

SPECIAL TRAILS AND PATHS COMMITTEE MINUTES – Tuesday, December 1, 2020, 8.15 am

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8.18 am.

ROLL CALL: J. Coleman, B. Eckstein, E. Ferrari, S. Gold, G. Hanning, F. Leach, Teresa Coleman, Conservation Committee, K. Stromeyer PV Ranch and Conservation Committee. H. Young, Public Works Director, Jeremy Dennis, Town Manager, Laura Russell, Planning Director. Guests: Connie Argo, Valerie Baldwin, Danna Breen, Rita Comes, Kristi Corley, Rusty Day, Mary Hufty, Jean Isaacson, Judith Murphy, Sarah Wernikoff, Karen Vahtra.

ORAL/COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS: Laura Russell asked Susan Gold to recuse herself from public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: S. Gold suggested that under Old Business, c. Alpine trail signage, the sentence on the 7th line should read as: "S. Gold noted the town should resurrect the town's plan to widen the Alpine dirt trail in front of the old Wood's estate." A motion was made by E. Ferrari to approve the Minutes of November 17, 2020, with this correction, seconded by S. Gold, and everyone was in favor.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

- a. **Stanford Subdivision Project Update:** Laura Russell and Jeremy Dennis: A subdivision triggers language in the General Plan Trails Element; connectivity is the main point. The application is nearing completion and starting to solidify. Stanford put forward a trail proposal but there has been no collaboration. L. Russell says they have been working with a consultant (Stephanie Davis) to review all the plans which are technically related. These are being funneled to the ASCC and the Planning Commission and the Preliminary review will be in the New Year. Public review is welcomed at that time. Draft Environmental Impact Review comes out in the New Year and will return to the Trails Committee for final recommendations, and will take time to get them through all these public meetings. The Special Subdivision Committee includes groups outlined in the town code. J. Dennis says it is not uncommon for applicants not to address all issues during the initial process.
- b. **Project Q/A:** Group, Laura Russell and Jeremy Dennis: G. Hanning asked if there is any impact on trails with the Environmental Impact report. L. Russell said yes. J. Coleman stressed the importance of the wildlife corridor along Canyon trail. G. Hanning supports a direct meeting with Stanford and the SubCommittee official process in the code and asked when we can sit with Stanford and address trails. He is anxious to have trail needs incorporated before the project goes ahead. L. Russell: The Subdivision Committee is the committee which would be the official body to meet with them and she has elaborated the trail issues with the applicant. Comments should be made clear to ASCC and the Planning Committee. Rita Comes left a message with the following questions: 1. Are the current documents with Stanford on the town website? 2. Can we have meetings noted to the public as a recent meeting was not? D. Breen: Who hired the EIR team and how were they chosen? L. Russell: The town solicited public proposals and the selected consultant was approved by the council. D. Breen: Staff should include all proposals to committees before too far along. Rusty Day: Once a

tentative plan is submitted, the Subdivision Committee should be notified. Under the ordinance, Section 17.20.15, 17.21.170, the Trails Committee has a right to prepare a report to the Subdivision Committee and then that Committee prepares its own report. Who are the members of the Subdivision Committee and what meetings have been held and are they public? Who are the people on the Subdivision Committee? L. Russell: All committees who are pertinent have been notified. ASCC appointed a member, individuals from other committees have been appointed, and L. Russell thinks she is the chair. R. Day: Asks this be on a website so public comments can be directed to the Subdivision Committee. Mary Hufty: When she was Chair of the Trails Committee for the Blue Oaks development, the Town Engineer and the Conservation Committee walked with the developer and trails were established before any construction took place. Feels there is no-one looking at the land on this project. The Town Engineer, the Planning Director and the Trails Committee should be familiar with the trails and acknowledges this subdivision is very different from the previous development. G. Hanning: The structures should be subservient to the land as in previous developments. Kristi Corley: Notices this is the first time it is being rolled out through the Trails Committee and not to residents first. Thinks many new young families who cannot attend early meetings, cannot weigh in. G. Hanning will consider time change for Trail Committee meetings. K. Corley: Requests that Planning Committee meetings should be put on the PV Forum and Next door. L. Russell will consider. L. Russell: Project will be brought up to ASCC and Planning Commission. B. Eckstein: Are comments from the Trails Committee being included and will a Subdivision Committee meeting be upcoming? L. Russell says comments will be included and a meeting will come later. R. Day suggested getting the SubCommittee Subdivision Committee going now and holding a meeting. K. Corley: When Stanford had its first airing of the proposal in the School house, were the comments registered? L. Russell will ask Stanford for community outreach comments thus far, if they have any.

- c. **Review 2nd round Trails and Paths comments:** Group: G. Hanning: Next round would be asking applicant to formalize the Canyon trail, a central element in the trails network. Suggest working with Stanford re. part on Stanford land (from gate to Alpine), and top part leading to Cervantes (part of which is on private land and residents would need to work with the Trails Committee). Also want to extend an upper loop trail to Pine Ridge/Minoca area on the newly found town trail. We are going beyond the Trail Element and asking for a new trail. Karen Vahtra, member of the Town Fire Committee, felt an upper loop would be an asset as a fire break and would provide access to keep the area clean. R. Day: Canyon trail runs along a box canyon where there is a fault off lower Westridge Drive called the Hermit fault. This would provide an important evacuation route in the event of fires or earthquakes. Trails should be considered as easy evacuation routes therefore restoration of the Canyon trail is important. Second area: Ohlone occupation habitat has been noted and the southern ravine is the area with Ohlone artifacts. Our committee should honor indigenous artifacts and preserve them, especially as the truck turnaround goes in this area. Traditionally trails are not considered exit routes as they are not wide enough for cars but are important for bikes or foot traffic. K. Stromeyer: Laura Jones from Stanford is working on the Ohlone history.

- d. G. Hanning: Alpine Road dirt trail is very noisy and suggestion is to move the trail further in from Alpine Road. B. Eckstein says it is important to widen the trail and make multi-use. In the Trail Standards on the town website, the requirements and usage of the trail determines how they are built. Next step is for the Subcommittee, (F. Leach and J. Coleman) to draft the next round of comments. K. Corley: Why are we not able to walk the trails ? Stanford talks of a 'great partnership' with the town in a recent publication and she thinks this is quite misleading. G. Hanning says he had hoped we would have had a collaborative effort. Rita Comes: Submitted comments to Stanford and heard nothing back. Felt any meetings should be publicly noted and Stanford should be held to the same standards as other applicants, such as homeowners. K. Stromeyer: Conservation Committee and Trails Committee have similar concerns and should work together. M. Hufty: Stressed the importance of the wildlife corridor aspect, especially from Arastradero to Jasper ridge.
- e. **Discuss reply to 3rd and 4th round Trails and Paths proposals:** Group:
The Trails Committee supports and affirms the following proposals: 1. The Alpine Road dirt trail be moved away from Alpine road onto Stanford land. 2. Wants Stanford to formalize the Canyon trail from Cervantes to Alpine road. 3. Wants Stanford to formalise an upper loop to the Pine Ridge/Minoca area on the newly found town trail.

ADJOURNMENT: E. Ferrari made a motion to adjourn, F. Leach seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10.15 am.