

**City of Redwood City General Plan Visioning
Community and Planning Commission Meeting
Roosevelt Neighborhood Area Workshop – 4/6/04**

The comments summarized below were made by participants and recorded during the course of the meeting. (R) indicates a response by Commissioners, City staff or consultant. Based on a show of hands, about 70% of workshop participants live in the Roosevelt Neighborhood. Of that 70%, about 30% live between Brewster and Jefferson and 40% live between Jefferson and Roosevelt. About 80% of participants heard about the workshop from flyers delivered door-to-door; some by email, others by word of mouth or newspaper.

Plan Process and Community Participation

- How did you define neighborhood boundaries? Will there be a separate meeting for the Brewster Neighborhood? (R) The Brewster neighborhood is included in this meeting. The meetings are focused on the particular neighborhoods. However broader issues will be addressed as well, and people are welcome to come to any of the meetings.
- How effective is this process and how long does it take? (R) Our goal is to formulate a vision for the General Plan. This vision will guide us in all future development. The General Plan is the ruling document, the bible of city planning policies. The general Plan can be amended over time if outdated, which happens. But overall the principles in the document dictate how our city grows. Creating this new vision can take up to three years to finalize.
- Will the General Plan be divided into neighborhood components? (R) That is a possibility.
- It will be important to focus on the broader issues affecting the city (i.e.. not just the neighborhood).
- I would recommend PACT to anyone interested in learning about the city process. It involves a set of intensive courses describing how the city functions. “Community Builders” is an extension of this process. I would like to commend our city staff. They are very dedicated. The planners keep everything moving along.
- What community groups can we get involved in? (R) There is “Redwood City 2020,” the “Pride and Beautification” committee; also, a new group based on gardening, and the “Adopt a Park” program.

General Likes and Dislikes

- In San Mateo I love the Farmer’s Market, the old look of the buildings including the arches. San Mateo does surveys on code enforcement. Neighborhood enforcement needs to be more aggressive including regular monitoring. In my neighborhood there are numerous alcohol deliveries. I hate to always have to call the city for these types of occurrences. Also there are a lot of back alleys, in which gang and drug activity takes place. (R) In San Jose there are code enforcers assigned to each neighborhood, so there is no anonymity.
- I would like to just say that I am proud to live in Redwood City.

- I am an advocate for permit parking in residential neighborhoods and for high-rise buildings in Redwood City.
- I like the close proximity of Redwood City. My family does walk to many locations. We need more neighborhood businesses. We should embrace diversity and school improvement.
- The people are what make Redwood City special. They are friendly and there is a good mix of blue and white-collar workers. Aside from the huge hole in the ground I really like downtown. What I don't understand is why the post office and police station are not located in downtown. Why on earth is the police station out by the marina? All the life, shoppers, and restaurant-goers are downtown.
- I like the city's architecture, city hall, the library, and the 4th of July parade. It draws people from all over. I have a problem with the Pete's Harbor development. Why doesn't it include a school?
- The Franklin Street Apartments is a beautiful development.
- I'd like to commend all of you for being here.
- The cable lines mounted on telephone poles seem to be heavier and heavier. They actually cause some poles to fall over. Many poles are reinforced several times. Cable lines should be underground. the schools are bad, which is a detraction for people to move to Redwood City. We pay our taxes and we can't use the schools.
- I live on St. Francis. Looking into the hills the streetlights are so bright. They should be shielded and "Dark Skies" policies should be enforced.
- I live on King Street. I like the people, the diversity, and the weather in Redwood City. But the traffic is out of control. Police get no help from people in the community. I am fine with growth as long as there is an appropriate vision. Redwood Shores Shopping Center is clean and nice. Sequoia Station is tacky and filthy. We have a beautiful city. With a little money we can improve the appearance of places like Sequoia Station. (R) Call the management companies. They will respond to customers' complaints.
- I would like to complement the council on Farm Hill Boulevard Park, as well as on the beautiful tree lined skyline.
- Code enforcement and permitting should be equally enforced across all neighborhoods. (R) We need the community's support to enforce codes. It is your phone calls that alert us to problems. As far as housing goes, we are under built. Businesses won't come in if there are not enough residents to support them. We need the revenue provided by big box retail. I love the small businesses but we need the sales tax to support them. The two go hand in hand. In parts of Redwood City we have a high parks to housing ratio. We need to work on it in other areas. We need to take the time to think about how to build a better community and we need your help to do it. We need to take pride in our community and be proactive.
- We need bike racks in the parking structure on Marshall. Currently there is a code prohibiting bikes, skateboards, etc. The code should be modified. Also the code, which states that you can leave one wall up during a major renovation without having to pay certain fees, seems like cheating.

Neighborhood Traffic and Circulation

- The El Camino / Woodside / Jefferson area is congested due to the three stoplights.
- Jefferson is not pedestrian oriented. It needs more crosswalks and stops.
- (A show of hands indicated about 70% of workshop participants think traffic speeds are too high on Jefferson).
- People drive too fast and the police are outnumbered. The city council should support police enforcement. People drive an average of 40mph on King Street.
- On McGarvey between Alameda and Connecticut teenagers drive really fast. There is a spot where they can get airborne. There was a huge accident in front of my house as a result of this activity.

I am working with the Peninsula Bikers Coalition to improve bicycle conditions. Redwood City needs secure well-lit bicycle storage. The city should focus on including bike lanes on new development projects, rather than in existing neighborhoods where it is much more difficult.

San Francisco has been very successful in installing bike lanes on existing streets. It is harder to do but it's not impossible. We should not give up on that.

I agree that we should have better biking conditions on existing streets. I am a realist and just think that we should take baby steps. Including bike lanes in new projects is easier and therefore would produce quicker results. But I also advocate improving biking conditions on existing streets.

Whipple and Alameda near the hospital is a very confusing intersection. There is no clear signage and it's difficult to know what you're supposed to do. (R) I believe there was a fatality there last year.

At El Camino there is a market (Nob Hill) that causes traffic back up. The curb should be painted red in that area so that cars can go around the market traffic. Also, big loading trucks at the Market create traffic congestion. The trucks double park on El Camino.

I live on Johnson near King where there is a huge speeding problem. Also, at Hudson there is a very dangerous four-way stop that many drivers don't stop for.

The signage is very poor at Alameda and Whipple.

I live on Whipple where there are multiple stops. It is very dangerous when drivers are not paying full attention, especially drivers on cell phones.

I see two problem areas: #1) it is ridiculous to not have a stop sign on Hopkins near the park. #2) At Jefferson and Alameda as soon as you make that turn you have to stop for people entering the gas station.

On Carmel traffic speed is too high during school commute hours.

I like boulevard/parkway strips, but removing them would free up space for bikes and pedestrians. They are not providing a pedestrian oriented atmosphere anyway, when cars are using them to park halfway on the sidewalk.

Many streets are too narrow to have parking on both sides. I spend a lot of time waiting for cars to pass. Also the signs are too small and hidden by the trees.

I live on Roosevelt. I have a concern about the new little market. There is too much traffic and there is not enough parking for patrons. How do we address immediate concerns such as these? (R) The problem with it is that it falls under existing zoning regulations. The market has experienced more traffic than expected. Loading occurs on Roosevelt, but is not

supposed to. The city needs to re-look at the market's conditional use permit. The staff will take this issue back to the city. There is actually already a file on it at the city.

On Ruby parking and commercial vehicles are huge problems. In this area there are many blind intersections and dips. It is especially difficult to maneuver in these neighborhoods with the large commercial vehicles.

I live on Vera. My neighborhood receives a different response than other neighborhoods. Jefferson separates many neighborhood areas. An example is street sweeping. There are so many cars parked on the sides of the street that only the middle of the street never gets cleaned.

We should eliminate overnight parking. There are too many old cars parked on the street. We need to have our streets cleaned. Currently there are no signs posting street sweeping times. Instead notices are sent through the mail.

I am a proponent of photo ticketing for red light violations as well as for speeding.

Commercial delivery times should be limited.

I live on Iris, where there is a traffic shift occurring. Many people use Iris to avoid Hudson and Roosevelt.

We need an improved bus rider ship program, which excludes large, polluting buses.

In the past, the bus and train system did not coincide. Also the Caltrain station is oriented backwards and does not offer protection from the rain and wind.

I would like to see El Camino as a pedestrian friendly street. Currently it is difficult to cross and dangerous for pedestrians and drivers. ECR should be less of a barrier between the neighborhoods and downtown. There should be equal emphasis on all modes of transportation.

Woodside and El Camino needs attention. The traffic situation as well as the appearance of storefronts needs improvement

- The left turn onto Broadway from Arch is scary. I would like to see electronic speed signs on Arch.

Downtown and Retail Development

- I like the parks in Redwood City! I would like to see more parks. There are two items I believe should be included in the General Plan. #1) businesses should be encouraged to come to our city, especially on Broadway. Currently there is nowhere to go. The San Mateo Cineplex is a good example of how to provide destinations for people and simultaneously raise the sales tax base. #2) Our schools are rated very poorly. I would love to stay in the area if the schools improve.
- Our downtown is a disgrace. The buildings are gray and drab. I would like to see the storefronts improved. We need an image to associate with the name of our city.
- I agree with the previous comments on downtown. Good examples of active downtowns are Burlingame and Palo Alto. We should increase the number of destination locations and raise the sales tax base.
- I am a 75 year resident of Redwood City. The city has always been a vibrant town even through the Depression and World War II. The problem with big box retail development is

that there is no incentive for Mom 'n Pop shops to come in. The locals can't compete with the big money. Currently most money is not being spent in Redwood City.

- Is there a plan for attracting certain types of businesses?
- I believe there is a lot of attention being paid to downtown. People just have to be patient.
- Downtown San Carlos and Menlo Park have a "Scoot" shuttle system. We should do the same. I don't like to have to leave Redwood City to shop.
- I like the climate and diverse population of Redwood City. I believe we should be forward looking rather than nostalgic. We must look at the overall community and why the number of small shops is decreasing. We need to focus on downtown revitalization.
- Housing is an issue in Redwood City. Transit Oriented Developments (TOD's) are key for vibrant downtowns. Most people move out of Redwood City because of the housing shortage. I am a strong supporter of high density housing in downtown.
- Behind my house the weeds are overgrown and are only cut down twice a year. We should have anti-ugly laws. I would love to see more development downtown. Make it nicer. Some parts look like the ghetto.
- The downtown Fox Theatre is wonderful. Downtown is changing and cleaning up. Restaurants are also being added.
- There are no shops in downtown. We also need development on the side streets in downtown. (R) We have been getting retail ideas from professionals regarding downtown design. The idea is that anchor stores comprise the center of town, while storefronts and restaurants radiate out from the central stores; there is a nationwide phenomenon of increasing big box stores. We are hoping the process will generate downtown revitalization. We need residents' help to support this revitalization. We encourage you to stay involved. In this time of economic hardship, change requires action from individuals like you.

Parks and Open Space

- I live near Stafford Park. The park is really nice but it is overcrowded. We need more parks like Stafford. It is a water play park and has a fenced in toddler area.
- I've lived in Redwood City since 1943. I really love the way the fog rolls in over the mountains and am concerned about high-rise buildings blocking views of the mountains and Bay.
- Redwood City has beautiful parks and bay front. High-rise buildings have a detrimental impact.
- Redwood City is a bike-able community. It could use improvement, but I am able to use my bike as a primary mode of transportation. (R) Why is that, because it's flat or because of close proximity? Proximity.
- I love the parks and creek areas of Redwood City. I'd like to suggest a dog park.
- Stafford Park is overcrowded on the weekends. Regulations are not enforced and there is no lighting at night. This tends to attract a bad element.
- A suggestion for preventing people from sleeping in the parks is to turn the sprinklers on at night.
- Our parks are overcrowded because the County doesn't have any parks in residential neighborhoods. (R) We are working with the County on that in the Parks strategic plan.

- I really like the trees in Redwood City. We should enforce a tree replacement policy, which requires developers to replace mature trees with trees of a decent size.
- I would like to encourage the city to visualize all of Redwood City as a theatre, which is oriented eastward. Bayfront developments like Pacific Shores, Redwood City Port, Lincoln, Pete's Harbor, the wildlife refuge, and Redwood Shores should take center stage. All remaining development including our neighborhoods should face this stage while the mountains provide a backdrop to the setting.

Growth Related Issues

- Do we have a population target for Redwood City? We are using more water than we have. What will the stopping point be? (R) Many surrounding communities, like Belmont and San Carlos, are under their water allocation, whereas Redwood City is under allocated. Redwood City has been designated as a growth city but the city's water supply has not been reallocated.
- Why are we designated as a "growth city"? (R) Ask ABAG
- Do we have to go along with ABAG? (R) No, but we do have room for the growth. We want to provide housing so people and their kids can stay in Redwood City. Franklin Street is a good example of this type of growth. We also want to provide parks to go along with these developments, which the developers should pay for. Most of our growth is from within. There is no more room. We must increase density.
- High-density housing will only increase traffic. We don't have to buy into growth.
- I have a question regarding Belmont and San Carlos. Are those people's children not having children? (R) They are but they don't have any place to live.
- I love to live here but I don't like high-rise buildings. Most people here don't want growth.
- I am concerned about high-density housing. An example of the negative impacts is at Lincoln and Clinton. There is a lot of noise pollution. The city wants a high-density housing project on Vera and Jefferson. This will only increase cars and noise leading to rundown conditions and crime.

Notes from Comment Worksheets

Neighborhood Circulation and Parking

- The Roosevelt neighborhood is too dense. Traffic is slow along El Camino. We don't need more housing in Redwood City. Let's preserve what we have. We don't need to develop other areas.
- The following improvements should be made: new bike lanes, restripe existing bike lane boundaries, bicycle signage, traffic calming signage, speed limit enforcement on two-lane residential streets.
- There are too many blind intersections. Others and myself have small children in the neighborhood and are afraid because cars fly through our streets. An example of this is at Ruby and Madison. Cars almost collide with each other and with children on a daily basis.
- There is a lot of congestion and high-speed traffic on Fulton Street all the way to Mount Carmel.

- Install “no parking” signs during street sweeping days so that we can actually get our streets cleaned.
- We need more streetlights.
- Avenue Del Oro is too narrow for speed bumps, especially with parked cars on either side.
- Get rid of or reduce boulevard/parkways where it is difficult for cars to park on the street (i.e. where cars are parked on the strip or sidewalk).
- Get rid of the “four-way no stop” intersections on Madison. Drivers may not notice that they are approaching a blind intersection.
- Get rid of overnight parking for nonresidents. Require residents to obtain a parking permit.

Neighborhood Housing Conditions and Maintenance

- I don’t want more multiple housing units!
- Tree maintenance needs to be improved. There should be more flexibility in the removal of trees that destroy sidewalks and lawns.
- There are too many potholes.
- Streetlights should be better regulated for glare.
- “Downtown” sidewalks have probably been replaced 2-3 times.
- Remove overhead electrical and cable lines.
- I love the way people on Hudson between Whipple and Jefferson and in the general surrounding area keep up their houses.
- Housing is too dense. Streets are falling apart.

Community Open Space

- The parks are great! Keep it up!
- Please improve waterfront access.
- We need more parks. Our existing parks need to be patrolled and well lit.
- Who has time to hang out in community squares? Maybe people with little kids.
- We don’t have enough open space. It also needs to be available at all times to maximize use (i.e., the recreation department)

Citywide Places and Conditions – Downtown, Bayfront, El Camino Real, Etc.

- I like the quiet, mature trees, and historical value of Redwood City. I don’t want our port or any large spaces given away to developers. We need to hold on to any space we have and purchase new space for future community needs.
- El Camino needs to be prettier and more bicycle friendly. This is a regional problem, which Redwood City needs to advocate.
- Bring retail shopping to the downtown project.
- Downtown is a disgrace. The storefronts need a facelift and downtown sidewalks are falling apart again.
- It is very difficult to enjoy the waterfront via bicycle.
- Make Downtown more appealing by adding mainstream retail stores and restaurants like Burlingame and Menlo Park have.

Additional Comments, Ideas, Suggestions

- When will the poor condition of our Redwood City schools be addressed? Our grade school is John Gill and there is no way we will send our son, who is three years old, there in the near future. Eventually we will have to either move or send him to private school.
- I don't want malls in our downtown. The theatre was a bad idea. I will stay away from downtown.
- I don't want more housing!
- We need police officers to be more visible in all neighborhoods. The city needs to enforce use permits. If a business grows too big or doesn't honor agreements (i.e., Conditional Use Permits) they need to move out of the area or the building they are in.