



WATERFRONT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE

CITY OF ALBANY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

JUNE 7, 2007

7:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Brian Parker Steve Granholm
 Bill Dann Clay Larson
 Kathy Diehl Eddy So

Members Absent: Jerri Holan
Staff Present: Ann Chaney

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-1. Approve minutes from April 17th and May 3rd meetings (attached)

April 17th minutes are not complete – will be reviewed at a later meeting. Dann was absent at the meeting. May 3rd meeting minutes approved unanimously, as amended by Granholm.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Caryl Okeefe: pleased meeting is being taped, recommends all meetings be taped.

5. REPORTS

5-1. Portable toilet installation - Update

Chaney reported toilet has been installed, and recognized the work of EBRPD, City Maintenance Staff and the WFC for making it happen.

5-2. Burrowing Owl Habitat – Update

Chaney reported that the GPS points were taken, and staff of EBRPD/City set stakes. The stakes disappeared, making it difficult to complete the mapping. Staff is now trying to complete map discrepancies, and consulting with EBRPD regarding design of road and habitat to design according to their standards. Chaney researched JPA agreement regarding maintenance of habitat; they have

agreed to pay for maintenance of 1 year and installation cost. JPA has not taken up the 5-year maintenance funding yet, but will be taken up in future.

Larson asked when the plan would be available.

Chaney replied she is awaiting responses from EBRPD regarding grading of road specifications, and the goal is to get the item to City Council before the August recess.

5-3. Interim Bay Trail – Update

Chaney contacted Townsend – he is on vacation. Response from colleague is that there have not been any changes.

5-4. Golden Gate Fields resurfacing of racetrack – Update

Parker stated the City Council discussed the item and there were questions regarding completeness of the application. Pollard asked that the item be pulled because there was details that needed to be further completed regarding tax revenue. Chaney stated staff would be making an environmental determination by next week. City’s CEQA guidelines allow for an appeal process to any administrative decision. The applicant will also be required to seek permits by agencies that have jurisdiction over the project.

6. DISCUSSIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS, WHICH COULD INCLUDE REPORTS AND/OR PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS IF ANY:

6-1. Waterfront Planning Process – Don Neuwirth (Neuwirth and Associates) will be present to hear and discuss ideas for preparing a Work Program for Waterfront planning.

Neuwirth provided a description of his goals in preparing a work program for waterfront planning. Neuwirth asked whether the land area of the project should be limited to Golden Gate Fields property (GGF), or look at the waterfront as a whole. Neuwirth will be seeking innovative ways to involve Albany citizens. Neuwirth will also provide technical information and a summary of existing plans and studies. Neuwirth will go to City Council with a work program in September. WFC will be able to review the plan prior to the Council meeting.

Committee Comments:

Larson stated it is important to give the community a range of plans for review. Neuwirth stated his idea of a plan includes plan alternatives – 3 at least, 5 maximum. These alternatives would include an alternative of doing nothing, and would be aired as wide as possible within the community for input.

So asked if Neuwirth had any plans to have community meetings to get input. Neuwirth stated he would have informal sessions with the community to have a chance to meet with those not part of committee/commissions or other groups. Parker suggested Neuwirth also meet with Albany Waterfront Coalition, Citizens for Eastshore State Park (CESP), and Citizens for Albany Shoreline (CAS) to get a chance to understand each group’s interests.

Neuwirth stated he will be meeting with CESP, and will work with Albany Waterfront Coalition.

Larson stated he is unsure why the broad-spectrum outreach to community is necessary at this point since this work item is to develop a planning process.

Neuwirth stated he has a detailed work plan approved by City that includes conducting community outreach.

Parker asked Neuwirth to provide his work plan for the Committee.

Parker asked if the planning process should engage the City of Berkeley, although there may be difficulty engaging in a multi-jurisdictional planning process. Parker supports a program that includes deep public participation, and examines the land use tradeoffs, as well as city revenue options associated with land use. Eventually a compromise may be reached that satisfies the differing preferences and visions for the waterfront.

Neuwirth stated citizen participation and identification of tradeoffs are exactly what is needed to get away from the existing ideological positions regarding the waterfront.

Public Comment:

Maureen Crawley: entire waterfront area should be considered. Would like funding considerations included as part of the planning process.

Edward Moore: participated in Berkeley waterfront planning process. Aesthetic value of property should be realized, consider waterfront as a whole. Retain consultant to examine aesthetics of regional waterfront.

Allan Maris: Asked if small group meetings will be open to public. Zoning code changes along Solano Avenue involved the property owners, and thinks property owner should be considered in this process.

Parker: concept in proposing small group meetings similar to Neuwirth speaking one on one to get understanding of interests, and hear from as many people as he can. Agrees the meetings should be public.

Trevor Grayling: what is the actual coverage of this plan – assumed it was Albany waterfront district. GGF, bulb, neck plateau and beach, seems logical that should be coverage since Council has not said otherwise. Supports multiple alternatives produced, including one in which GGF stays on property.

Agrees with Chairman Parker that an important part of process is to educate citizens as to what is actually possible in terms of improving the land considering the constraints of the site such as landfill, wetlands, legal and financial issues.

Also would like information on what other cities has done with their waterfronts.

Howard McNenny: Albany Waterfront Coalition would like to meet with Neuwirth at an open meeting forum.

Caryl Okeefe: agrees entire waterfront should be considered, consult with Berkeley for reference materials. Supports educational process so citizens can understand geography of the site. Supports involving the property owner in the process. Suggests sending a survey to community to identify concerns and interests regarding waterfront.

Ed Fields: supports educating community regarding waterfront, focus now is how to get a plan for waterfront. His vision for waterfront does not include a casino. Casino has not been discussed tonight yet. Thinks it is important part of educating community because that is what Magna would like to see at waterfront.

Ruth Ganong: involved in Albany waterfront planning since 1965. Appreciates Parker's statement to listen to each other and collaborate.

Peter Shakhov: member of Albany Waterfront Coalition agrees the waterfront should be looked at in entirety, many residents have a connection to waterfront, and some have perception that the only place community could develop tax-generating revenue. Planning for waterfront needs to include consideration of city's tax revenue needs.

Bob Outis: supports empowering citizens, all need to modify interests to consider public good. Neuwirth's description of 2 ideological positions in city is inaccurate. Many more than 2 positions regarding waterfront. Process needs to be multi-jurisdictional and include Berkeley.

Sally Outis: current project is how to develop plan for planning process, supports educating community. Look at ways to replace tax revenue in other places in the City other than the waterfront. Suggests economic development staff research opportunities for revenue.

Parker supports doing a community goal setting process to narrow the range of alternatives, and work towards consensus.

Neuwirth stated goal setting will be one of the first steps and leads to the functional criteria for development, for example revenue negative, neutral or positive options. Met with Magna, they expressed interest in participating in process. Interested in also working with schools to get youth perspective regarding waterfront.

So would like recommendations in work plan regarding how to conduct community outreach.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

7-1. Committee Recess: Pursuant to Resolution #03-56, Council and Members of City Commissions, Boards and Committees will recess during the month of August and between December 23rd and 31st.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8.1. Next Meeting June 19, 2007 – quorum is available for meeting, talk with Neuwirth again, and aim to generate a larger public attendance. Appears a quorum is available for the July 5, 2007, but will be reconfirmed at next meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT