

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING NO. 730, OCTOBER 10, 2007, AT THE SEQUOIAS

ROLL CALL

Mayor Driscoll called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Howard called the roll:

Present: Councilmembers Davis, Derwin, Merk and Toben, and Mayor Driscoll  
Absent: None  
Others: Town Administrator Howard, Town Attorney Sloan, and Asst. Town Administrator McDougall

Mayor Driscoll noted that the Council would try to hold meetings at The Sequoias every 3-6 months.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

(1) Recognition of Service of Lt. Ken Jones and Introduction of Lt. John Courtney

Mayor Driscoll said Lt. Ken Jones, Sheriff's Dept., had been transferred to another district in San Mateo County. Lt. Jones had worked with the Town for 33 years and was a very important member of the community. Throughout his career, he had worked with and for the communities of Woodside and Portola Valley, and been in charge of the bomb squad, SWAT team, and the motorcycle unit. He also served as the lead investigator on a significant arson case in Woodside during the 1990s. He was well known in the community and would be very much missed.

Sheriff Munks thanked the Council for honoring Lt. Jones. Lt. Jones had done an outstanding job and truly cared about the communities he served—especially Portola Valley. He would now be in charge of everything on the other side of Skyline, which covered a much larger geographical area. He noted that all the lieutenants were moved around for career development. He thanked Lt. Jones for everything he had done for the Town and everything he would continue to do for the Sheriff's office and citizens of San Mateo County. The new lieutenant, John Courtney, was out of town and would be introduced to the Town at a later date. He described Lt. Courtney's most recent assignment, noting that he had worked in Town and was familiar with the community. He introduced other members of the Sheriff's office who were present.

Mayor Driscoll presented Lt. Jones with a plaque signifying his service to the community and the Town's appreciation. Lt. Jones said he was honored to be recognized. He said he had many good memories of working with the Town and that it had been the highlight of his career.

Bill Lane said there were not many members of the community that Lt. Jones had not met up with over the last 30 years. After he [Lane] gave the Town the speed trailer 7 years ago, Lt. Jones had moved the trailer around personally over the years. As a token of appreciation, he presented Lt. Jones with a copy of Life on the San Andreas Fault.

CONSENT AGENDA

By motion of Councilmember Merk, seconded by Councilmember Davis, the items listed below were approved with the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Davis, Derwin, Merk and Toben, and Mayor Driscoll.  
Noes: None

(3) Warrant List of October 10, 2007, in the amount of \$569,240.48, following clarification for Councilmember Merk.

- (4) Resolution No. 2367-2007 Approving and Authorizing Execution of an Amendment to Storm Drain Easement and Agreement Between the Town and Benedictine Fathers of the Priory, Inc., per Town Attorney's memo of 10/4/07.

REGULAR AGENDA

- (2) Minutes of Town Council Meeting of September 26, 2007 (Removed from Consent Agenda)

Councilmember Merk submitted changes to the minutes of the 9/26/07 meeting. By motion and second, the minutes were approved as amended by a vote of 5-0.

- (5) Presentation on County and Town Evacuation Plans

Cindy Holzman, Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services, said OES worked with cities to mitigate and respond to disasters that might happen. She said not too many towns had thought about evacuation plans, and Portola Valley was very progressive. Using a computer presentation, she discussed: 1) reasons for evacuations such as fire, earthquakes, hazardous spills, and flooding; 2) authority to order evacuation; 3) role of OES; 4) factors involved in the decision to evacuate; 5) SMC Alert system; 6) standard Emergency Alert System (EAS); 7) Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS); 8) determination of evacuation area; 9) shelter in place; 10) preparing a home/yard/vehicle for evacuation; 11) emergency kits and vital documents; 12) emergency planning for pets and shelters; 13) MOU's for horse boarding during an emergency; and 14) where to evacuate. Answering questions, she said SamTrans buses might be used to evacuate Sequoias residents if it was a localized event; the County also had some buses. Responding to a resident, she said there were many places throughout the County that were Red Cross shelters. They were not advertised because it was not known what kind of shelter it would be until an event happened. Most high schools, junior colleges, and large community centers were Red Cross shelters. The Red Cross would find the most centrally located shelter and send a team to that facility to ensure that the building was sound and capable of housing a shelter. Then it would be announced that it was a Red Cross shelter. That would come through the emergency communication systems. Responding to a resident, she said the Town management was primarily responsible for making the decision to evacuate. Ms. Howard added that the Town had a succession list; someone would be available to make that call. The Sheriff's office would also assist in making the decision. Responding to a resident, Sheriff Munks said training was a key component. NIMS was a new system. He noted that grants from Homeland Security were paying for a lot of the systems being implemented. In the event of a major disaster such as earthquake, the EOC would need to be set up right away and might be going for weeks or months. Training, cross-training Town staff, and training of volunteers were critical. That was one of the benefits of the OES; communities would have the training and depth that they would need for a long-term event.

Responding to Derry Kabcenell, Ms. Holzman said emergency evacuation routes were primarily determined at the time of the event. In the background and in advance, both patrol and the fire department had detailed information about the Town and the condition of roads/gates. They had done a lot of research and could make an informed decision quickly at the time of the event given all the factors that were known. Mr. Kabcenell said he would like to get together with some of the people who had done some of the pre-planning to get a feel for what those routes looked like. A representative from the Fire Dept. *[unidentified]* said things could change very quickly during an emergency. Members from the fire and police would look at the emergency and figure out what the best route would be. The Fire Dept. knew about the gates, etc., and in an emergency, those gates would be opened. He suggested doing some drills with the Town and CERPP.

*[Tape malfunction--missing discussion.]*

Responding to a resident, Ms. Holzman said Red Cross shelters would not take pets. However, the Human Society was working with the Red Cross to co-locate shelters near human shelters. Other shelters that were not Red Cross shelters might have different rules. She discussed advantages of micro-chipping pets.

Mayor Driscoll noted that the first line of defense was for people to be able to live in their own houses for 72 hours. The Town was low density and should not expect emergency services in the event of a regional emergency. Everyone should have water, blankets, etc.

(2) LAFCo's Draft Municipal Services Review for the Town

Martha Poyatos, Executive Officer for San Mateo LAFCo, reviewed the report dated September 24, 2007, entitled "Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Review--Town of Portola Valley." Using a computer presentation, she discussed: 1) the purpose of the report; 2) sphere of influence for the Town; 3) background and history of the Town; 4) growth and population projections; 6) financing constraints and opportunities; 7) Town budget; 8) cost avoidance opportunities and opportunities for rate restructuring; 9) existing practices for shared services; 10) options for annexation; 11) evaluation of management efficiencies; 12) local accountability and governance; and 13) determining sphere of influence. Responding to Councilmember Derwin, she said "sphere of influence" was the plan for the boundaries of an agency. It was similar to a general plan. The Town had areas that were designated residential, and they might be undeveloped. It was a policy statement that this area was for residential or commercial, but it didn't mandate that development happen. In the case of sphere of influence, if an area would receive city services, it determined which city would best provide those services.

Referring to the report, Councilmember Merk said the table that showed the area under study (p. 2) indicated that the Town was responsible for streetlights, but there was nothing indicated under Ladera or Los Trancos Woods/Vista Verde. He pointed out that the Town did not have streetlights and did not plan on having any. Responding, Ms. Poyatos said the County of San Mateo was responsible for streetlights in Ladera and Los Trancos Woods/Vista Verde. Whether or not they existed, "none" could not be inserted. Referring to the report (p. 10), Councilmember Merk said there was one area nearby, which was outside the Town's sphere of influence but was very much a part of the Town. It was a strip of homes on the other side of Los Trancos Creek along Alpine Rd., and some other land that was separated from the City of Palo Alto and Los Altos Hills by the Arastradero Preserve. Most of them had addresses that were Portola Valley. Historically, people from there voted in Portola Valley. It was in another county, and not particularly served by that county. He asked if there was a way for LAFCo to address that kind of a cross-county issue. Responding, Ms. Poyatos said city boundaries could not cross county boundaries by State law. One choice was to apply to amend the county boundary in order to amend the city's sphere of influence and ultimately city boundary through annexation. Additionally, districts such as West Bay Sanitary District could serve more than one boundary, and that area was in the sphere of West Bay in terms of the services they provided. It required good government between public agencies and getting involved with the City of Palo Alto and the County of Santa Clara on how development there impacted traffic and other services within the Town of Portola Valley. Councilmember Merk verified that it would take an act of the legislature to change the county boundary. Referring to the report (p. 11) under present and planned land uses, Councilmember Merk said there was no industrial zoning or use in Town. On sphere or influence considerations (p. 12), he questioned why "to be completed" was entered under the four considerations. Responding, Ms. Poyatos said as indicated, the text would be based on comments received from agencies or through meetings like this. She did not foresee any drastic changes to the Town's sphere of influence based on feedback.

Responding to Mayor Driscoll, Ms. Poyatos confirmed that special districts such as West Bay and MROSD could annex across county boundaries, but the Town could not. Mayor Driscoll said there was an area in Woodside that was directly across the street from the Town Hall. If those residents wished to be annexed, he asked what would need to be done. Ms. Poyatos said it was considered a "reorganization" to detach from one city and annex to another. All annexations had to be consistent with the sphere; it would need to

be removed from one sphere and included in another. State law allowed a city to veto a detachment. Annexing the area would require: 1) consent from the Town of Woodside; 2) rezoning by the Town; 3) an exchange in property tax revenue; and 4) consent by the residents. Mayor Driscoll noted that this area had problems getting cable service because they were isolated from the rest of Woodside; the Town had given permission to have them serviced by the Town's cable system.

Councilmember Toben expressed his appreciation for the quality of work in the report, noting that the text was a pleasure to read. He felt the essence of the community had been described accurately, and he complimented staff for providing the information for the report. He suggested new residents be given a copy of the report. Referring to the table on property tax allocation (p. 6), he said the Town's share of property tax was shown as 4.3%. The TEA-shift mechanism brought the Town up to 7%, and he questioned why the current allocation was not depicted. Ms. Poyatos said the table represented what the Controller's office actually gave to the Town. The County of San Mateo was required to backfill the dollar amount. The table was accurate and represented the result of Proposition 13. Responding to Councilmember Toben, she said the report was updated every 5 years.

Bill Lane said when the Town incorporated, approval had to be obtained from LAFCo. The language in the report had a lot of history to it that he, Bob Brown and others wrote up from the material and information put together to pass legislation to incorporate the Town. LAFCo had presented their report to the Board of Supervisors, and they gave their approval. At the time, one of the Supervisors said if the Town was operated as well as the LAFCo document, it would be a great success.

#### COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

##### (7) Cable Committee Appointment

Referring to Chris Buja's e-mail dated 9/3/07, Mayor Driscoll appointed Kevin Weil to the Cable Committee. By motion and second, Council concurred.

##### (8) Traffic Committee Appointment

Referring to Chris Buja's e-mail dated 9/26/07, Mayor Driscoll appointed Marisa Currier to the Traffic Committee. By motion and second, Council concurred.

##### (9) Planning Commission Interviews and Appointment

Ms. Howard reviewed her memo of 10/10/07 on the timing of the appointment to the Planning Commission. Responding to Mayor Driscoll, she confirmed that the vacancy had been posted on the Website immediately after the Council's 9/12/07 meeting. Subsequently, a display ad ran in *The Almanac* on 9/19/07, 9/26/07 and 10/3/07. She said Councilmember Merk had questioned whether it was appropriate to appoint someone when there technically was not a vacancy. She said Ms. Sloan said there were no legal issues, and the question before the Council was whether they wanted to extend the deadline to interview applicants. She noted that a letter dated 10/5/07 from Jon Silver opposed appointment of a new commissioner before the impending vacancy actually occurred.

Councilmember Merk said his objection was that it was patently unfair to have a lame duck session of the Council appoint a person to a position that was not yet vacant. It was proper to have the new Council fill the vacancy because there would not be a vacancy until such time as there was a new Council. It was an issue of fairness—not an issue of legality.

Councilmember Davis said he was more concerned about the fact that some people felt the vacancy would occur in December or January when people went off the Commission. Two people had contacted him with

some degree of surprise that the Town was in fact seeking candidates. Additionally, he felt that the ASCC and Planning Commissioner appointments should be discussed by the full Council. For those who were not aware that the Town was seeking candidates, he recommended re-opening the application period and having the full Council interview and make the appointment.

Councilmember Toben said a couple of years ago, the Council clarified the terms of the Planning Commissioners. If the Town proceeded with the appointment on October 24 as planned, it would be an interim appointment. Responding, Ms. Sloan said she did not think the intent was to appoint someone on an interim basis. She assumed that the Council would be doing the interviews and appointing someone, effective as soon as the new Councilmember was sworn in. It would be a four-year term. She did not recall that it started from a certain date. The intent was to be efficient and prevent the Commission from having a gap. Councilmember Toben said the intent was to create a certain regularity with respect to the opportunity for new people to come forward and challenge incumbents if they wanted to. In order to do that, a regular period when terms would expire would give citizens the opportunity to apply for those openings. That implied the existence of a term--much as the term for a Councilmember began at a certain time.

Ms. Howard said she understood the Planning Commission and ASCC served from January to January. When there was an opening during the year, she did not recall that there had been any discussion about it being an interim position; they served from the time they were appointed. The next January after four years, their term was up. Responding to Councilmember Toben, she confirmed that this appointment, whether it was made on October 24 or some time in November, would be effective in December at the time of the vacancy on the Planning Commission and would run for four years from January. Ms. Sloan noted that the Planning Commission traditionally cancelled their second meeting in December.

Councilmember Toben said he wanted clarity and consistency on the dates of the new appointee's terms. He also felt it should coincide with any other terms that were due to expire in January.

Councilmember Merk said the Planning Commission vacancy would occur December 12. There would be one meeting in 2007 of the Planning Commission after that date, if the Planning Commission chose to have a second meeting in December. They usually chose not to hold that meeting, but they might choose to because it fell on December 19. That would be the first meeting that the new commissioner would take the position. That was one meeting before January 1. He did not think the Council had made a hard and fast rule about when the terms started. He would rather wait until there was a vacancy and then interview and make the appointment. The Planning Commission would be without a fifth member for potentially only one meeting if they chose to have a second meeting in December. He proposed interviews take place in January. Councilmember Toben said he would not be present, and he agreed the decision on the appointment should be made by the full Council.

Councilmember Toben said he felt that the notice provided for this vacancy was complete and that word-of-mouth had occurred. He did not see a compelling basis for an alternate schedule. For the integrity of the process, he thought the Council should adhere to the proposed schedule. He noted that his own appointment to the Planning Commission eight years ago occurred in December, and he had not joined until January.

Jon Silver said his recollection was that the terms were fixed. If someone went onto the Council, moved or resigned mid-term, the appointee served out the remainder of that fixed term.

Mayor Driscoll said the appointment could be made at one point and effective a different date. Chair Wengert had been attending the Council meetings, and he assumed that she, as the current Planning Commission Chair, could be included in the interview process. His only concern was that one well-intentioned individual had applied and others had not. He questioned whether it was fair to that individual to re-open the application process. He also thought it was important for the full Council to do the interviews. It

was also important for the Council to try to have a diversity of planning commissioners; having more than one choice allowed that diversity. He would prefer to have more than one applicant, and was open to delaying the appointment to November 14 when the full Council was present along with Chair Wengert in the audience. The interview could be conducted and made effective January 1. Responding to Mayor Driscoll, Ms. Howard confirmed that the Chairs of the Planning Commission and ASCC had always been invited to the meetings when the interviews took place and were always encouraged to speak with the applicants. They did not participate in the actual deliberation of the Council, but the Council often asked the Chair for their opinion.

Jon Silver reviewed his letter of 10/5/07. He was stunned that the new councilmember would not have a chance to vote on the appointment of her replacement. He discussed how planning commissioners had been appointed since 1975 when vacancies were created by election or elevation of commissioners to councilmembers. Additionally, if the application period was re-opened, he suggested *The Almanac* run an article on the essence of this discussion in order to generate more publicity. His recollection was that when a vacancy took place on the Planning Commission due to an election, the Town ended up getting many more applicants than would have occurred otherwise. When he was on the Council and there were a small number of applicants, it was re-opened and publicized better. This was not an insult to the applicants who had come forward; it just needed to be more open and draw more people in. He did not feel a precedent should be set of not letting the new Council vote to fill the Planning Commission vacancy.

Mayor Driscoll said in his case, he was in a contested election, and it wasn't clear he was leaving the Planning Commission until after the election. The appointment had not been made until January because it wasn't clear whether there would be a vacancy. In this case, the Council was aware in August of the vacancy. That was one reason why this appointment was scheduled earlier.

Councilmember Merk said there was also an issue of notice. Notice had been legal but at a minimum. Historically, the Town had multiple applicants. At this point in time, there was one applicant, and he was concerned about the lack of notice. The second issue had to do with the inability of a new councilmember to vote on a replacement because there was not a vacancy to fill. That was an important consideration, and he was concerned about the precedent. He thought it was an important part of the democratic process that the Council not jump ahead of itself. He would rather that the Council make a decision on the appointment in his absence than to make the decision before Chair Wengert had taken her seat on the Council. He wanted the Town to follow a very straightforward and honest protocol—one that the Town could look back to and agree that was how it was done. He didn't want there to be a question of whether it was done the right way or wrong way. If he wasn't present to vote, the cards would fall where they fell.

Councilmember Derwin concurred, although she preferred that the full Council was present. Regarding the notice, she felt the proper procedure had been followed. But, she had received calls asking why the Planning Commission vacancy hadn't been publicized. She supported extending the deadline a little bit more. She would prefer that Councilmember Merk was present, but as long as he was okay with not being present, she recommended making the decision on December 12.

Councilmember Davis said he did not agree with comments about it being a lame duck Council. Right up until the time that a councilmember left the job, he made decisions that would stand for years after he was gone. In this case because of the timing, the threshold for advertising was higher and didn't last as long. He moved to open the application period with the intent that the new Council could do the interviewing with all members present in January. Councilmember Merk seconded.

Councilmembers discussed their availability during the months of December and January. Responding to Mayor Driscoll, Ms. Howard said the application period could be extended to January 11 if interviews would be held on January 23--assuming that Chair Wengert would be available for that meeting. Councilmember Davis amended his motion to include the dates. Councilmember Merk said there was also the possibility of

having a special meeting and moving the date up. He would prefer to remove the specific dates and make it "as soon as possible" in January. Councilmember Davis suggested the closing date be set with a date "to be determined" for the Council's meeting.

Councilmember Toben said he preferred to take action earlier due to the workload of the Planning Commission. He was impressed by Councilmember Merk's offer that the Council proceed in his absence. He suggested adopting a policy that on appointments to the ASCC or Planning Commission, a Councilmember was provided the courtesy of his/her attendance being required, but they could opt not to exercise that courtesy. If Councilmember Merk was prepared to let the Council move forward on December 12, that would give the Town almost 1½ months more lead time. To defer this decision for three months didn't seem appropriate. If he [Toben] could not be present, he could accept that.

Councilmember Merk said generally, from Thanksgiving to New Year's, very little got done. The January meetings were at issue. The appointment could probably be made before the January 23 meeting.

Mayor Driscoll said he could vote in favor of the motion, but he preferred to make the decision on November 14. He thought the normal process the Town used was to try to fill the vacancy when it was realized there would be a vacancy. There were two separate issues. First, whether there was sufficient notice and visibility for the position in order to get a broad range of applicants. The second issue was which Council should vote and how quickly it could be done. The second issue was heavily complicated by traveling and holiday schedules. He preferred it be done sooner rather than later but could accept the argument that a number of people didn't know about the vacancy. Councilmember Toben said he preferred November as well. Ms. Howard confirmed that if the interviews were on November 14, the application period would close on November 2.

Mayor Driscoll called for a vote on the motion to have the closing on January 11, with interviews on January 23, or sooner if possible with a special meeting, assuming Chair Wengert was present. The motion carried 3-2, with Mayor Driscoll and Councilmember Toben opposed.

(10) Status of Town Center Project

Ms. Howard said the framing was going up in the library. The customized pieces for the playground were not complete. The softball field grading was complete, and the leach fields would be going in this week. The placement of the trail in front of the Schoolhouse had been discussed at the ADT meeting. It was agreed the alignment could be kept in front and not move the parking area; the Trails Committee agreed. The Trails Committee briefly discussed the trail at the back of the property, and it needed to be looked into more carefully due to a number of factors. The ADT also discussed whether there could be some expansion of the Town Hall at a later date; the front counter had been pushed out in order to fit one more person. A window was planned for upstairs for a possible working space.

Mayor Driscoll said there were some significant issues with the trail behind the soccer field. Some trees would need to be removed, etc. There had been an assumption that there was more space there than there was. Councilmembers discussed whether the trail needed to accommodate equestrians.

(11) Reports from Commission and Committee Liaisons

(a) Airport Roundtable

Councilmember Toben said he was the lone "nay" vote on the budget for the Roundtable. He questioned whether the Roundtable was getting value for the budget that was recommended. He said he would continue to work with the Roundtable on issues that were important to the Town.

(b) Traffic Committee

Councilmember Davis said the Traffic Committee discussed the application of the new member.

(c) Stanford C-1 Trail

Councilmember Davis said the Town Attorney received a preliminary draft of the agreement. The Town Planner was discussing the environmental documents with Stanford. A notice would be sent out on November 1 on the CEQA activity with hearings on November 12. Mayor Driscoll added that he had asked Councilmember Derwin to be the point person on the C-1 trail due to the possible appearance of a conflict of interest. Ms. Sloan noted that Mayor Driscoll's wife worked at Stanford; technically there was no conflict because there was an exception for a non-profit trust such as Stanford. Mayor Driscoll had chosen for appearances sake, not to be involved. Also, she said her husband was currently consulting with Stanford. Because there was no exception for someone's spouse who consulted, she had a conflict of interest. Bill McClure from her office would be working on the agreement.

(d) Planning Commission

Councilmember Merk said the Commission held a preliminary discussion on proposed uses for the space occupied by Dr. Conlon who would be retiring. The proposal was for three psychiatrists with a new specialty to occupy the space; it was anticipated that the practices would entail 30 patients/day. It was a low intensity use, but right now they could only demonstrate that 10-15% of their patients came from Portola Valley or its sphere of influence. He was surprised that the Planning Commission took such a weak position in terms of the Town's requirement that 50% or more come from the Town or sphere of influence. The Commission also discussed the Douglas CUP and the requirement to hook onto sewers. They had not made a decision and would probably push it off to the Council.

(e) ASCC

Councilmember Merk said there was a joint ASCC/Planning Commission meeting with the BEET subcommittee. Two things came from that meeting. First, there was an easy way to do a first step, which was to take Title 24 (energy conservation requirements of the State) and increase it. That didn't require the Town to do anything but say that the Town was requiring "x" more than these numbers. The second thing was to look more at LEED or BIG and use it in some introductory level. This would be complicated for these bodies to work through. A subcommittee with members from all the bodies was discussed, which he supported. He noted that he attended as liaison to the ASCC, Councilmember Derwin attended as liaison to the Planning Commission, and Councilmember Toben attended as liaison to the BEET Committee. Ms. Sloan said all three could attend but under the Brown Act should not say anything.

(f) School District

Councilmember Derwin said a young resident of the Town had just broken the Guinness Book of World Records for fastest time to fold origami cranes. She had been one of the official witnesses, and it was a nice Town event.

(g) Sustainable Silicon Valley

Councilmember Derwin said Mary Nicols, Chair-Air Resources Board, spoke at the meeting. The Air Resources Board was the body charged with pulling together requirements for AB 32. She said there was nothing on Portola Valley in their annual report. The Town had a lot more to say than some of the other towns, and she wanted to ensure the Town's efforts were recognized in next year's report.



(h) Newsletter

Councilmember Derwin said the deadline for submissions for the next newsletter was October 24.

(i) Trails Committee

Councilmember Derwin said the Committee approved the decision not to move the parking lot to accommodate the front trail at the Town Center. They would like to have the fence between the road and the trail installed immediately. She said Mr. Young would be addressing the request. Additionally, behind Corte Madera in the Ranch area, kids were biking and doing jumps on the trails. Signs on Coal Mine Ridge was continued to the next meeting. There was still sign vandalism, and two additional "No Dogs" signs were vandalized on Old Spanish and Toyon Trails. She felt these incidents should be reported to the police. The Committee was also looking at the possibility of setting up a video camera. There was also an incident on Toyon with two golden retrievers off leash that frightened a resident. After discussion, Councilmember Toben volunteered to speak with the dogs' owner. Councilmember Derwin noted that the Committee also discussed the trail at the back of Town Center. They liked the idea of a meandering trail, but cost, etc., had not been discussed.

(j) Friends of Sausal Creek

Councilmember Derwin said the fundraisers held a small event, and donations were being received. There would be a fundraiser on November 11, and she was working on a brochure. Ms. Lambert was working on grants.

(k) Joint ASCC/Planning Commission/BEET Meeting

Councilmember Derwin said she was disappointed that the meeting was not more focused. There was talk about what point system to use. Craig Breon had suggested a 6-hour work session. She thought it would be better to break it into morning meetings on Saturdays as had been done with the dogs on trails issue. This was a huge issue to manage; Tom Vlasic would be guiding the direction. Councilmember Toben said he was not dissatisfied with the meeting. He felt quite positive about the meeting—particularly with the level of engagement by most of the members of the Commission and ASCC. The disorganization was predictable given there was not a lot of precision about where things were headed; but, people knew they had to mobilize and move forward. They were on a fast track and were enthusiastic.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

(12) Town Council 9/28/07 Weekly Digest

(a) Tevis Lot Purchase

Referring to Bev Lipman's letter of 9/26/07 on donations received for purchase of the Tevis lot along Shady Trail, Ms. Howard said she had received an additional check for \$100. There was an article in *The Almanac* that alluded to almost \$1 million in pledges. Councilmember Toben noted that he had e-mailed Ms. Lipman informing her that the Town would extend the date for becoming the assignee on the contract. Ms. Howard said this issue would be on the next Council agenda.

(13) Town Council 10/5/07 Weekly Digest

(a) NorCal Solar Awards

Councilmember Derwin referred to Ms. McDougall's memo of 10/2/07 on the awards and suggestions made

by NorCal Solar to make the Town's efforts known. Councilmember Merk questioned how much attention should be drawn to Portola Valley. There was a down side to advertising the Town. He preferred to keep a low profile, which would be in the Town's long-term best interest. Councilmember Derwin disagreed and felt there should be more recognition of the things the Town was doing. Mayor Driscoll said the Town had a responsibility to show leadership and serve as an educational force. While he was not interested in the Town conducting tours, he felt showing leadership and educational efforts was not a bad thing. He thought the suggestions in the memo were valid.

(b) Russ Miller Field

Referring to Ms. McDougall's status report of 10/4/07 on Russ Miller Field, Councilmember Toben asked that John Meyers receive a copy.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 pm

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk