

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING NO. 756, OCTOBER 8, 2008: The Sequoias and Schoolhouse

ROLL CALL

Mayor Derwin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Howard called the roll:

Present: Councilmembers Merk, Toben and Wengert, and Mayor Derwin  
Absent: Councilmember Driscoll  
Others: Town Planner Mader, Dep. Town Planner Vlastic, Town Administrator Howard, Town Attorney Sloan, Planning Manager Lambert, Asst. Town Administrator McDougall and Town Clerk Hanlon

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS [7:07 p.m.]

Mayor Derwin said for those who could not attend the meeting because of Yom Kippur, copies of the minutes would be made available as soon as possible along with a DVD of the meeting, courtesy of The Sequoias.

Ruth Koehler, The Sequoias, thanked the Council for the wonderful new Town Center. It had taken countless people enumerable hours to produce it. She looked forward to seeing a sign showing where the new driveway was. Councilmember Merk said the double line needed to be sanded out to indicate where the driveway was. There would be a sign eventually.

PROCLAMATION [7:10 p.m.]

- (1) Proclamation Honoring Ted Driscoll, Chip McIntosh, Gary Nielsen, Beth Rabuczewski, SallyAnn Reiss, Ron Walter, Jocelyn Swisher and Steve Toben for Outstanding Fundraising Efforts

Mayor Derwin said she was pleased to celebrate eight heroic Portola Valley volunteers who had managed to raise \$17 million in private donations to guarantee the construction and completion of the magnificent, sustainably built Town Center campus. Each of these individuals had the vision, commitment, talent and tenacity to set his or her sights on the goal and keep on going, often through adverse circumstances until the job was done. She called each to stand, read the proclamation, and presented each with a framed copy.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items removed.

REGULAR AGENDA

- (2) Minutes of the Town Council Meeting on September 24, 2008 (Removed from Consent Agenda)  
[7:15 p.m.]

Referring to the minutes of the 9/24/08 meeting, item 13b on the flagpole location, Councilmember Merk said he wanted the record to reflect that there were three other e-mails on the subject that were not in the digest: one from the Town Administrator, one he sent responding to her e-mail, and one from ASCC/ADT member Danna Breen.

Mayor Derwin submitted changes to her comments on item 13b and item 9. Councilmember Toben submitted changes to item 8. By motion and second, the minutes were approved as amended by a vote of 3-0, with Councilmember Merk abstaining.

(3) Warrant List of October 8, 2008 (Removed from Consent Agenda)

Ms. Howard said copies of the Warrant List for 10/8/08 had been re-distributed due to a missing page.

By motion of Councilmember Wengert, seconded by Councilmember Toben, the Warrant List of 10/8/08 in the amount of \$368,545.54 was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Toben and Wengert, and Mayor Derwin  
Noes: None  
Abstain: Councilmember Merk.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF MEMBER

Councilmember Toben said the Town had taken a number of actions over the past two years to engage the community in the Town's sustainability program. It became quickly apparent that the Town could not handle this without skillful, professional staff work. One of the major donors (Tosa Foundation) to the Town Center project felt similarly and coupled their gift with an offer to fund a staff position for one year to advance the Town's ideals for its environmental program. The Town recruited for a 1-year contract position for a Sustainability and Resource Efficiency (SuRE) Coordinator and selected Brandi de Garneau. After describing her qualifications, he introduced Ms. de Garneau.

(4) Request from Planning Commission for Review of the Draft Sustainability Element of the General Plan [7:23 p.m.]

Town Planner Mader said the Town decided to undertake a two-pronged approach towards sustainability. First, it was developing a Sustainability Element of the General Plan. Second, it was developing building requirements to ensure sustainability. The second prong was on-going and would be brought to the community. On the Sustainability Element, the Council would consider the draft and then direct the Planning Commission to take the next steps. Ultimately, the draft element would be set for public hearing(s) and adopted as a part of the Town's General Plan. He described the purpose of the General Plan. He reviewed his memo of 9/26/08 on the draft Sustainability Element. He read excerpts from the draft including: 1) the introduction; 2) existing provisions of the General Plan that supported sustainability; 3) overarching goals; 4) major goals; and 5) objectives for each major goal. He discussed the appendix, noting that the list of illustrative policies and practices represented possible ways to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in the Sustainability Element. The Planning Commission would wait for the Council's response before doing further work on the element. At the appropriate time, there would be community meetings.

Mr. Vlasic said he had been asked by Councilmember Toben to speak to two items. First, Senate Bill 375 had been signed by the Governor and was linked to the requirements under AB 32, the State's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. AB 32 required the State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Under the provisions of SB 375, the regional agencies responsible for transportation in the Bay Area would be charged with developing a strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The essence of it was that growth should be smart (i.e., linked to transportation facilities and concentrated along mass transit facilities). This was the first time there had been an effort at the State level to mandate a program of such direction relative to planning. It was consistent with the Sustainability Element and consistent with the kind of efforts the Town had made since incorporation relative to where density should occur. The bill stated that local jurisdictions were not mandated to include these provisions in their general plans. But, the provisions for greenhouse gas reduction and the targets would be tied to the housing production provisions of the State's Housing Element that must be in local general plans. SB 375 would have major impacts on the Housing Element. If this planning process was done appropriately as set forth in

the Governor's initiative with this bill, towns that were low density and not served by transportation lines would participate in the process of developing the regional plan, making sure that the logic that was in the bill was carried through in the plan. The hope was that the mandates for housing production would be reasonable and appropriate to direct growth where transportation facilities were. It was clear that the pressure at the State level would continue in order to meet AB 32 targets. He noted that the Council also supported another bill that would have allowed more flexibility in defining building code standards for green building. That bill was vetoed--possibly because there was a lot of pressure from the building industry to have consistency between communities.

Mr. Vlasic said Councilmember Toben was also interested in the publicity received relative to the City of San Jose's program announced yesterday to pursue green building initiatives. San Jose now had mandates for achieving certain ratings for new buildings in private development. For a few years, San Jose has had mandates for public buildings to achieve the LEED silver level. The Town's only public building was the Town Center, which would achieve at least a gold rating and likely platinum. Portola Valley's approach was more quiet and interactive, and he felt setting the point rating standards would be a little bit easier for the community to accept. In San Jose's mandate that would come into play the end of this year/beginning to next, all commercial and industrial buildings that were 25,000 sf in size had to use a LEED checklist; buildings larger than 25,000 sf would need to achieve LEED silver rating. In 2012, that threshold would drop to 10,000 sf. For residential, projects with 10 units or more had to achieve 50 points on the Build It Green rating system. For projects under 10 units, they would require use of the Build It Green checklist but not mandate anything associated with it. That was similar to what the Town had been doing with the San Mateo County green building checklist over the last few years. He noted that he attended a meeting yesterday with the Build It Green organization on their rating system and changes being considered. It was clear that many communities across the State were moving in that direction. It was also becoming more understood and accepted by the building industry. There was also much more interest in building buildings that were sustainable.

Town Planner Mader said for years, city and regional planners in California had urged rational planning. Under senior Governor Brown, there had been an attempt to do a statewide development plan to: 1) concentrate development where it should be; 2) have high-speed transportation; 3) preserve agricultural lands, etc. The automobile, gas and concrete industries all said, "Let's just keep building and expand." As a planner, it was very hard to convince political bodies. It was ironic that the carbon footprint was coming back to haunt us. It was being used as a way to say, "No, you should concentrate development." He was glad to see SB 375, which came about the hard way.

Referring to the draft element (p. 2), Councilmember Merk asked how the Conservation Element differed from the Sustainability Element. Town Planner Mader said the Conservation Element addressed natural resources and protection of the natural environment. It didn't address transportation, building standards or public involvement in education. There was overlap, but the Conservation Element had not been developed as a basis for a comprehensive approach to sustainability.

Responding to Councilmember Wengert, Town Planner Mader said the Commission felt that a separate element that addressed sustainability was preferable to distributing sustainability concepts throughout the General Plan; each of the elements would have to be amended separately. It was also difficult to bring an entire element up for review in a public hearing because everything in the element was open for comment. For efficiency sake, cost, and time, he thought it was better to keep the concepts together and move it forward. By and large, as the seven areas were developed, changes could be accomplished within the Sustainability Element. Councilmember Toben added that every element had to be periodically updated and reviewed. For the present purpose, it didn't seem appropriate to throw every element open to that kind of review. Town Planner Mader added that the Town was currently reviewing its Noise Element, which was developed in 1975, and revising the Safety and Housing Elements. These things were ongoing and would come to the community element by element.

Councilmember Merk thanked the Planners and Planning Commission for coming up with a fabulous document. On pages 1 and 6, he did not like the words “human” or “humans.” To use the phrase “human environment” was egocentric. He preferred “our environment” or “the environment.” On page 6, under the Living Environment goals, he felt using the word “humans” separated us from the environment when we are in fact a subgroup of animals that is fully interdependent on the whole system for existence. Using the word “human” took us out of the formula, and he wanted to see it dropped. Referring to the appendix under Incorporated Town (p. 7), instead of “Hire a sustainability and resource efficiency coordinator,” he preferred “Maintain...” because the SuRE Coordinator had been hired. Similarly, “Implement” in statements 2 and 3 should be changed to “Maintain” because these things had essentially been done. Under Water Resources in the appendix, he suggested adding goal #6 that included a survey of current well use, monitoring the issuance of County permits for wells in Portola Valley, and considering Town provisions for controls on wells--if the Town had the authority to do that.

To Councilmember Merk’s comments about the term “humans,” Councilmember Wengert said humans are the only species in a position to make these kinds of changes. Perhaps, we are charging ourselves to eliminate the activities that we created that resulted in the degradation. She preferred to look back at the language to ensure that it didn’t in any way change that concept. She asked if there had been any discussion about encouraging residents to consider remodels versus teardowns, a category that fell outside of new building and renovation of older stock. There might be a niche in between for people who were on the fence. Responding, Town Planner Mader said the Commission had not addressed it in terms of encouraging people to do that. Renewable resources and trying to reuse the building you had and the materials in it were discussed. He agreed that encouraging remodels should be discussed by the Commission.

Councilmember Toben said he had been told by a local architect that the Town made it difficult to deal with a remodel compared with a teardown. That was not altogether accurate, but teardowns were simpler and often times more cost effective. He thought it was an excellent point—particularly if coupled with the idea of reuse of materials. He discussed the deconstruction of the old school, reuse of materials in the Town Center project, and cost savings.

Councilmember Wengert said as one of the goals, the Town might want to provide economic modeling, where possible, for residents to see the time, money and energy they could save. The Town should help residents see the cost benefits of the various types of solutions being proposed. Town Planner Mader said that concept was discussed; he thought it was included, but it didn’t seem to be. A cost benefit study when someone was going to undertake new building or remodeling would be very important.

Councilmember Wengert said another issue was working with the utilities. There were a number of programs being announced by the various utilities that went beyond solar installation. PG&E and the water company would be looking for solutions, and it would be important for the Town to be paired with them and pass along this information to the community on projects they were undertaking. Additionally, she felt broad community participation would be a key component to the success of this program. That should be focused on very early in this process. The charrettes for the design of the Town Center were a very important vehicle in instituting a new policy like the Town wanted to do in the sustainability area. The Town would need to be equally thoughtful in devising the right ways of communicating with the community, getting their input, and starting this process off. She thought the draft was terrific and was excited about moving forward.

Keying off of Councilmember Merk’s comments, Councilmember Toben said at a minimum, “humans” should replace “man” in the draft. Referring to the Overarching Goals section, he said AB 32 called for reducing carbon emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by the year 2050--not 2020. Referring to the Living Environment section (p. 6), he said invasive species was a serious concern. He suggested adding some language in this section about that. In the appendix (p. 7), he suggested encouraging residents to go off the grid. People presumed that they couldn’t live comfortably in a nice home without being on the grid, when

that was becoming more and more of a reality.

Mayor Derwin said she felt the document was fantastic. Referring to the appendix (p. 9), on Existing Building Stock, she suggested adding language about encouraging residents to do energy audits of their homes and encourage residents to do green-ups. Under Transportation, she suggested adding something about working with the governing boards of SamTrans and CalTrain to improve bus service and/or implement shuttle service. She also thought the Town should work with groups like the Silicon Valley Leadership Group--Transportation Committee and other NGO bodies. On page 10 under Water, she suggested encouraging residents to: 1) replace their lawns with native grasses and drought tolerant native species; 2) update their irrigation systems to make them more efficient; and 3) hydrozone their plantings (i.e., plant plants with similar watering needs in the same place.)

Responding to George Comstock, Councilmember Wengert said windmills was one of the things the Town would be considering. She noted that line drying was included in the document. There were a number of Town ordinances that would need to be looked at relative to building materials, reflectivity and aesthetic issues, which was probably where windmills would fall. Councilmember Merk said the idea of a windmill sounded great, but it needed to be studied. There were height and noise issues, and he understood that windmills could kill birds. He also questioned whether it was windy enough over the course of a year to be economically feasible.

Referring to New Buildings (p. 9), Councilmember Merk said the text was a little weak on house size. House size was one of the major environmental impacts. It was a touchy subject, but he felt it should be looked at a little more carefully. Mayor Derwin said it would be addressed in the GreenPoint Rating system. Town Planner Mader said the Commission discussed house size at some length, and there were different opinions. They realized it was a sensitive issue. It was true that the size of the house affected how green it was, although much of it could be offset in certain ways.

After the Planning Commission discussed the Council's comments, Town Planner Mader said the next question was how to introduce this to the community and in what context. The Council might provide some direction on that at a later time. Workshops like the charrettes might be effective for this issue, and the residents needed to be involved. Councilmember Wengert asked that Town Planner Mader alert the Council when it was time to address that issue.

A resident said there might be conflicts between the ASCC and some of these new environmental rules coming down. Responding, Mr. Vlastic noted that the ASCC was very sensitive to aesthetics. In particular, they had looked at photovoltaics on roofs. Fortunately, the industry was responding with systems that were far more integrated with roofs. He discussed other issues that the ASCC was looking at such as finishes and reflectivity in terms of visibility off site. There would be other adjustments to the Design Guidelines as things came up. As projects came through, there was a lot of interaction. The staff and committees were responsive and would work to solve the problems that arose. Councilmember Merk noted that a prominent architect recently told him that the more sophisticated clients were asking for smaller homes.

George Comstock said he was delighted with the work the Town was doing. The issue of house size was challenging. He thought a higher LEED performance should be required as the size of the house went up.

Ms. de Garneau, SuRE Coordinator, said she was excited to be working with Portola Valley. Right now, she was learning about the existing programs, making contacts, gathering resources and setting up the channels of communication to engage the community in assisting in efforts on the Sustainability Element. Once she had a grasp of everything that was going on, she would focus on outreach to the community and schools and look at the Town's own operations to make sure they were assisting the community in sustainability efforts. She noted that the Climate Protection Task Force was looking at providing a spectrum of options for residents to assist them in making homes more energy efficient.

Mayor Derwin said Ms. de Garneau had been key in coordinating the kickoff of the Green Speakers Series on October 13 at 6:30 in the Community Hall with Amory Lovins. Councilmember Toben described his experience with the Rocky Mountain Institute and Mr. Lovins's qualifications and reputation. He encouraged residents to attend.

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

##### (5) Options for the Natural History Archives [8:30 p.m.]

Yvonne Tryce, Nature and Science Committee, said the Town was fortunate to have an amazing assortment and amount of material that had been donated to the Town. She read the objectives of the Nature and Science Committee from the charter. She said the nature and science program was very broad, and the Committee was very disappointed that the materials could not be located at the Town Center. A lot of the materials had been in the Nature Center at the old Town Center. At the time of the charrettes, she understood that the new Town Center would mean less space but that it would be the same program. She disposed of some unnecessary material to consolidate materials, and some things had been put in storage during the time of construction; special things were kept in the temporary site at the Village Square. It wasn't until shortly before the buildings were completed that the Committee became aware that the restrictions of the grant donation meant that there would be less opportunity to display. She had read the German tax law materials, and it seemed that educational and environmental activities were encouraged for the room. Two things were happening. She was teaching classes to small children in addition to maintaining the archives. Because of that, there was the feeling that she was one entity when it was two. She did not want the Town to lose this material because of the class aspect. Storage was the problem, and it did take up space. There were display cabinets that had been donated, but she was only permitted one display case in the room. The Committee was trying to figure out some way to make it clear to the German authorities that this was not a fundraising event; this was something that should be kept in the Town so that it could be utilized. It tied in very well with the environmental interests of the Town. It would be a shame to lose this resource.

Mayor Derwin said in the Community Hall there were two activity rooms, which were lovely and large, but there were only two. Those two rooms had to be shared by all teachers. The issue before the Council was what should be done with the Town archives.

Ms. Sloan reviewed her memo of 9/26/08 on: 1) the permits Ms. Tryce had from Fish and Wildlife and Fish and Game to collect species; and 2) what could be done with the collection. It was up to the Council to decide what it wanted to do with the archives. The Plattner grant did not prohibit these items from being retained or displayed. What was involved was the fact that there were only two activity rooms. As the facility was being designed and built, the Council indicated to all the teachers that the rooms had to be shared for classes and that there wouldn't be one art room, one science room, etc. The question was what to do with the science archives.

Ms. Tryce reviewed the options discussed by the Nature and Science Committee for the archives as set forth in her e-mail of 9/12/08. She discussed how she had shared her space in the old Town Center with other music classes, scout groups and for meetings. Sharing had never been an issue. Space was the issue. The activities she had shared space with in the past didn't generally require a lot of storage. If things like plastic cups and baskets that most teachers used could be stored in cupboards outside, there probably would be room in the closet for the artifacts. She wanted to be creative before reaching out beyond the Town to find a place for this. She worked with MIDPEN at the old Town Center to do a program on lichen and moss. They wanted to make sure that the Nature Center continued because it was a wonderful resource.

Responding to Mayor Derwin, Ms. McDougall said there was a lot of interest in all of the rooms at the

Community Hall. The activity rooms were not being reserved for strictly classes. There were Girl Scout troops and other groups in the community who were also interested. In accordance with the requirements of the grant agreement, there were a lot of people interested in renting the rooms for small parties, etc. There was quite a range of activities that were foreseen, and there was substantial interest in the rooms. Now that the rooms were completed and word was out, she felt the demand would rise.

Andy Brown, Santa Maria Ave., said in order to affect the kinds of changes recommended in the Sustainability Element, people had to care. One of the ways to express care was money. In order to put out money, people had to think things were valuable. Things like nests and salamanders in the archives really weren't valuable. However, they peaked people's curiosity and particularly children's curiosity. As such, they were more valuable than they might seem. The Town should be very cautious about getting rid of these things.

Councilmember Wengert said there were two separable issues here. Staff and Councilmembers had spent a lot of time and made all sorts of accommodations to allow for Ms. Tryce's use of one of the two activity rooms. The issue tonight was not the use of the room, which had been clearly communicated and decided. What was before the Council tonight was the issue of the archives and how they should be dealt with.

Responding to Councilmember Toben, Ms. Howard said each activity room had two large, walk-in closets. Ms. Tryce had been given exclusive use of one of the closets in an activity room with her own key. She was told that as long as the door would close, she could put everything in there. That closet was filled up. She was also allowed to have materials in a display case, a bookcase and an aquarium that she could leave in the classroom.

Councilmember Merk said he participated in meetings that met in Room 8, which was the old science room. It was always fun to be in the room and be able to see the things that were there. Those items were part of the history of the Town and were very important to the Town. He was disappointed to see that there wasn't some accommodation made for those items. It had been a last minute decision that it wouldn't be the same as it was in the old Town Center. He didn't recall that decision ever coming to the Council. He wanted the Town to do whatever it could to accommodate these items. There was a large space between the kitchen and the two activity rooms and the community room that might be able to hold some display cases. There might be other places around the Town Center where some of these items could be kept and made available for viewing. If that wasn't possible, there should be some discussion with the School District as proposed by Ms. Tryce.

Leslie Field, Wayside Rd., said her involvement with the Nature and Science Center had been through classes her children took. These materials added so much to the kids' experience while they were there as well as for the grownups. It was a wonderful ambiance to have, and the material shouldn't be just hidden away somewhere. She taught a recreational art class at Ormondale in a science room. Even when people were engaged in a different activity, it was beneficial to have that material there. At the new Town Center, it was embarrassingly bare right now. There were a few things displayed, but there was a rich beauty of materials that could be out there that would enhance any other activities that were going on. She would love to see more space allocated to that if at all possible.

Marge DeStaebler, Santa Maria, said an archive was only useful if it was used. Science was only science if there was stuff; it was math otherwise. In order to be engaged, you needed materials. Sometimes it was not just the material you wanted to use with your small group. The other objects around were engaging. If you wanted to have a sustainability focus in Town, shutting up all the rocks, plants and organisms seemed very counterproductive. If they were going to have an education program and not include students, that also seemed counterproductive. She questioned whether using the Town Center for parties was the kind of use you wanted for sustainability education. You couldn't have a science program without the natural materials of the earth present.

George Comstock said the United States was falling behind in the world because fewer and fewer school kids were interested in pursuing science as their life interest. There were fewer and fewer engineers and biologists in relation to the population. Science and engineering people were being imported from India, China and other Asian countries. This was an outstanding collection of local flora and fauna that was tucked away in a closet. Responding to Mr. Comstock, Ms. McDougall said the policy adopted for use of the facility stated that you must be a Portola Valley resident to use the facilities or be sponsored by a Portola Valley resident. It was still early as far as figuring out what kinds of classes might be offered. There was a lot of interest with people coming over to look at the facility to see if they could offer the kind of class they envisioned. The level of interest far exceeded what she envisioned, and she thought it would continue to grow. Mr. Comstock said if the Town did not find a way to make this archive available to the public, the Town would be denying the Portola Valley citizens an opportunity to learn more about their environment. Responding to Mr. Comstock, Ms. Tryce said about 5% of the material was displayed. Mr. Comstock said there was a substantial archive of important scientific material that could be used for promoting interest in these subjects and educating citizens about what their environment really was.

Councilmember Merk said he would like to see more space made available for more than 5% of the materials. Different things could be brought out and displayed at different times. He agreed it was wonderful to be in a room full of stuff when you were learning. Years ago he had been taught it was a good thing to let your mind wander while you were learning. The science room at the old Town Center was wonderful for doing that. People giving birthday parties or Pilates classes could work around some of these things. The room should have some character and preserve a little bit of old Portola Valley that was lost when the school buildings were torn down.

Councilmember Wengert said having a class with robust exhibits, valuing science and having science be a priority were all desirable. But, the issue had become blurred relative to the use of this room. One of the things that she was extremely mindful of were the circumstances under which the Town accepted a grant that helped build the Town Center--including the requirement that none of the multiuse rooms could be dedicated to any specific use. That was the guiding principle. These rooms were for the entire community. If the science class needed to have its own space and needed to be more robust, it might not be appropriate for this facility. The rooms were set up as activity rooms and not classrooms. The Town attempted to resolve this by providing space to Ms. Tryce and the art class because those traditional uses were valued. The Council had a responsibility to those who funded the Town Center to not turn this into a nature and science classroom. The two issues were the use of the room and the retention of the archives. She would like to find a location to display the archives permanently. But, the activity rooms needed to accommodate a wide variety of uses.

Councilmember Toben said he was impressed by the care with which these values had been expressed. At the same time, he was impressed by Councilmember Wengert's comments regarding the understanding the Town had with the community and with the donor about the necessity for the space to be available to different users. He was struggling with the "moment of learning" and what enabled learning that didn't require a huge archive. If a collection of large stuffed mammals was required, that was a real problem. He questioned whether all of those things needed to be present. A condor feather could be just as powerful and took up a lot less space. The Town prized a rich educational experience; that was a paramount value that everyone wanted to preserve. That was why the Town had been clear about making space for the science class. The idea of rotating objects that could be utilized in the room and stored in the space that was dedicated to Ms. Tryce was all proper. He wished it could be more than 5% of the archive material at any one time. But, he felt what had been provided and allocated was appropriate in terms of dedicated space. Other alternatives for the storage of the archive material should be explored.

Mayor Derwin asked if it would be possible to go through the archives and pick out the things that were valuable or beautiful, make shelves in that room, and artfully display them. If they were artfully displayed, you could have a cocktail party and classes in there. The Hasso Plattner agreement had to be honored, but



it was valuable to have these archives somewhere in Town. They might go into Nancy Lund's history room or be displayed in the library. She suggested the Committee go back, go through the archives, and pull out the smaller, more beautiful items. Ms. Howard noted that she and Mayor Derwin had agreed that after construction was finished, someone would be hired to build shelves so there would be additional shelving in the two rooms. Mayor Derwin said she would like to see some more display shelves.

Town Planner Mader said appreciation of the natural environment in Town was one of the things that should be sustained. It was not just teaching children about science. It was also the ethic of sustainability. To the extent the archives could be retained, he thought that was important.

Councilmember Merk suggested looking at the room and trying to refine the assessment of what the compatible uses were for that room. Maybe more of the archive could be displayed and still leave the room so it could be used for other uses. He did not think that they were necessarily mutually exclusive.

Councilmember Wengert said that had been an ongoing process for quite some time. Additionally, Ms. Howard just mentioned that there would be additional shelves. There had been a lot of outreach and back and forth about the display cases, closet space, etc. She was not sure what would be gained by going back over what had been decided. She also questioned whether anyone had culled through those archives. There might be some rocks and things that didn't need to be kept. Ms. Tryce had been an obviously capable guardian of these things for a number of years. But, as Ms. Sloan pointed out, it had not been under the full aegis of the Town. She looked to the Committee to tell the Council what they thought was worth keeping and should be kept long term. Then, it would be a lot easier for the Council to gauge how much space was already provided and how much additional space was needed. No one on the Council had indicated they didn't value science and nature and the learning experience. But, she did not know how much of the archive the Committee felt it was necessary to keep. The goal of the Nature and Science Committee should be to come up with a list of the things that should be kept long term.

Councilmember Toben said the central function of educating young people could be distinguished from the archival function. He associated the archival function with permanent display. It also related to the comment that an archive was not useful unless it was used. He was not excited about the notion of permanent display in this space. That luxury existed in Room 8, but it no longer did because of space constraints. If Ms. Tryce offered a unit on birds of the valley and region for a few weeks, he could support the notion that there would be shelving available for the bird specimens that would be off site at other times of the year to supplement the educational experience. They didn't need to be for casual display, and this was not endless shelving. It would be limited and reasonable and should be at kids' eye level. The purpose was to integrate it with the curriculum being offered at that particular time.

After discussion, Mayor Derwin asked the Nature and Science Committee to go through the physical archives and pull out what they thought was valuable, discuss it, and come up with a list of things they wanted to keep. Ms. Howard said the list should be brought back to the Council to determine what should be done with the material.

Responding to George Comstock, Ms. Sloan said part of the problem was that the archive belonged to the Town. But, no one on the staff or Council knew what was in the archive. It sounded very appropriate to direct the Committee to make a list of everything. There might be duplicates, and some things might be in poor condition. The Committee could also make a recommendation on what they thought was the most valuable to keep. The only things that were part of the archives under the permits were the things that Ms. Tryce had collected. No one made a donation to the Town; they donated to Ms. Tryce. If things were donated to Ms. Tryce, her [*Sloan*] conclusion was that those were not part of the archives. Ms. Tryce could donate them to the Town. If someone donated something to Ms. Tryce, it would not be under the stipulation that it was donated in perpetuity because there was no record of that. Mr. Comstock said future donations should not be discouraged. Ms. Tryce said donations were in fact made to the Town. The Town had sent

off thank you notes for some of the major donations. She was sure it was with the understanding that it would be for a Town facility.

Onnolee Trapp, The Sequoias, suggested taking a digital photo of each of the items. You could more easily judge the value with a photographic inventory. Mayor Derwin concurred and asked the Committee to take pictures of the items.

(6) Status of Town Center Project [9:25 p.m.]

Ms. Howard distributed security monitoring cards. She said there were still some issues with the security system, but it was functioning. If it was set off, the 800 number should be called. The installation of the screens was almost complete. The floors in the Community Hall were complete and beautiful. Staff continued to troubleshoot the buildings for electrical/mechanical issues. The upstairs in Town Hall was complete, and Michele and Stacie would be moved in next week. The lights out in the parking lot were operational, but the bollard lighting was not. The pad for the restroom building was complete, and construction would start next week. Spring Down Road had been paved and striped. The grading had been done for the wraparound of the road that would go past the Schoolhouse. The tennis court pad had been graded. Work was ongoing in the creek. Hopefully, the deadline of November 1 would be met so that the planting could start. She provided a financial update and described additional change orders, warrants written, and outstanding liabilities for the Town Center and creek project, noting that the Friends of Sausal Creek had raised \$874,244 to date.

Councilmember Toben said getting everything to work properly took time; many of these systems were not conventional, and he was not surprised that things were still being worked on at the Town Center. Additionally, he noted that the people at The Sequoias were responsible for a major gift of support to the Town Center project, led by the gracious efforts of the Chair of the Residents' Council three year ago. It was an affirmation by the people of The Sequoias to enable the project to be built. There were also individual donations, and he wanted to take the opportunity to acknowledge how important it was from the literal and symbolic standpoint that The Sequoias residents were willing to invest so much in the Town's future.

(7) Reports from Commission and Committee Liaisons [9:30 p.m.]

(a) Airport Community Roundtable

Councilmember Toben said the Roundtable heard a semiannual report from the Noise Abatement Committee concerning flights over Woodside; there was a pretty steady performance. There was considerable momentum now for Next Gen technology, which combined gradual descent technology with oceanic tailored arrivals over Woodside. There continued to be claims that this could improve the noise problem, but the data was not supportive of that at this point.

(b) Community Events

Councilmember Merk said the Committee decided a farmers market was not a viable economic endeavor at this time. A much more informal exchange of vegetables was being considered. Responding to Councilmember Toben, he said it would go back to the PV forum.

Councilmember Merk said Blues and BBQ was expected to net \$65,000-\$70,000. It was lower than in past years, but everyone was pleased with how the event went and how the site worked. They would like the Town to buy a couple of wireless remote speakers so that speakers could be heard better. They also discussed the need for more volunteers. The Committee was getting smaller and smaller with less people working the event. They would be recruiting.

(c) Planning Commission

Councilmember Merk said the Commission held a preliminary review for a horse arena. They also discussed a request for the final 50 additional members at Alpine Swim and Tennis Club. There were concerns about noise, parking and the pattern of use for special events. More information had been requested, and it would come back to the Commission on 10/15/08. The most controversial item was the consideration of the noticed revocation of the CUP for 888 Portola Road for failure to comply with a condition that required sewer hook up. There had been a lot of continuances, and the Planning Commission did not feel that the applicants were working in good faith to get this through LAFCo and West Bay Sanitary District. The applicant was apparently on West Bay's agenda to argue about the cost. It was given one more extension and would be back in one month to see if they had gone through the LAFCo process and applied to West Bay. It was very contentious.

(c) Traffic Committee

Councilmember Merk said the traffic report showed the number of citations issued was back to normal. They were also issuing citations for people talking on their cell phones.

(d) Website Redesign Committee

Councilmember Wengert said there was a new player on the team who was well liked and well regarded. The hope was to go live with the site early next year. An appeal had been put out to all the committees in Town to look at their individual pages. The committees would all have a similar page, but behind those pages, there was a lot of flexibility for any information and links that each committee wanted to have.

(e) League of California Cities

Mayor Derwin said she attended the League's conference in Long Beach, and it was extremely worthwhile. She said she would submit a written report highlighting the things she learned that were relevant to Portola Valley. She discussed sessions attended, the keynote speaker and resolutions voted on by the General Assembly.

(f) Lenny Roberts Celebration

Mayor Derwin said she attended the event put forward by the Committee for Green Foothills. It was remarkable to see what one person could do.

(g) Silicon Valley Leadership Group – Local Government Day

Mayor Derwin said the Silicon Valley Leadership Group brought together yearly people from the medical and business professions, Stanford and local mayors and vice mayors. Representatives from the various cities gave a "State of the City" presentation and discussed issues of importance to their city. She said she spoke about the Town Center project and the Sustainability Element. It was a very useful event.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS [9:40]

(8) Town Council 9/26/08 Weekly Digest

(a) Town Hall Meeting on Mountain Lions

Councilmember Merk said the meeting in the Schoolhouse on 10/7/08 made the local news. Only about eight people attended with six of those being officials from State agencies or the Sheriff's Department. It was unfortunate that the event was scheduled for the same time as the presidential candidates' debate.

(b) Letter to Cagans Regarding Construction Activities without Permit

Responding to Mayor Derwin, Ms. Lambert said she met with Sherry Cagan, the Building Official, the Public Works Director, and Dep. Town Planner. As of today, she had received two reports from the Cagans' civil engineer and soils engineer. She would be following up with the Cagans to let them know what permit processes they needed to follow.

(9) Town Council 10/3/08 Weekly Digest

(a) AT&T Letter on Products and Services for Portola Valley

Responding to Councilmember Merk, Ms. Howard said she had not seen the referenced AB 2987 Implementation Survey that AT&T wanted returned. She confirmed for Councilmember Merk that there was a franchise fee for landlines. Responding to Councilmember Merk, she said the cable franchise had been taken over by the State. The Town did not have a franchise agreement with AT&T for getting TV over the landlines. Mayor Derwin added that the External Affairs Manager, Randy Okamura, was at the Silicon Valley Leadership Group meeting and indicated he would like to make a presentation to the Council.

ADJOURNMENT TO SCHOOLHOUSE: 9:50

CLOSED SESSION

- (10) PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION  
Government Code § 54957  
Title: Town Administrator

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION: Nothing to report.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

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