

Redwood City Community Participation Program

Stanford University Project

Friendly Acres Neighborhood Association

PAL Building

Thursday, November 20, 2008

6:30-8:30 PM

Notes

Purpose of the meeting: *Community input on Stanford University project*

Over 60 community members attended this community meeting on Stanford University's proposed project to build a campus to primarily house the University's office administrative staff.

Maureen Riordan, Redwood City Senior Planner welcomed the attendees and introduced Redwood City staff and consultant presenters, as well as Stanford representatives, and facilitators from the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center.

Presentation from Redwood City Planning Department:

Ms. Riordan gave a presentation on the City's General Plan including:

- What it is/Why it is important
- Current General Plan & an alternative proposed for Broadway/Veterans Blvd Corridor area
- Upcoming meetings on General Plan

She continued with a history and overview of the site:

- Stanford University Project
- Planning Commission and City Council meetings on the project, including recent Environmental Impact Report (EIR) scoping session meeting
- Map of area and proposed changes that may impact the neighborhood

Ms. Lorraine Weiss, contract planner to the City, outlined themes for community input, including:

- Mobility
 - Driving/walking/biking
- Neighborhood compatibility
- Spinas Park and open space
- Public access
- Parking
- Safety
- Traffic/transportation

Stanford University Presentation:

Steve Elliot, Stanford's Managing Director of Real Estate Development and John Long, of SMWM, Architect consultant to Stanford gave a power point presentation on:

- Project Background
 - Existing conditions and why site was chosen
- Process to date and project timing

- Potential users
- Priorities, principles and project objectives
- Community engagement and neighborhood meetings
- Design Attributes
 - Spinas Park, green area and complimentary uses of open space
- Proposed Project

Additional information was provided by John Donahoe, Stanford Senior Entitlement Planner.

There was an extensive question and answer time where participants asked questions of Stanford representatives and City Staff.

The questions and comments from the audience included:

- *How tall are the buildings going to be? --On Broadway and Bay, I do not want to see a wall of buildings.*
- *How many people will occupy the buildings?*
- *Where are the people going to park?*
- *What is the total square footage of the proposal?*
- *Will the public have access to the cafeteria?*
- *What infrastructure improvements will you be doing?*
- *From Marsh to Woodside, we do not have any streetlights?*
- *It is very dark and it is hard to find my own house – we need streetlights.*
- *Are there plans to do an off-ramp near 5th to get the traffic off 5th Ave.?*
- *You mentioned your commitment to sustainability – Are these buildings going to be LEED certified?*
- *What is LEED?*
- *During the construction part of this project – will there be pile drivers used or poured concrete? Pile drivers are loud.*

Participants broke into 5 small groups, including one Spanish language group, where they discussed the following questions:

1. *What do you like about Stanford University's proposed project in your neighborhood?*
2. *What concerns you about the project? Or what else would you like to see included in the project?*
3. *How could your concerns be addressed?*
4. *What routes do you take in your neighborhood when driving, biking, and/ or walking?*
 - Mark on the map how you get around the neighborhood
5. *What current traffic issues do you have in the neighborhood?*
 - Mark on the map current traffic concerns

6. *In what ways, if any, would the proposed project impact how you navigate your neighborhood?*
7. *Is there anything else about this project you would like to communicate to the City and Stanford?*

Group 1

1. *What do you like about Stanford University's proposed project in your neighborhood?*
 - Landscaping
 - Beautification of area
2. *What concerns you about the project? Or what else would you like to see included?*
 - Height of Building
 - Traffic
 - The employee count high
 - Include information on tax base to the City
 - Shadow (too tall building) and lighting at night, concern about the size of the project. It is three times larger than existing structure.
 - Parking noise
 - Hours of operations and times, late night, early morning and weekends.
 - Academic means many hours and traffic
 - Infrastructure on the power grid, wall, will it be cleaned up? Power lines currently leaning over road. Will old system will it be upgraded?
 - Speed or traffic
 - Use different traffic consultant than did on downtown plan, got computer model wrong
 - A parking structure next to City park
3. *How could your concerns be addressed?*
 - Scale down height
 - Scale it down
 - If large building, have domed ceiling so building would not shadow our property, and green area down Broadway
 - Underground parking would need good new drainage
 - Extend Warrington, Barron and Hurlingame; widen them into main thoroughfares and narrow 5th to deter traffic.
 - Idea: they could have flex work hours, to stagger traffic
 - Having mechanical barriers that would close the street-but would open it for the fire department
4. *What routes do you take when driving, biking, walking? (MAP)*

The Group marked on an aerial map of their neighborhood routes taken when walking, biking and driving. Areas of concern were also marked on the map.
5. *What current traffic issues do you have? (MAP)*

Areas of concern were also marked on the map.

6. *In what ways would the proposed project impact how you navigate your Neighborhood?*
 - People would start to take side streets
 - Would need to leave house early in morning.

7. *Is there anything else about this project you would like to communicate with city or Stanford?*
 - Are they going to employ local people from the neighborhoods?
 - Honesty-Transparency on everything they do - Plan A
 - Need to disclose how big the project is

Group 2

1. *What do you like about Stanford University's proposed project in your neighborhood?*
 - Bring vitality to the area
 - Safe place to walk around
 - Improve lighting
 - More jobs
 - Fitness for kids

2. *What concerns you about the project? Or what else would you like to see included in the project?*
 - Traffic
 - Building massing/orientation of building against street. Buildings turning backs to neighborhood
 - Peak thru corridors do not integrate
 - Do not allow large-scale cafeterias so people venture off campus
 - Increased traffic on Rolison
 - Congestion @ Woodside Road/Highway101/Spring Street
 - Can Stanford help do Highway 101/Woodside improvements sooner?
 - Height of proposed buildings

3. *How could your concerns be addressed?*
 - Need to know where employees live = community patterns
 - Bike lanes - connectivity to Caltrain
 - Provide shuttles to downtown, Caltrain, ferry
 - Re-orient buildings so they are interspersed with green space and setback from street
 - Limit building height to 5 stories
 - Don't charge for parking. Pay parking may result in employees parking in residential neighborhoods
 - Provide underground parking
 - More community engagement by Stanford/neighborhood - social activity

4. *What current traffic issues do you have in the neighborhood?*

- Speeding
- Cut-thru traffic
- Traffic policing
- Caltrans should time traffic signals on Woodside @ Bay Road, Broadway, & Veterans Blvd.

The Group marked on an aerial map of their neighborhood routes taken when walking, biking and driving. Areas of concern were also marked on the map.

Group 3

1. *What do you like about Stanford University's proposed project in your neighborhood?*
 - Big improvement
 - Economic benefit to city, people and homeowners
 - Use of open space
 - Beautification of area
 - The whole area improving
 - Maybe possibilities for employment for locals
 - Increases business in corridor to downtown
 - Employees who jog would appreciate our neighborhood, we're nice people
2. *What concerns you about the project? Or what else would you like to see included in the project?*
 - Traffic, traffic, traffic
 - Impact on neighborhood streets (short cuts)
 - *Solution: stagger work hours*
 - Speed bumps not working
 - Concern of use of Hoover
 - Adequate public transit - Caltrans
 - *Get people out of their cars*
 - Above ground structures
 - *Solution: put in below ground parking*
 - Traffic control lights
 - *Put traffic light at 5th and Bay and 5th and Broadway*
 - Not many route options through Friendly Acres neighborhood

Group marked on aerial map routes taken through neighborhood when walking, biking and driving. The Group also marked areas of concern on the map.

Group 4

1. *What do you like about Stanford University's proposed project in your neighborhood?*
 - Adds to neighborhood
 - Brings job/employment
 - Better scenery
 - Reduce commute traffic if employees live in Redwood City

- Employees would be able to bike to work, except the roads are not bicycle friendly
2. *What concerns you about the project? Or what else would you like to see included in the project?*
- Handling volume of employees on road
 - *Solution: - vary work schedule*
 - Broadway/Woodside intersection is clogged
 - *Solution - make intersection like Whipple at Veterans*
 - Rolison egress would create problems. Would have to make a U-turn onto Marsh from Rolison
 - *Solution - 101 Ramp onto Rolison*
 - Cut-through traffic on Hoover and Bay. Speed bumps on Hoover do not slow traffic
 - *Solution - round-outs like on 7th and 8th*
 - Children crossing on Bay road. The crossing is dangerous. Drivers go too fast
 - *Solution: stop light and crossing guard*
 - When Excite was at that location it took 45 minutes from 5th Ave to Woodside
 - *Solution - Bay one way and Broadway one way*
 - Building height is a concern
 - Question: What does Stanford mean by additional use?
 - Answer: academic research is done on main campus. City would review any additional use for site
 - No one will be staying overnight. The Building will be occupied from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

The Group marked aerial map of neighborhood with routes used for walking, biking and driving. The Group also marked areas of concern on the map.

Group 5 (Spanish Language Group)

The Group did not indicate what they liked about the proposed project.

2. *What concerns you about the project? Or what else would you like to see included in the project?*
- The traffic
 - Parking on Broadway Street
 - When does that project start?
 - In what area is this project going to be constructed?
 - No Parking
 - If they are going to bring public transportation, why do we need so much parking?
 - What is the benefit? I am being affected by all the traffic, so in this moment how is it benefiting me?
3. *How could your concerns be addressed?*
- We should communicate with other neighbors about what is happening

- They should open up streets that will take us to El Camino Real
- Streets that are affecting the traffic, we need streets to be more lit.
- Why not use Ralston Rd. as an expressway?

The Group marked aerial map of neighborhood with routes used for walking, biking and driving. The Group also marked areas of concern on the map.

Report Out

Each group reported out highlights of their group discussion including what they liked about the project, their concerns, how the group addressed the concerns.

Next Steps

Ms. Riordan discussed what would happen with the information collected and next steps.

- The community notes will be compiled by PCRC and sent to the City.
- The City will post the notes on the City website.
- There will be two more community meetings on the proposed project:
 - December 3 at Summit Preparatory School
 - January 9th at Hoover School, which will be conducted in Spanish.
- Spring of 2009 - Draft Stanford Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Precise Plan should be completed. Once completed, the community will have 45-days to review and provide comments on the draft reports.
- Summer of 2009 - Final Stanford Project EIR & Precise Plan should be completed that will address public input/comments made on the Draft EIR.

Ms. Riordan invited the community to contact her at City Hall or at her email address (mrriordan@redwoodcity.org) if they have additional questions and she thanked the community for taking time out of their busy schedule to attend the meeting and for helping to make a difference in their community.

Lucy Wicks, Assistant Director of Community Relations, Stanford University, encouraged the participants to contact her if they had any other input for the Stanford project. Mrs. Wicks offered to also come and meet with members of the community if they were interested in continuing the conversation. Contact information for the Stanford team was distributed, as well as extra flyers on the upcoming two community meeting.

The City, PCRC and Stanford representatives thanked the participants for attending the meeting. The meeting was then adjourned.

Notes compiled by PCRC 650-513-0330 www.pcrweb.org



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