

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING NO. 755, SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

ROLL CALL

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

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS [8:01 p.m.]

Kent Mitchell said he was one of the trustee owners of the Jelich Family Trust. He said the Jelichs had no knowledge that Triangle Park improvements were on tonight's agenda. While the Jelichs attended the ad hoc committee's meeting, they were not aware that the issue had been before the Parks and Rec Committee. The Jelichs could not attend tonight's meeting, and he requested that the item be continued.

After discussion, Council agreed to hear comments when Triangle Park was discussed later on the agenda and then continue the item to the November 12 meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSIONER APPLICANT INTERVIEW [8:05 p.m.]

Mayor Derwin noted that there was one vacancy on the Planning Commission and one applicant.

(1) Alexandra Von Feldt

Alex Von Feldt discussed her career in software development; service on the Conservation Committee, ASCC, and ad hoc Sausal Creek Committee; support/fundraising for the Sausal Creek daylighting project; and volunteer work for a charter school. She discussed her reasons for wanting to serve on the Planning Commission. Responding to Councilmembers' questions, she discussed: 1) greatest challenges the Planning Commission would be facing in the near term; 2) policies/procedures and implementation of sustainability concepts; and 3) balancing community values with fire safety.

Councilmembers thanked Ms. Von Feldt for her service and commitment to the community and her understanding of the Town's ethos.

(2) Appointment of Planning Commissioner

By motion of Councilmember Wengert, seconded by Councilmember Toben, Alexandra Von Feldt was appointed to the Planning Commission by a vote of 3-0.

PRESENTATION [8:20 p.m.]

(3) The Butterfly Effect: Response of Riparian Bird Diversity to Climate Change and Human Development, Stanford University

Philip Cohen said a biological/ecological assessment had been done at Jasper Ridge as a way of measuring future changes due to climate change and human development. He introduced Bill Love Anderegg, Stanford doctoral candidate. Mr. Anderegg discussed: 1) riparian habitats and riparian birds; 2)

impacts of development and changes in the surrounding landscape; 3) contributions of healthy riparian forests; 4) study site on Jasper Ridge and watershed; 5) nearby land use changes; 6) impacts of climate changes; 7) migratory species; 8) data collection; 9) changes in local vegetation; 10) siltation and natural processes; 11) land use changes; 12) decline in bird diversity in recent decades; 13) impacts of impervious surface and housing density on watershed; 14) importance of thinking about riparian zones in planning decisions; 15) two new species now present in the riparian area; 16) expanded range of crows and ravens; 17) human-tolerant birds; and 18) the effects of cats on wild birds. Responding to Town Planner Mader, he said the effectiveness of creek setbacks on riparian birds should be studied.

CONSENT AGENDA [8:35 p.m.]

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

Ayes: Councilmembers Toben and Wengert, and Mayor Derwin
Noes: None

- (4) Minutes of the Town Council Special Meeting on September 10, 2008, with Councilmember Toben abstaining.
- (5) Warrant List of September 24, 2008, in the amount of \$667,883.53.
- (6) Amendment to Final Map X6D-163 for 300, 332 and 348 Westridge Drive, per Dep. Town Planner's memo of 9/18/08.

REGULAR AGENDA

- (7) Report from Ad-hoc Triangle Park Committee with Suggested Improvements to Triangle Park [8:37 p.m.]

Ms. McDougall reviewed her memo of 9/24/08 on the report from the ad-hoc Triangle Park Committee. She noted that Carter Warr submitted an aerial photograph depicting the existing park configuration and the suggested modifications.

Virginia Bacon, Triangle Park Committee, said the Committee hoped to make the park more user friendly. The recommendations attached to the staff report had been prepared by the Committee's Chair. Some of the issues discussed included: 1) paths and trails that connected to the park; 2) lack of handicap access; 3) additional demands on the park due to Roberts Market; 4) need for additional parking to generate more local business; 5) retaining the size of the lawn area; 6) clearing out some of the areas to provide more open vistas of the hills; and 7) reduction of noise from traffic at the Portola/Alpine intersection by raising the earth level and changing the location of the horse tie up. Additionally, she said Mr. Warr suggested changing the Portola Road access slightly by taking away some of the pavement and adding more area to the park so that people wouldn't race through the Alpine Road side to the Portola Road side. There were some questions about the intersection of Alpine and Portola Roads and how a more logical pathway could be designed; it was not centered at this time. There was also a lot of discussion about what was once a temporary access between Roberts Market and the strip mall. The Committee decided that should be kept open even though it was a pathway for some bicyclists and traffic to scoot through. The park was beneficial because it would add to the economic viability of the local businesses. Responding to Councilmember Wengert, she said the intent of changing the Portola Road Alpine intersection was to increase the visibility. The crosswalk across Alpine would be brought up a little closer to the intersection along with the stop sign, which was somewhat hidden further back. Referring to the map, she said a structure would be placed at the bus stop similar to the one by Woodside Highlands. She recommended establishing a new Town committee on transportation.

Clair Jernick, Triangle Park Committee and Parks and Rec, said with respect to the parking spaces, the Committee wanted the oak trees protected. The Jelichs indicated that it might not be worth it financially to do the work unless they could get more parking spaces. Parks and Rec didn't want to give up public land for more parking unless the need was demonstrated. Responding to Councilmember Toben, she confirmed that the Committee did not want to lose those oak trees.

Councilmember Toben said when Ms. Hughes reported on the results of the ad hoc Committee at the Parks and Rec Committee meeting, he understood that the idea of a pedestrian crosswalk from the hardware store/realtor complex had been considered. He was interested in tying the park to the other uses as opposed to having it decapitated from Roberts Market and the hardware store. He understood that an argument had been made that a pedestrian crosswalk created a false sense of security and that pedestrians were lulled into thinking it was safe when it really wasn't. He questioned the basis for that argument. This was not a thoroughfare. It was a driveway, and it had speed bumps. He wanted to put a little umbilical cord between the park and the commercial uses—especially if the goal was to foster more community activity now that Roberts was a point of destination for food, etc. The idea of coming out of Roberts, taking a right, and walking across the street with a pedestrian crosswalk was appealing and would be more pedestrian friendly.

Mayor Derwin agreed. She would like to see Triangle Park be a place where you could go with your coffee and sit. Roberts had some picnic tables, but it was not that inviting right now.

Ms. Bacon said the plan showed two walkways into the driveway. There wasn't a walkway to the other side because the Jelichs didn't want to change the arrangement. She thought it made sense to do something with the access that was closest to Roberts. It would be nice to have some architectural integrity so that it looked the same. If there was a walkway going into the driveway, she thought it should be marked as a crosswalk with access to walking area on the other side.

Responding to Councilmember Wengert, Ms. Bacon said she understood that the Jelichs felt that they needed more parking to service the amount of activity that was there. The problem was that it was not zoned for that. They were grandfathered in to having more floor area ratio than what would be allowed by permit. It was a catch 22. They needed more parking, and she thought more parking could be justified. She would also like to see the stairs removed and replaced with some kind of path like on the other side. Moms with baby carriages didn't like stairs that were steep.

Ms. Lambert said the Jelichs approached Town staff 1-2 months before the ad hoc committee was formed seeking to redo their parking area. Staff suggested that they get involved with the ad hoc Committee. Responding to Councilmember Wengert, she confirmed that additional parking would require an amendment to their CUP.

Sharon Reich, Triangle Park Committee, said when extra long trucks were in front of the hardware store, cars parked parallel next to the park had been occasionally hit when the trucks tried to back out. There was some sense in changing the parking and at least opening it up more to accommodate that kind of thing. It was also felt that the flow of pedestrians was a concern. One of the reasons the Committee wanted to open up the far end was because it was all overgrown. Responding to Ms. Reich, Ms. Lambert said the ad hoc Committee's comments had been shared with the Public Works Director, but she did not think he had looked at it fully.

Jon Silver, Portola Road, said he shared concerns about using public land for parking unless there was clearly a public benefit. Additionally, traffic moved briskly when it came into the shopping center from Alpine or Portola Road. A few times, kids on bicycles had just missed being hit. There needed to be adequate sight distance close to where traffic was coming off of the roads or something to slow the traffic.

Town Planner Mader noted that the Nathhorst Triangle Plan adopted a number of years ago had as a principle, connections of these properties. Over the years, the Town required that easements be granted for these properties for internal circulation. Previously, there were 4-5 separate parcels that had no connection. The interior drive system that served the parking areas was now connected. The point was to avoid having driveways for each use. There was also to be internal pedestrian access between the parcels and ways for people to walk between the parcels. What was being discussed was all in line with what was intended. The connection from Roberts to the Jelich building had been discussed during review of the Roberts application as well as some sort of connection from the Jelich building over to the park. He hoped that would be looked at. The argument that crosswalks gave a false sense of security was questionable. Adequate signage, etc., could make that a possibility. In terms of the intersection, he described the historical configuration which was a curve linking Alpine to Portola Road so that cars could go faster. The Town converted it to a normal T-intersection when it received the land, which created the park.

As requested by a representative of the Jelichs during oral communication, Council voted to continue the item to the November 12 meeting. Councilmember Wengert asked that there be a clear understanding of what the Jelichs had been asking for. She added that the Committee had done a great job. It was an island park surrounded by a lot of traffic on all sides. Councilmember Toben asked that a summary of the discussion/comments be prepared.

(8) Sub-Committee Findings on Noise Element and Ordinance Amendment [9:00 p.m.]

Town Planner Mader reviewed the staff report of 9/17/08 on the draft Noise Element and draft noise ordinance. He noted that a lot of sophistication to noise measurement had been introduced as well as noise standards. He said the major pervasive noise in Town was road noise, which was particularly intensive in some areas like Alpine Road in the vicinity of Westridge, on Los Trancos Road by the Ranch, and on Portola Road in the areas around the churches and Town Hall. Improved maintenance surfaces had some positive impacts on this type of noise, and he had urged the Public Works Director to consider improved surfaces even though they might be more expensive. With respect to the noise standards in the ordinance, he said the question of enforcement always came up. The proposal was that if a use permit limited the amount of noise that could be generated, a neighbor could have a noise measurement made, or the Town might require the applicant to make a noise measurement. The Town would not make noise measurements. But, it was good to have standards. There was also some discussion of whether noise standards should be retroactive on existing uses. One of the more controversial changes pertained to limiting what homeowners could do in terms of power tools on Sundays. Barking dogs was also an issue, and input from the community would be helpful. Responding to Mayor Derwin, he discussed options for next steps, including referring the Noise Element and ordinance to the Planning Commission.

Responding to Councilmember Wengert, Ms. Lambert said examples of ordinances from local communities had been obtained. The Town's proposed ordinance was not out of the norm with anyone else. Responding to Councilmember Wengert, she said noise was a big issue in the community. Concerns had been expressed about construction projects, construction on weekends, etc. A lot of people didn't complain because they didn't want to confront their neighbor. If they complained, they wanted the Town to deal with it. Barking dogs was becoming more and more of an issue. Responding to Councilmember Toben, she said around 60% of the complaints had to do with work on weekends and averaged 10 complaints/month. Some were repeat calls. Barking dog complaints were usually from the same neighbors complaining about the same animals. First time complaints came in about once/month.

Virginia Bacon, Golden Oak, said she was happy to see noise defined. She had no idea what the decibels sounded like. She suggested providing examples of minimums and maximums.

Bernie Bayuk said two major sources of noise were leaf blowers and low-flying airplanes. Town Planner Mader said leaf blowers were addressed under power equipment. The Town couldn't control airplane noise,

but the Town participated in the Airport Roundtable. There were also students and pleasure aircraft coming from the Palo Alto Airport.

Responding to Jon Silver, Councilmember Toben said home generators were addressed in a separate policy. He thought the provisions of the policy should be incorporated into the ordinance. Mr. Silver said leaf blowers were used occasionally but weren't really necessary; rakes did a great job. He thought leaf blowers should be singled out from power equipment. Additionally, some home generators were very quiet and some were very loud. The Town should have a policy that generators had to be very quiet and state-of-the-art. Power failures ought to be peaceful times. He was also concerned about the increase in noise from The Sequoias and the Priory. They were wonderful uses but a lot of neighbors felt there was an increase in noise. He described noise coming from the new Priory buildings.

Clair Jernick, Grove Dr., said she lived across from The Sequoias. There was something that came on automatically at 5:15 a.m. that woke her up and created the hum in Town. It faced out towards people who lived across Portola Road. There were people in the back of The Sequoias that probably couldn't hear it. She spoke with The Sequoias administrator and CEO about it, but it was a very slow process. When they did their remodel of the health center, they said they would address it if the noise was worse. It was worse. When they lost power, the generators were very noisy. Also, Portola Road was louder. She thought the surface was very important.

Responding to Virginia Bacon, Councilmember Wengert said the ordinance did not speak to penalties at this point.

Sharon Reich, Georgia Lane, described noise from The Sequoias, which changed based on the wind. It was particularly annoying while trying to sleep with windows open. Her husband had complained. When The Sequoia's flipped the switch, the noise stopped. She hoped something could be done about the industrial hum, which didn't belong in Portola Valley. As far as the Priory, they had a blower of some sort on top of the gym, which she understood they would be replacing. She had not heard any noise from the addition. She asked the Town to do something about The Sequoias.

Joan Leighton, Willowbrook Dr., said she heard the noise from The Sequoias at 5:15 a.m. She asked what enforcement measures were included in the current ordinance. She had complained to the Town about noise from new construction. The staff had been responsive and nice about receiving complaints, but she questioned what the current enforcement mechanisms were other than to send someone out. Responding, Ms. Sloan said the Town did not have a code enforcement officer. Ms. Lambert was able to work with people. A second resort after Ms. Lambert was the Sheriff who reluctantly went out and spoke to people about code violations. The only other thing to do was establish a record and take someone to court. Councilmember Toben said code enforcement in many municipalities was a low priority function. It was expensive and labor intensive, and the payoff was very limited. It typically involved a relatively small percentage of the population. Informal mechanisms were a vastly superior avenue to pursue; mediation was often a powerful tool.

Councilmember Toben said this was the first time he heard there was a persistent problem at The Sequoias. The "hum" was investigated 2-3 years ago. At that time, no single point source was identified. If there was a generalized situation that was disturbing the peaceable enjoyment of properties, Town staff needed to be brought in to investigate.

Responding to Mayor Derwin, Ms. Sloan said if an applicant was violating their use permit, which had been issued recently, it was a lot easier to enforce it. As far as investigating a complaint, staff could be directed to make it a priority. If staff couldn't determine the source, a consultant could be hired. Responding to Ms. Sloan, a number of residents confirmed that they knew specifically where it was coming from. Ms. Lambert said staff would re-visit the problem.

Marianne Plunder suggested that the ordinance require that pool pumps and generators had to be in soundproof housing for new buildings. Additionally, she felt there were worse things than barking dogs. In the general scheme of things, it was bad to enact an ordinance because of one or two repeat complainers. A little bit of tolerance towards a neighbor went a long way.

Virginia Bacon said a barking dog could mean an abusive situation because the animal was not getting attention. There were situations where there were repeat offenders with the same dog. She was not concerned about something happening occasionally. If it happened every time a person left home, there should be some monetary penalty or something for repeat offenders.

Councilmember Wengert said it was useful to hear all the comments about a variety of issues. Some complaints had a history that had clearly not been solved. Normally, she would have remanded this back to the Planning Commission to react to all of the information and ask them to come up with some policy. But, she was hesitant to do that because of experience with some other issues in the last year or two. She wanted to get as much input as possible before that process was started to understand the magnitude of the problem and make sure all points of view were heard. Those needed to be considered as the ordinance was drafted—including the enforcement aspect. Sending it back to the Planning Commission might result in a very similar form to what was presented tonight. She wanted to understand more of the views of the community, understand the magnitude of the issue, and ensure all the situations were covered and addressed in a way that was consistent with what the Town wanted to achieve. She was reluctant to form another ad hoc group, but the Town had had great success with them.

Councilmember Toben said he supported inviting public input at an informal level. Saturday morning coffees had been suggested for the Sustainability Element and that might be a fruitful format for this issue as well. It was free-form, but for this type of issue, it might be appropriate. The difficulty was pulling everything together, distilling it and handing it off to the Planning Commission so that they could work their magic.

Ms. Von Feldt asked if the Council had considered on-line surveys to get feedback. Councilmember Wengert noted that the website was not quite ready. She agreed it would be beneficial to send out something asking for people to comment on their concerns.

Councilmember Toben did not feel this needed to be a staff-intensive process. He did not think the Town Planner or Ms. Lambert would need to attend a Saturday morning coffee.

Rather than form another ad hoc committee, Mayor Derwin said she would prefer to have a noise workshop or Saturday coffee where people could indicate what noise was a problem in Town. She thought it should be structured to a certain extent.

Councilmember Wengert agreed it required some structure. Referring to the report, she said the Town's ability to manage traffic was relatively limited. Road surfaces was the most manageable and most within the Town's control. The format would need to be structured to be productive so that people would understand what the Town needed to hear. Additionally, people should be asked to comment about what they wanted to be able to do on Saturdays and Sundays in terms of power tools.

Virginia Bacon said the website should make it clearer what items would be discussed during Council meetings. Councilmember Wengert said the redesigned site would be much better. Responding to Ms. Bacon, she confirmed that there would be ways to communicate with the Town through the website.

Town Planner Mader said he did not think all of the material should be distributed at a workshop or meeting. The most sensitive recommendations should be pulled out for comment. A lot of the material was detailed and technical, which most people didn't need to worry about. He noted that Portola Valley prided itself in

being able to see the stars at night, riparian corridors, sustainability, etc. An important aspect was the quiet in the community. Somehow, that needed to become an ethic more than it was.

Virginia Bacon suggested approaching the schools and asking them to have workshops on noise so that the children understood what the source of noise was and what was too loud.

Councilmember Toben said he would be happy to host a Saturday morning coffee/conversation 5-6 weeks from now so that adequate notice could be provided to the community. He would take the approach the Town Planner suggested. People could just talk within a structured agenda that got to specifics/topics without any predetermined outcome. Ms. Bacon suggested there be two coffees to ensure everyone who wanted to could participate. Councilmembers discussed other issues where the Town did a lot of community outreach with good results.

Ms. Plunder said the only people who would come would be people with a complaint. It would be one-sided. Additionally, she would be very upset if she couldn't use her chain saw on the weekend. Responding to Councilmember Toben, she said she could live with using it just on Saturday.

After discussion, Council agreed to hold the first workshop/coffee on October 25. Ms. Lambert was asked to follow up with The Sequoias on the noise complaints.

COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(9) Future Land Use for Goodstein Property [9:55 p.m.]

Ms. Howard reviewed her memo of 9/24/08 on the use of the Springdown/Goodstein Town-owned parcels. She noted that Ms. Sloan's memo of 8/19/08 addressed legal aspects of the use of open space. Responding to a resident, Ms. Sloan summarized her memo.

Councilmember Toben said he felt Parks and Rec should take the lead and get public input on this issue, subject to some parameters offered by the Council. A number of varied suggestions had been offered: community garden, dog park, playing field, skateboard park, etc. Those all served different populations and different community needs. To evaluate suggestions for use of the parcels, he thought four criteria could be used: a) cost to the Town from the standpoint of construction costs, operating costs, and maintenance costs; b) what need was being served that was not presently met through other facilities and what demographic cohort was served that was presently underserved; c) which use(s) would foster the generation of social capital (i.e., drawing people together into relationship who otherwise would never meet); and d) consistency with the open space ideal. If it took ½ acre of concrete to make a viable skateboard park, that pushed up against the boundaries of what consistency with the open space ideal might suggest.

Councilmember Wengert questioned whether there should be a recreational use on the land. The original intention of the UUT and open space/scenic corridors didn't necessarily flow through to a recreational use. The prior use kept those two parcels in a minimally developed state for many years. The open space and scenic corridor along Portola Road was highly valued. She wanted to respect what they had done and then look very carefully at what the community voted for in approving the UUT. The issue was what "open space" meant to most people in Town. If the Council determined the parcels were best suited for recreational use, Parks and Rec would be very helpful and the right group to analyze what uses would be the most appropriate. She had not made that leap at this point.

Mayor Derwin said there were people who felt that their taxes under the UUT were for open space—not a skateboard park or community golf course. She thought the Council should first define "open space."

Referring to Councilmember Toben's criteria, she questioned what the "open space ideal" was.

Councilmember Wengert said this was another issue of how best to get input from the community on how they viewed it. She was not prepared tonight to say that the use should be recreational.

Mayor Derwin was concerned that putting Parks and Rec in charge at this time might cause people to become entrenched in their own camp, much like the turf issue. This might be another issue for a survey or a workshop. But, she was also concerned about a number of workshops going on at the same time. Councilmember Wengert liked the idea of a survey, which was an efficient way to communicate. But, the Town website would probably not be complete for another 4-6 months. There were on-line services that could conduct a survey for the Town.

Virginia Bacon suggested having a moratorium on this issue until the 10 years were up and take 2 years to decide what to do.

Marianne Plunder said she had been intimately involved for many years with raising money for Blues and Barbeque. It was always for open space, and there was no question in her mind what open space was. Open space was open space. It was not a dog park or a recreational use. She was shocked that the Town was even considering a recreational use for land purchased by fundraising from Blues and BBQ and the UUT. She did not think she was alone. Donors gave money for open space--not for recreational use.

Councilmember Toben said he spoke with a prominent donor who was thrilled with the idea that some portion of that acreage could be set aside for a community garden. That resident thought it would be a fabulous enhancement to the open space experience to be out there with your hoe looking at the western hillsides.

Jon Silver said he did not consider a garden as recreational. He agreed more with Councilmember Wengert and Mayor Derwin. If Council deferred this to Parks and Rec, a fundamental question would have been already answered. If referrals were to be made, the Conservation Committee, Open Space Acquisition Committee and Community Events should be asked for their opinion. This land was purchased with open space money. It was not just land the Town acquired that happened to be next to the Town Center. If the Town had been fortunate to get 2,000 acres, some recreational use might be more acceptable. He tended toward something that was consistent with open space use—natural open space or the type of use that was consistent with a rural town, such as agriculture, orchards, or an organic garden. He did not think of a baseball field, for example, as open space.

Yvonne Tryce, Joaquin, said there was very little open space for use by the science class. There was a tremendous amount of lawn, but very little space that was natural enough to go looking for bugs, etc. That was the kind of open space she would like to see. Councilmember Toben questioned whether all six acres was needed for science class purposes.

In terms of using a survey, Town Planner Mader agreed that it didn't need to be all this or all that. It could be some of this and some of that. Adding to the enhancement of the Portola Road experience was one consideration. Councilmember Wengert said it would have to be a well-crafted survey and unbiased. She thought that could be done.

Clair Jernick wanted the Council to take a step back prior to forwarding this to Parks and Rec, which implied a recreational use. She attended an ASCC meeting when the Goodsteins came to the Town and first presented their project. She recalled that they wanted to contribute to the scenic corridor. She suggested researching the records.

Responding to Mayor Derwin, Councilmember Wengert said she would take the lead on pursuing a survey.

Ms. Howard said there was a lot going on right now. She did not see any harm in waiting four months. At that time, the Town's website should be completed. Councilmembers concurred. Councilmember Toben said he would convey the message to Parks and Rec.

(10) Status of Town Center Project [10:20 p.m.]

Ms. Howard said staff was spending a lot of time troubleshooting the new facilities and fixing quirks. The installation of the sealer screens on the buildings had begun. The soccer field was open, and there was positive feedback. The library was now open. The floors in the Community Hall were being sanded and finished and should be done by October 3. Mr. Young was working on the bids for the rest of the creek work, and it was hoped that planting could begin in early November. The second story of the Town Hall was being worked on and would hopefully be done by the end of the month. At the request of the church, temporary fencing had been installed where the children's nursery school was at the property line. Light poles were installed and should be operational by the beginning of October. The old trailers had been disassembled and would be moved on Friday. Starting this week, she would also be providing financial updates. She anticipated that when the Town Center project was complete, it would be \$500,000 below budget. Invoices had been paid in the amount of \$14.5 million, with outstanding contractual debt in the amount of \$3.5 million. About \$14 million had been received from PVCF. For the Sausal Creek daylighting project, the budget was \$1.4 million. The Town had contracted for \$1,056,000 to date. The total amount paid was \$712,921 in invoices with \$290,325 incurred debt. The final portion had not been bid. The creek income to date was \$843,116; there were outstanding pledges that had not been received yet.

Councilmember Toben said he was startled at how fast traffic came from the south when he drove out of the parking lot. Ms. Howard said she asked Mr. Young to look into it and see whether some sort of signage could be put up to slow people down until they got used to the idea that there was a driveway there. Councilmember Toben suggested looking into a turnout lane.

Councilmember Toben said it was wonderful to see how the uses played out at the facility. On the weekend, boys on bikes were having a great time—especially around the creek bed. During the dry season, he didn't want to deny the boys the thrill of being able to run their bikes through the creek bed—providing that the pathway through the native vegetation/riparian planting could be preserved. A resident noted that boulders were part of Phase 2. Councilmember Toben said he thought it could be worked out. Ms. Howard concurred.

(11) Reports from Commission and Committee Liaisons [10:20 p.m.]

(a) Planning Commission

Councilmember Toben said the Planning Commission recommended the Council approve the Amendment to the Final Map for the proposed combined driveway for three Westridge parcels.

(b) Parks and Rec

Councilmember Toben said the Committee discussed the use of the Goodstein parcels. There was also discussion about badminton in the Community Hall. Exhaustion of all other alternatives (e.g., Priory gym and schools) first was suggested. Using a consultant for the renovation of Ford Field was also discussed. The Committee was not insistent that the field be renovated this fiscal year. Ms. Howard said there was one more year in which to use the bond money. Councilmember Toben said upkeep of the playground was also discussed as some of the equipment was not wearing very well.

(c) Climate Protection Task Force

Councilmember Toben said the group discussed community outreach to draw people into conversation about incorporating resource efficiency and conservation in all land use planning. The sequence for the Town would be: 1) the Sustainability Element, which covered the principles; 2) introduction of regulations/checklists; and 3) incentives for homeowners to do home energy audits and green-ups. There was also a meeting of the subgroup working on the Green Point Rating checklist.

(d) ASCC

Councilmember Wengert said two of the three items were continued; the third was the final approval on the Douglas property where Red Hawk real estate and State Farm would be going in.

(e) Conservation Committee

Councilmember Wengert said the Committee discussed the Springdown parcels. The Committee would be going out to check parcels for SOD. They worked on a tree permit and discussed the Sausal Creek plans and Triangle Park.

(f) Website Redesign

Councilmember Wengert said there was a day-long meeting yesterday with staff and the website designer. A lot of the details were being fleshed out, and it was very exciting and positive. Completion should be in 4-6 months. Councilmember Toben asked that the team look into integrating or linking the *coolpv* website with the Town's page.

(g) Newsletter

Mayor Derwin said the upcoming newsletter would be published before Thanksgiving. The hope was to get local residents to write a column about life in Portola Valley.

(h) C/CAG Meeting

Mayor Derwin said she was impressed to learn of all the work being done with respect to transportation. At the meeting, there was a presentation about a community based transportation plan for Daily City with shuttles going to the Bay Shore area.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

(12) Town Council 9/12/08 Weekly Digest [10:40 p.m.]

(a) Unlicensed Contractors in Portola Valley

Referring to the e-mail of 8/21/08 from Patti Pierce, Mayor Derwin said Ms. Lambert was working with Patti and Jack Pierce on their concern about unlicensed contractors in Town.

(13) Town Council 9/19/08 Weekly Digest [10:41 p.m.]

(a) Green Speakers Series

Referring to Councilmember Driscoll's e-mail of 9/16/08, Mayor Derwin said the Town had an opportunity to bring Amory Lovins to the Town to speak at the Community Hall on October 13 to kick off the Green

Speakers Series. The new SuRE Coordinator, Ms. De Garneau, suggested the title: "Pioneers of Sustainability--Portola Valley Green Speakers Series." Councilmembers concurred. Ms. Howard said the Community Hall could hold at most 250. Councilmembers discussed where the event should be advertised. Mayor Derwin said the event should be advertised at Stanford, the school district, *The Almanac*, and other local sources. Councilmember Toben said he did not think it should be advertised in the *Palo Alto Weekly*. Councilmember Wengert suggested contacting some of the conservation groups like POST, Acterra, Sempervirens, MROSD, the San Francisquito Creek Watershed Council, etc. Councilmembers agreed it should be kept local.

(b) Flagpole Location

Referring to Councilmember Driscoll's e-mail of 9/16/08 and Councilmember Merk's e-mail of 9/11/08, Mayor Derwin said there had been some accusations that the decision on the location of the flagpole was made under the radar. Unfortunately, the people involved in the matter were not present and Mayor Derwin did not feel comfortable agendizing the issue in their absence. Councilmember Toben said he did not see anything in the correspondence to justify agendizing the issue. The issue was framed adequately, and while there was disagreement, he did not feel it needed to be discussed further by the Council. Councilmembers Wengert and Toben agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Mayor

Town Clerk