

PORTOLA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING NO. 848 OCTOBER 10, 2012

Mayor Derwin called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Hanlon called the roll.

Present: Councilmembers Jeff Aalfs, Ted Driscoll and Ann Wengert; Vice Mayor John Richards, Mayor Maryann Derwin

Absent: None

Others: Nick Pegueros, Town Manager
Sharon Hanlon, Town Clerk
Brandi de Garreaux, Sustainability & Resource Efficiency (SURE) Coordinator
Howard Young, Public Works Director
Sandy Sloan, Town Attorney
Leigh Prince, Town Attorney Representative

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS [7:33 p.m.]

Council approved a request from Mr. Pegueros to provide a written response to the letter received from Keep PV Rural regarding Blue Oaks property.

Turkey Trot: Extending an invitation to participate in Applied Materials Silicon Valley Turkey Trot 2012, Kellie Drenner said it's a fun, healthy way to start the holiday season. In its eighth year, the event will take place Thanksgiving morning, November 22, 2012 in downtown San Jose. Ms. Drenner said the program includes 5K and 10K runs as well as a walk and several special competitions, one of which is the Mayors' Cup Challenge. Cities earn per-person points for registering mayors, vice mayors, councilmembers, city managers, planning commissioners, etc. Even if the officials can't attend on the day of the run, Ms. Drenner encouraged registration by the November 20, 2012 deadline to rack up points. She said cities will be split into four population-based categories. Portola Valley thus will compete with Atherton, Los Altos Hills, Monte Sereno and Woodside, all with populations of less than 25,000 people.

Kathleen King, who served two terms as Saratoga Mayor, said that after the Mayors' Cup Challenge, participants will gather in a CEO tent to mix with executives from a number of high-tech Silicon Valley companies. Ms. King said that the Turkey Trot – founded and produced by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group Foundation – gets bigger and bigger each year, with many groups treating it as a reunion. Last year's event drew 21,000 people – 4,000 more than anticipated; 25,000 are expected this year.

The event, which has raised more than \$2.2 million for charities since its inception, supports Second Harvest Food Bank, the Housing Trust of Santa Clara County, and the Children's Health Initiative of Santa Clara County. Last year, Ms. King said, the event brought in \$200,000 to provide 200 children with healthcare coverage (medical, dental, vision and mental health) for one year.

Other: Mark Bronder, Wyndham Drive, said he attended the Planning Commission meeting on October 3, 2012, and one of the commissioners said he'd seen plans for a 12-unit development at 900 Portola Road. When told there are no plans, Mr. Bronder asked when he would see plans, and why no one has replied to his attorney's request for documents. Ms. Prince said that attorney Alexis Pelosi not only received a letter in response to her request, but she also spoke with her personally.

- (1) Presentation: Len Materman, Executive Director, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority with San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Projects and Opportunities [7:37 p.m.]

Mr. Materman said the San Francisquito Creek Watershed encompasses 46 square miles, starting in the hills in Woodside and Portola Valley and going to San Francisco Bay. The creek itself is unusual in that it remains in a quite natural state, he said, unlike many other creeks on the Peninsula and in the South Bay. Mr. Materman said San Francisquito Creek technically originates at Searsville Lake, although major tributaries come into it, including Los Trancos Creek.

The primary flood plain in the San Francisquito Creek watershed extends from Middlefield Road east toward the Bay, across East Palo Alto, Palo Alto and Menlo Park. In February 1998, floods damaged 1,700 properties in those communities and unincorporated areas further upstream. Mr. Materman said about 20 homeowners in Portola Valley also sought assistance from FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program due to flood damage.

An independent government agency comprising East Palo Alto, Palo Alto and Menlo Park as well as the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the San Mateo County Flood Control District, the JPA formed the next year. Its charge was to address flooding issues, provide emergency response agencies with information to improve their ability to respond and collaborate, enhance the creek and watershed environment, support the natural function and maintenance of the creek channel, create opportunities for recreation and build connectivity between neighborhoods.

Mr. Materman summarized the organization's current focus – tantamount to a four-point mission statement:

- Transform San Francisquito Creek from a divisive liability into a unifying asset.
- Bring people to the waterway but get them out of floodplain.
- Build an agency not only about San Francisquito Creek but for the communities united by the creek. As an example, he said, Menlo Park provided matching funds for a Baylands project the JPA is involved in with East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
- Capitalize on opportunities that address issues of common interest and value the agency's regional nature.

Over the past four years, Mr. Materman said, an increasing number of projects has increased the JPA's operating budget 26% to about \$600,000, with substantial reserves also supporting project growth. The capital budget went from zero in 2008 to \$16 million for FY2013-2014.

Mr. Materman showed slides depicting what various downstream projects – starting with the Bay and moving upstream – will do to shrink the flood plains. A project from San Francisco Bay to Highway 101 will increase creek flow capacity and place a series of flood holds and levees to capture water coming down from the hills, expanding the capacity to handle a 100-year tide and 50 years of sea-level rise (estimated at 26 inches annually, which is more aggressive than the 16-inch standard the State and Bay Conservation and Development Commission use, Mr. Materman said). As well, the JPA is working with CalTrans to replace Highway 101 overcrossings and doing some work within the channel. Taken together, those projects will provide 50-year protection for the flood plain. After additional work to come later, including flood walls and underground bypass culverts, a tidal flood plain will remain but the creek flood plain will be gone.

According to Mr. Materman, the JPA has \$1.5 million in State grants, combined with \$600,000 from East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, to start design and complete the environmental review of the Bay levee system from Redwood City on the north to the creek. For the south side, he said the JPA wrote the grant that the Santa Clara Water District received to do the same there.

This suite of projects summarizes much of the JPA's current efforts, he said, and in addition to the flood-protection element, it includes strong environmental and recreational components. A new levee would close the gap in the Bay Trail, for instance, and downstream, widening the creek channel and taking land from the Palo Alto golf course will create 14 acres of new wetlands. Further, opening up the creek channel for Baylands is exciting, because under moderate to high flows, the work JPA is doing will create a natural mouth to the system, which hasn't been done since the 1930s, when the creek was channelized. Another benefit is that the work will enable PG&E to move its most important gas transmission line away from homes.

Working with Stanford University, the JPA also has identified three potential sites, all on Stanford property, to detain waters during major storm events upstream. Mr. Materman said that Stanford is also looking at the future of Searsville Dam and how it plays into the reservoir.

In terms of recreational pieces, he referred to a trail along Sand Hill Road by the Stanford Shopping Center, the Bay Trail and trails along city streets, but essentially there are no trails near the creek between El Camino Real and Highway 101. Mr. Materman said the JPA will start design work and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on a trail there in about a month, and extending the trail on Woodland Avenue in East Palo Alto also is on its list of projects.

SFCJPA is about to certify the EIR SF Bay-Highway 101 project before construction begins. It has also begun the design of the Newell Road and Pope-Chaucer Street bridges. Next month, work will begin on the EIR for the suite of flood plain, ecosystem and recreation projects between Highway 101 and El Camino Real. Also on the organization's to-do list over the next two years are to:

- Develop a watershed plan to support additional JPA funding proposals, outreach and long-term management strategies.
- Complete design and an EIR for the new Bay levee system from Mountain View to Redwood City.
- Create a special finance district to fund construction. Mr. Materman said a proposal for a two-county, three-city special assessment district is up for discussion at the November 2012 JPA Board meeting. Noting that flood insurance costs residents about \$1,300 annually, and the idea is to trade half that amount in on a special assessment to help remove the risk of flooding.
- Continue work on annual maintenance, invasive species eradication and property owner consultation related to erosion.
- Pursue a regional emergency early response/early warning system.

Long-term, Mr. Materman said the organization wants to work as a regional watershed-wide body and broaden its coverage scope in all directions. With a strong track record in grant awards; including \$8 million for construction last fall and \$1.5 million for the Bay levee system this past summer, he explained that a relationship between Portola Valley and the JPA would be helpful as it ramps up its "grant machine." He identified several issues of mutual interest and concern between the JPA and the Town:

- Fire, which threatens lives, property and water quality and increases flood risk.
- Water storage, which mitigates effects of drought and reduces flood risk.
- Stable creek banks, which reduce the erosion rate, thus preserving land and property values while reducing stormwater pollution and flood risk.

- Impervious surfaces, which diminish water quality and increase flood risk.

Mr. Materman said he came to the Council meeting to start a conversation with Portola Valley officials, suggesting that a relationship might begin with staff attending JPA Board meetings to get to know the organization. Board members, all elected officials, are San Mateo County Supervisor Dave Pine, Menlo Park Mayor Kirsten Keith, East Palo Alto Vice Mayor Ruben Abrica, Santa Clara Valley Water District 7 Director Brian Schmidt, and Palo Alto Councilmember Pat Burt, who serves as Chair.

Councilmember Driscoll recalled that when the Town was approached to join the JPA 10 to 15 years ago, the proposal was for Portola Valley to pay the same amount as communities with much larger populations and much bigger tax bases. He said the Town didn't join because it couldn't justify the cost.

Mayor Derwin said Mr. Materman is suggesting sending representatives to JPA meetings from time to time to begin with.

Councilmember Wengert asked whether the "cost of admission" for communities has changed over the years. Mr. Materman said that an increase this year, prompted by a deficit that had the JPA dipping into its reserves, raised the rate to \$108,000 for each of the five member agencies. When the JPA was founded in 1999, it was \$68,000 per agency, and jumped to \$98,000 in about 2004, not long before he came on as Executive Director. Rather than thinking in terms of "membership fees," he said he'd like to figure out what makes sense to bring Portola Valley to the table.

Alex Von Feldt, Creek Park Drive, said she supports Portola Valley getting somewhat involved with the JPA. She emphasized that the watershed is a unique resource; almost every other creek is a concrete culvert but luckily that never happened to San Francisquito Creek. Largely natural, she said it supports the most viable remaining native steelhead trout population in the South Bay. Ms. Von Feldt indicated, too, that all of Portola Valley's gulches and creeks are part of this watershed – with Los Trancos Creek, Sausal Creek and Corte Madera Creek all feeding into it– and what we do in Town affects neighboring communities down below.

Jerry Hearn, Los Trancos Woods, said that beyond the Board meetings, other JPA activities occur regularly, and Mr. Materman is very good about reaching out for conversations about educational efforts and ecosystem news. Mr. Hearn said that's another way in which Portola Valley could play a role. Looking way into the future, as water becomes scarcer, this is an opportunity to use the watershed to unite communities within it more than they are now.

Councilmember Driscoll asked whether the JPA has a position on the Searsville Dam. Mr. Materman said that Searsville Lake is apparently 90% to 95% full, and when it's full, there will be a liability that's coming over that dam. The JPA has analyzed that again and again, and the Army Corps of Engineers has done so as well. The JPA is very carefully monitoring the situation, because it wants that liability reduced rather than exacerbating a flooding problem. In terms of whether Searsville should be for water storage, whether the dam should be removed for the sake of the steelhead, how research would be affected, how the properties upstream would be affected, depending on the scenario – it's an incredibly complex issue, Mr. Materman said. The Stanford Searsville Working Group is in the process of making an assessment, he added, and while the Board hasn't taken a position, the JPA is at the table and providing the group with technical data the JPA and the Corps gathered over a seven-year period.

Councilmember Driscoll said some edification would be valuable because the issue is so complicated and there's no simple solution.

Vice Mayor Richards said he appreciated Ms. Von Feldt's comments, because whatever we do in Portola Valley affects what happens downstream. Considering the Town's "environmental ethos," it makes perfect sense at least to be aware of what's going on in the watershed.

Councilmember Wengert agreed with Vice Mayor Richards, and said she thinks it's a matter of taking small steps to see what makes the most sense in terms of participation. Clearly, she said, the issue is regional in scope and increasingly important.

Councilmember Driscoll said the appropriation was much more than the Town could justify 10 or 15 years ago, but in any case, Portola Valley should be involved in some way.

Mayor Derwin and Councilmember Aalfs agreed also. Mayor Derwin said she believes Ms. de Garneau has had conversations with Mr. Materman and Mr. Pegueros, and would be willing to attending JPA meetings.

Mr. Materman noted that JPA Board members have consistently expressed interest in Portola Valley's involvement, so he's pleased to start a dialogue.

Junk Mail Opt-Out: Ms. de Garneau displayed a pile of papers from Mr. Pegueros's file cabinet that represents the junk mail a typical adult receives each year – 41 pounds worth. She said the Town is about to launch a new program in cooperation with Catalog Choice for Communities, an online service that lets people easily log in to a secure account and opt out of unwanted mail and phone books. It's a programmed website that includes messages and web links, including a direct link to the Town website. Catalog Choice requires no IT resources, Ms. de Garneau said, and is supported by a promotion and outreach plan and customized materials. Portola Valley became involved as part of its strategy to reduce waste. At this time, she said, the Town is running at diversion rate of about a 77%, but anything to minimize the waste stream will help.

By stopping waste at the source, Ms. de Garneau said, the mail and phone book opt-out system reduces the collection and disposal costs that are passed on to the community. It also gives the Town a positive way of engaging citizens in mutually beneficial effort. Catalog Choice saves citizens time and hassle, reduces the opportunity for identity theft (e.g., not receiving unwanted credit card offers in the mail) and minimizes mail pileups that cue potential burglars that homeowners are away.

The Town has been using this program for about a year, and has produced some impressive results. Ms. de Garneau said the Town saved the equivalent of two mature trees, diverted 656 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions, eliminated 233 pounds of solid waste and saved 1,580 gallons of water. Because data is recorded by zip-code, no personal information would be accessible, but the Town would be able to see the Portola Valley's collective impact on solid waste diversion via Catalog Choice.

Ms. de Garneau said the system is easy to use. Signed up at home, she said she sets her junk mail aside and spends about 10 minutes each month logged into the site (portolavalley.catalogchoice.org) to remove herself from mailing lists, even those of nonprofit organizations.

Broad outreach will be conducted over the next few weeks, encouraging residents to start now to stop the waste coming in next year. Ms. de Garneau said the goal is to enroll 1,000 Portola Valley accounts by December 2013. She said a good number of residents are enrolled already, a high rate among the communities that participate in the Catalog Choice program

Ms. de Garneau offered some motivational statistics:

- Americans will spend eight months over their lifetimes opening junk mail and throwing away much of it unopened.
- Municipalities in the U.S. spend an estimated \$320 million in local taxes to dispose of unsolicited direct mail each year.

- More than 800,000 phone books are delivered annually, the equivalent of five pounds of paper for every man, woman and child.
- Nearly 70% of U.S. adults rarely or never even use a phone book.

She said she thinks the community will embrace this new service and appreciate the Town's sponsorship.

Councilmember Driscoll asked whether less material in residents' recyclables bins as a result of this program would reduce the Town's diversion rate. Ms. de Garmeaux said she didn't think so.

CONSENT AGENDA [8:11 p.m.]

- (2) Approval of Minutes: Regular Town Council Meeting of September 26, 2012 [removed from Consent Agenda]
- (3) Ratification of Warrant List: October 10, 2012 in the amount of \$130,556.17

By motion of Councilmember Driscoll, seconded by Councilmember Wengert, the Council approved Item 3 on the Consent Agenda with the following roll call vote:

Aye: Councilmember Aalfs, Driscoll, Wengert, Vice Mayor Richards, Mayor Derwin

No: None

- (2) Approval of Minutes: Regular Town Council Meeting of September 26, 2012 [removed from Consent Agenda] [8:12 p.m.]

Councilmember Driscoll moved to approve the minutes, as amended, of the Regular Town Council Meeting of September 26, 2012. Seconded by Councilmember Aalfs, the motion carried 5-0.

REGULAR AGENDA [8:13 p.m.]

- (4) Recommendation by Public Works Director: Proposed Removal of Oak Tree at Ford Field

By way of background, Mr. Young said the Council and the public extensively discussed the large oak tree at Ford Field in 2008, by which time decay had hollowed it from its base up 15 feet toward its crown. Concerns led the Town to obtain reports from four arborists, all of whom indicated that the tree should be removed. Staff requested alternatives for preservation. Ultimately, the Council decided to trim the tree to lighten its load, wrap wire fencing around it, install a support post to reinforce the decaying trunk, and cease use of the adjacent dugout.

Later, when the potential renovation of Ford Field went out to bid, Mr. Young said, the construction costs led the Council to reject all bids and reevaluate the project, but in the process, the Town obtained an updated report on the oak tree from an arborist and an analysis from the Town's insurance provider's risk manager. Both recommended removing the tree. Mr. Young said the Little League and members of the Parks and Recreation Committee also have expressed concerns about the tree as a safety hazard.

After a long discussion during a joint site meeting of the Parks and Recreation and Conservation Committees on September 17, 2012, Mr. Young reported, they voted unanimously to recommend removing the tree unless reasonable mitigation steps could be taken to eliminate the risk and liability to the Town. He followed up by exploring potential mitigation measures, including a discussion of options with landscape architect Carducci & Associates. Two alternatives emerged: move either the field or the tree. Moving the tree would cost up to \$30,000, with no guarantee that it could survive the move – and it

would still require fencing, post supports and irrigation. After evaluating a number of factors that would be involved, Mr. Young concluded that moving the field couldn't pass the "reasonability" test. Accordingly, he said staff agrees that the tree should be removed, at a cost of about \$1,800. The tree could be memorialized, though, he added. Among ideas offered: install the trunk in an open field as a wildlife habitat, put up a plaque on the current site of the tree, plant a young oak nearby, and harvest seedlings/acorns from the old oak.

Councilmember Driscoll said that in 2008, he was amazed by such healthy foliage on a tree that was supposedly in such an advanced state of decay. He may have argued in favor of saving the tree then, he said, but now there's no sense in spending what it would cost to move either the tree or the field.

Jon Silver, Portola Road, thanked Mr. Young for the thorough report. He said the tree has been a miracle of nature, and if it were to survive a move, it would no longer be a miracle of nature but a miracle of engineering. For the tree to be hit by lightning would be its perfect ending, a natural death, he said, but otherwise he favors removing the tree, harvesting a few acorns and saving the old oak's trunk as a habitat for lizards, snakes, field mice and other critters.

Councilmember Driscoll said when the Council considered the tree in 2008, Deirdre Clark indicated it had been struck by lightning in the 1950s, which is what led to the decay in the trunk.

Ms. Von Feldt said that although the chance of getting live trees from acorns is slim, harvesting the acorns is a natural mitigation measure.

Speaking for the Parks and Recreation Committee Lindsay Bowen, Portola Road, said members went to Ford Field to check out the tree, and in the interest of safety recommend its removal.

Councilmember Wengert thanked Mr. Howard, the arborists and everyone else involved for a terrific job in evaluating the situation. She said it's pretty clear we've reached the end of the road for the tree.

Councilmember Driscoll asked whether something would have to be installed to create shade over the dugout once the tree is gone. Mr. Bowen said yes, but it would be part of the redesign of the stands in the renovation project.

Vice Mayor Richards said taking the tree down would be the right decision. Mayor Derwin and Councilmember Aalfs also said they agreed that the time has come to remove the tree. Mayor Derwin said she favored the idea of harvesting acorns or seedlings.

Councilmember Aalfs moved to approve staff recommendations to obtain a contractor to: 1) remove the old oak tree at Ford Field; 2) direct staff, the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Conservation Committee to develop a plan to memorialize the tree and/or plant a replacement nearby; and 3) harvest acorns and seedlings from the oak. Seconded by Councilmember Wengert, the motion carried 5-0.

- (5) Recommendation by the Cable & Utilities Undergrounding Committee: Request for Revision to formerly adopted Resolution #2500-2010 establishing the Alpine Road Undergrounding District [8:38 p.m.]

As liaison to the Committee, Councilmember Driscoll said the Committee has been trying to get some of PG&E's Rule 20A funds used for some of the undergrounding the Town has planned, in part because it would be good for the public to see those funds being used. Since the Council adopted a resolution establishing an Underground Utility District in July 2010, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and PG&E have changed the qualification process for Rule 20A funds.

M.J. Lee, Meadowood Drive, said Mr. Young advised the Committee that the rule changes would cause the Town to incur some additional expenses. At about the same time, she said that Bob Bondy, a retired PG&E field supervisor “who knows every telephone pole in the Town,” joined the Committee. He then worked with PG&E people and developed the plan presented in the September 20, 2012 memo Ms. Lee submitted to the Town Council as Interim Committee Chair. She said the Town has sufficient Rule 20A credits now to undertake Phase 1, to underground cables and wires along the stretch of Alpine Road from just south of Nathorst Avenue to just south of Hillbrook Drive. PG&E estimates a cost of \$400,000 to undertake that section, and if the Town Council approves a new resolution by December 2012, the project could be completed by the third quarter of 2015.

Ms. Lee said she hoped the Council would discuss Phase 2 at tonight’s meeting. Phase 2 would pick up where Phase 1 left off, extending the undergrounding to near the foot of Golden Oak Drive, to approximately the middle of the parking lot at the Alpine Hills Tennis & Swim Club. Mr. Bondy said the site was chosen so poles wouldn’t be visible coming downhill on Alpine Road.

If the Town chooses not to proceed on its own with Phase 2, Ms. Lee said, accumulating credits at the rate of about \$15,000 annually, it would take until 2050 to bank enough credits with PG&E under Rule 20B to cover the estimated \$541,000 Phase 2 cost.

As for Phase 1, using Rule 20A funds would obligate cable and telephone companies to participate in undergrounding their lines at no cost to the Town, Mr. Bondy explained, and the Phase 1 area was selected because the financial impact of the Town having to pay for that would be greater than in the Phase 2 area.

Mr. Bondy said that Phase 1 basically would eliminate four power poles, six telephone poles and many strands of wire. Phase 1 also would have the greatest visual impact, because driving past Hillbrook Drive, you notice the sagging telephone cables toward the road, forced toward the ground because the CPUC requires PG&E to trim the tops of the trees causing the trees to sag down to the wires.

Councilmember Driscoll said he hopes the Council would consider funding Phase 2 over a few years to take advantage of some of the economies of moving into Phase 2 right after completing Phase 1. He emphasized that more clarification would be needed before the Council would be asked to make that decision.

In response to Mayor Derwin and Councilmember Wengert, Mr. Bondy affirmed that the Town has more than enough credits for Phase 1 already, but Rule 20A and Rule 20B funds cannot be mingled to carry credits over into Phase 2. He said the design element of Phase 2 might be an exception, but that is uncertain. He also suggested that excess Rule 20A credits might be applied toward incorporating the first part of Phase 2 into Phase 1, to the extent the credits would cover the cost.

Councilmember Driscoll, who reiterated his point about the importance of doing something about undergrounding that the public could see, said he suspects homeowners in some residential areas in the Undergrounding District might choose to underground utilities on their properties at their own expense.

Councilmember Wengert said she fully agrees with moving on with Phase 1 and shares others’ desire to underground to the maximum extent possible. However, she said it would take fairly significant analysis to prepare in anticipation of spending nearly \$500,000 – over whatever time period. She wouldn’t want to give the impression that the Town would commit to any significant amount.

Mr. Bondy said that at the least, Phase 1 and Phase 2 could be designed together.

Vice Mayor Richards, a previous liaison to the Committee, said the cost differential between then and now is staggering.

Mr. Bondy said that undergrounding PG&E cable can cost 10 times more than overhead lines, but the telephone company uses the same wire, whether overhead or underground. But even under Rule 20B, he said, there's a delta – the Town wouldn't pay 100% of the cost of undergrounding the non-PG&E utilities in Phase 2, but rather the difference between installing new lines overhead or putting them underground.

Vice Mayor Richards said a Mello-Roos assessment may be a potential vehicle for funding Phase 2.

Councilmember Aalfs said he'd like to see what the Town would have to add to its budget for Phase 2 under scenarios for different timeframes, such as 10 years or 20 years. He said the data could be developed fairly quickly without a lot of analysis.

Councilmember Driscoll said in addition to the aesthetics, safety issues are involved in undergrounding. Firefighters wouldn't have to contend with lines overhead or downed lines while trying to fight fires, he said, relating a story of downed electrical wires killing a police officer. In addition, the issue of power outages caused by tree limbs falling on the lines goes away with undergrounding.

Councilmember Driscoll moved to direct staff to revise an acceptable new resolution to establish an Underground Utility District on Alpine Road to pursue Phase 1 as described. Seconded by Vice Mayor Richards, the motion carried 5-0.

Council also directed the Cable and Utilities Undergrounding Committee to work with Mr. Young to refine Phase 2 options.

COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS [8:52 p.m.]

- (6) Recommendation by Administrative Services Director: Revisions to Application for use of Town Fields, Tennis/All Sports Court, Ford Field Parking Lot and Town Center Picnic Area [8:53 p.m.]

Mr. Pegueros noted that the Town has received two requests from private schools to use Town fields in a structured manner, scheduled once a week, and the current application form doesn't distinguish between public and private schools. He asked the Council to not only consider a modification to add that information, but also to adopt an appropriate fee schedule to help offset maintenance costs. Mr. Pegueros also pointed out that both Corte Madera Elementary and the Woodside Priory have facilities that the Town may use on a reciprocal basis, which probably justifies their no-fee status.

Since preparation of the staff report, he added, he's learned that a home school uses the Town Center regularly for certain classes. Consequently, he said that fees would apply to three schools.

Mayor Derwin asked whether fees have been discussed with the two applicants, Woodland School and Creekside School. Mr. Pegueros said that Creekside actually had come in as a nonprofit group and in that capacity already is paying the fee that would be proposed.

Councilmember Driscoll moved to revise the cited application to 1) include a new Local Private Schools category, with fee schedule structured the same as Local Nonprofit and Local Informal groups (\$3 per person per use plus a \$500 deposit) and 2) replace the existing Schools category with Local Partner Agencies (no fees, no deposits). Seconded by Councilmember Aalfs, the motion carried 5-0.

(7) Reports from Commission and Committee Liaisons [8:56 p.m.]

Councilmember Wengert:

(a) Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

Councilmember Wengert attended the October 2, 2012 meeting of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition's Regional Roadway Safety Solutions Subcommittee. Having joined the group on two occasions, she suggested that if the subcommittee continues, it would make sense for Mr. Young to represent the Town instead of a Councilmember, because the group is focused on dealing with infrastructure issues and questions, specific intersections and linkages between communities such as roadways and trails.

(b) Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety (BP&TS) Committee

The Committee, which Councilmember Wengert described as "very robust, moving forward," discussed installation of parking signs at Windy Hill parking lot at its October 3, 2012 meeting, as well as progress on the Alpine Hills crosswalk and the range of potential solutions that might apply.

On the school front, some community members spoke up about enforcement of drop-off rules at Corte Madera School. The Committee reported that on a recent Bike-to-School Day, 205 students participated via bicycling, walking or busing to Ormondale – "a huge uptick," as Councilmember Wengert put it.

BP&TS and Trails and Paths Committees both had significant discussions about changing the Alpine Trail, Councilmember Wengert reported, particularly as the trail moves from the intersection of Alpine and Portola Roads down to the Alpine Hills Tennis & Swimming Club. From a Safe Routes to School perspective, crossing Alpine Road in two locations presents safety and mobility issues.

Addressing the Alpine Trail issue, Leslie Latham, Grove Drive, said she was speaking both as a resident and member of the BP&TS Committee. She and Judith Hasko, a Trails and Paths Committee member, both sent requests to the Council asking for priority to be placed on an effort to get an easement or other right on Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) property as a starting point for relocating and upgrading the trail. The trail project would eliminate the need for two Alpine Road crossings and the eyesore cyclone fence as well as reduce traffic/pedestrian conflicts at the Golden Oak Drive intersection.

Ms. Hasko, who noted that the easement request involves an area along the edge of the Woods/Hawthornes part of MROSD lands, said that while members of both committees understand that a variety of issues need to be resolved with respect to this property generally, they sense the timing seems right to work on this easement issue now.

In response to Mayor Derwin, Ms. Sloan said the Council could direct staff to work with the committee liaisons and/or the MROSD in this regard.

Mr. Pegueros also noted that the BP&TS Committee had scheduled a bicycle lane study special meeting on October 15, 2012. Mayor Derwin said she would attend because Councilmember Wengert cannot.

(c) Trails and Paths Committee

In addition to reviewing Alpine Trail issues and opportunities in the same vein as the BP&TS Committee, at its October 9, 2012 meeting the Trails and Paths Committee discussed signage and a recent equestrian accident that underscored the importance of driveway scoring. The property owner at the accident site is working to address the issue.

(d) SFO Airport/Community Roundtable

An introduction to the complex Metroplex Project was on the agenda of the October 3, 2012 Airport Roundtable meeting. An FAA representative discussed the next phase of NextGen technology, a three-year project that would include linking all air spaces in the Bay Area and beyond – as far east as Reno and as far north as the Oregon border. Councilmember Wengert reported that the Metroplex Project team would be working on the environmental assessment in the last year of the three-year program.

After aggressive probing on the part of Roundtable members, she said it was clear that the priorities have been on improving efficiency via a stepladder configuration of glide paths for both departures and arrivals, enhancing safety, saving fuel and conserving energy. “That is the priority of NextGen,” Councilmember Wengert said. “Noise was not on the radar.” Roundtable members stressed to the FAA representative the importance of considering input from the communities represented on the Roundtable.

Councilmember Aalfs:

(e) Planning Commission

The proposed Blue Oaks lot-line adjustment (LLA) on the agenda of the October 3, 2012 meeting generated considerable discussion.

(f) Architectural and Site Control Commission (ASCC)

At a site meeting on October 8, 2012, the ASCC continued discussion on the proposal for a driveway and bridge from Ford Field across Los Trancos Creek to the Ryland Kelley property. At its regular meeting afterward, Commissioners also (like the Planning Commission) discussed the proposed Blue Oaks LLA.

Mayor Derwin:

(g) Firewise Committee

The Committee discussed Rapid Notify Software, Go Bags, and the possibility of a Firewise class in the Los Trancos Water District in the spring of 2013. Members also talked about a recent car fire in a garage on Joachin Road, which apparently didn't spread because the homeowner had created so much fire-management work, despite the fact that a downed wire delayed firefighters.

A Citizen Emergency Response Training (CERT) refresher class was held on October 7, 2012.

(h) Council of Cities

During a stimulating, sometimes contentious evening in Belmont on September 28, 2012, the Council of Cities heard about the possible future of the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir from Mike Marshall, Executive Director of Restore Hetch Hetchy and Matt Regan, Vice President of Public Policy for the Bay Area Council.

(i) Housing Endowment and Regional Trust (HEART)

Mayor Derwin reported going to an ad hoc HEART group meeting on October 9, 2012 to help ensure HEART retains members and that they understand the benefits of being part of the organization. In part, she explained, HEART is trying to fill a need for affordable housing left by the dissolution of redevelopment agencies.

She said that HEART Executive Director Mark Moulton, who also serves as Executive Director of the Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County, told her that housing advocacy groups are closely watching Portola Valley's efforts to increase its affordable housing.

(j) Tuesday Harvest Speaker Series

Part of the series of programs that feature fresh and local ideas to give Town residents tools and resources to live more sustainably, "Eating Local: Benefits that Extend Beyond the Palate & the Plate" was on the agenda for the October 9, 2012 edition of the Town's Tuesday Harvest Speaker Series. The program featured Amy Cox, founder of subURBAN homestead and slow food expert.

(5) Nature and Science Committee

The Nature & Science Committee will hold a Star Party on October 12, 2012.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS [9:24 p.m.]

(8) Town Council September 28, 2012 Weekly Digest – None

(9) Town Council October 5, 2012 Weekly Digest

(a) #12 – Memo from Town Manager, Nick Pegueros re: Weekly Update – Friday, September 28, 2012

Councilmember Driscoll thanked Mr. Pegueros for his weekly updates in the Council Digest.

Relative to Item 2 in his update, Mayor Derwin asked why it was necessary for attorney Alexis Pelosi to submit a second Public Records Act (PRA) request for documents. Ms. Prince explained that Ms. Pelosi's first request was fulfilled, but it was very broad in nature and covered a large volume of documents. Narrowing the scope pursuant to a conversation between Ms. Sloan and Ms. Pelosi, Ms. Pelosi subsequently decided she still wanted some other documents. To that extent, Ms. Prince explained, her second request covered items she'd removed from her first request.

In response to Councilmember Driscoll, Ms. Prince explained that most of the documents Ms. Pelosi has requested have to be photocopied, because the documents were created long

enough ago that there were no electronic versions. Mr. Pegueros added that to the extent possible, digitized files would be sent instead of paper copies.

Following up on a Written Communications item that came up during the Town Council's September 26, 2012 meeting, Mayor Derwin reported that the Town has a nominee for the 2012 Mayors' Diversity Award. She said Portola Valley's honoree will be Chris Bradshaw, Founder/President of the *African Library Project*.

CLOSED SESSION [9:30 p.m.]

(10) Conference with Real Property Negotiators

Government Code Section 54956.8

Properties: Town-owned lots in Blue Oaks subdivision

Negotiating parties: Town Attorney and Councilmember Wengert

Under negotiation: price and terms of payment

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

No reportable actions.

ADJOURNMENT [10:00 p.m.]

Mayor

Town Clerk