

**CITY OF ALBANY
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: November 7, 2008

TO: Gill Tract Design Team Members

FROM: Judy Lieberman, Assistant City Administrator

SUBJECT: Summary of 10/30/08 meeting

1. Introductions: All present introduced themselves and who they represented—See separate sign-in sheet.
2. Summary of September Meeting: Lieberman presented a brief overview of the results of the first design exercise, including a summary of comments both pro and con regarding each of the options.
3. Background Information on Acreages and Uses: Acreage and use information was provided to all participants and discussed
4. Design Exercise#2: Attendees were provided with a roughly to scale map of the location and cut outs of the potential uses. They developed their own options and presented them to the group. See below for listing of comments.
5. Discussion/Roundtable: Attendees discussed the exercise and the potential next steps for moving the design process forward. Subgroups were discussed in the following areas:
 - a. Urban Farm:
 - b. Child Care Center
 - c. Ball fields
 - d. Community Cener
 - e. Trails
 - f. Overall Urban Design
6. It was agreed to have a follow-up meeting in mid-December.

Attachments

1. Sign in Sheet
2. Acreage and Use Table
3. Results of Design Exercise
4. Written Comments

WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM DESIGN EXERCISE:

- We should show how side streets and 10th and the west portion of Village Creek intersect
- What about relocating Village Creek so it aligns with west portion—How do Creek advocates feel about this?
- Childcare convenient to ocean view school, bus stop, Buchanan
- Community Center may be too remote from Village if placed too far to north.
- Jackson Street parking opposite Ocean View can be shared nights and weekeneds with field and bball and playground users. Jackson Street needs traffic flow re-do
- Community Center needs to be near Village residents—in south quadrant, nearer to Jackson Street
- Playground is also used by Little League families during games.
- Don't forget street trees
- Initial staff drawing is not bad
- Peds and bikes must have safe pleasant experience—look at overall urban design
- Want to retain urban Agriculture and forested entryway to Albany at Buchanan
- Ball fields should be set back from streets and put in proper orientation
- Community Center/Child Care located around parking lot
- Allow bike/ped trail to enter Village from near corner of Marin/SPA and meander to main bike route along 8th/Jackson
- Cluster recreation, playfields, courts with Community Center
- Community center needs to be close to largest number of Village residents
- Community center/Child Care could share parking/drop-off area
- Farm area between Buchanan and most of other facilities
- Urban Garden could be developed along the bicycle trail; could divided into different sections, such as children's gardens, food production from a non-profit or commercial group, etc.
- Cluster parking and recreational/community center uses.
- Top issues are ped/bike connectivity in and out of Village, esp. E-W
- Improve pedestrian safety/comfort on SPA and Buchanan/Marin
- Conserve space, don't float buildings in the midst of lawns
- Street trees to line street on Marin/Buchanan—median large enough for big trees
- Buildings should abut Buchanan and SPA to conserve land at center
- Need continuous building frontage to improve pedestrian experience
- Why spend millions to move ball fields when that is not necessary and money could be better used elsewhere.
- Problem putting fields on Buchanan/Marin is that those not invited will play there
- Seems consensus is that farm should be along Buchanan
- Emphasize relationship between the community center, city, AUSD, and UC via urban gardening program
- Nutrition education program would be vital to residents as well as hands on practicum
- Grant \$ available to programs for urban agriculture