit areas
- Underground parking for new apartment buildings

### GROUP 3

**1. What do you like about your neighborhood?**

- Proximity to transportation
- Semi-rural feel of neighborhood
- Small merchants on El Camino Real

***Don't Like***

- Density is too high
- Too few services
- Dumping
- Criminal activity
- Landlord negligence

**2. What type of development would you like?**

- Underground parking - there is not enough parking
- Better architecture
- Color scheme coordination
- Mixed use on El Camino Real
- No businesses out of residences or apartments in neighborhood
- Re-develop aging properties

**3. What concerns you about your neighborhood?**

- Traffic
- Context driven development with respect to traffic generation and parking
- Sidewalk maintenance is lacking
- Beautification of planter strips in sidewalks
- Speed bumps with no neighborhood input
- Noise from cars, music, etc.

**4. How could your concerns be addressed?**

- Video surveillance
- Block by block zoning requirements
- Street maintenance
- Better management of affordable housing projects

**5. What routes do you take in your neighborhood when biking or walking?**

- Participants marked aerial map of their neighborhood

**6. What do you like about the Plan for your neighborhood?**

- Like mixed-use neighborhood as opposed to heavy commercial on El Camino Real

**7. What if anything would you like to see modified in the Plan for your neighborhood?**

- Plan does not address the 100, 200 or 300 blocks of Redwood Ave.

## REPORT OUT

- Each group gave highlights of their discussion

## NEXT STEPS:

- Notes will be compiled by PCRC and provided to the City. The notes will be posted on the City website
- Mr. Passanisi invited participants to attend the next meeting on the General Plan, December 16<sup>th</sup> at the Planning Commission Meeting in Council Chambers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Notes prepared by PCRC 650-513-0330 [www.pcrcweb.org](http://www.pcrcweb.org)



Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center  
*Empowering people. Building relationships. Reducing violence.*