

Special Meeting  
October 15, 2007

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The City Council of the City of Palo Alto met on this date in the Council Chambers at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Barton, Beecham, Cordell, Drekmeier, Kishimoto, Klein, Kleinberg, Mossar, Morton (arrived at 6:08 p.m.)

### STUDY SESSION

#### 1. Discussion of ABAG Regional Housing Needs Allocation for Palo Alto and Housing Element Requirements

Steve Emslie, Director of Planning and Community Environment, gave a comprehensive presentation regarding the recent ABAG housing assignments to jurisdictions for the next Regional Housing needs Allocation (RHNA) period (December 2006 through June 2014). He explained the chronology of developing the allocations, the allocation process and summarized state housing element law and requirements for housing elements, including housing inventories, to meet state requirements. He also provided Council with an overview of the schedule for submission of housing elements to the State Department of Housing and Community Development. He described the allocation assigned to Palo Alto by various income levels and explained that the City was requesting a reduction in that allocation from ABAG based on two factors, the overall projected population growth for Palo Alto was too high for the next seven years and all new jobs and housing growth projected for Stanford in the next seven years were assigned to Palo Alto including development anticipated to occur under the County General Use Permit (GUP).

Planning Commissioner Tuma gave a brief summary of the Planning and Transportation Commission's discussion regarding the ABAG numbers. There were several public speakers providing pros and cons related to the City's allocation and responsibility for providing its regional share of housing.

Vice Mayor Klein and Council Members Morton and Cordell considered the numbers to be unachievable since it would require significant acreage to develop the numbers of units required under the allocation and given Palo Alto's "built out" status it is not possible to find sufficient land to reserve for that number of units. Furthermore, they considered the addition of 2800+ units would result in adverse effects on Palo Alto's quality of life particularly regarding school capacity and traffic congestion. Councilmember Kleinberg indicated her support for housing; however, she considered that the transportation infrastructure needed to support higher density housing should be in place before the housing is developed. Mayor Kishimoto recognized the need to address the RHNA assignment but considered that given Palo Alto's status as a regional employment center and the high cost of land in Palo Alto that the City should explore ways of transferring units to other jurisdictions consistent with the ABAG process. Council Members

Barton, Mossar and Beecham saw the RHNA assignment as a challenge to the community citing that it was Palo Alto's responsibility to provide the requisite sites for future housing particularly given the City's commitment to sustainability and the need to respond to the global warming crisis.

**No action required.**

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mary Schaefer, 742 De Soto Drive, spoke regarding preparedness for flooding.

Robert Moss, 4010 Orme St., spoke regarding reestablishing the graffiti program.

Michael Maciorski, 17230 Grand Prix Way, Morgan Hill, spoke regarding his toxic waste complaint and he presented a petition for investigation into illegal termination and dumping of toxic waste into the Palo Alto City Landfill.

Arthur Keller, 3881 Corina Way, spoke regarding high-speed rail to address global warming.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

2. Vote and Appointment of Candidates to the Parks and Recreation Commission

First Round of Voting for Parks and Recreation Commission

Voting for Sean Cottle: DREKMEIER

Voting for Alex Panelli: BARTON, BEECHAM,  
KISHIMOTO, KLEINBERG,  
MOSSAR

Voting for Deirdre Crommie: BARTON, BEECHAM, CORDELL,  
DREKMEIER, KISHIMOTO,  
KLEIN, KLEINBERG, MORTON,  
MOSSAR

Voting for Leon Leong: CORDELL, KLEIN, MORTON

City Clerk Donna Rogers announced on the 1<sup>st</sup> ballot, Deirdre Crommie with 9 votes, and Alex Panelli with 5 votes were appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term ending April 30, 2010.

Council Member Morton left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Member Barton stated he would not participate on Item 8 because Kutzmann and Associates occasionally provided plan check reviews of his professional work.

Council Member Kleinberg stated she would not participate on Item 4 because she wanted to avoid any suggestion of conflict since the scope of work called out the maximizing and leveraging of applications, which are part of the proprietary intellectual property of Google and her organization was funded by Google.

Mayor Kishimoto stated Items 5 and 6 were ordinances adopting model fire and building codes. State law required the introduction of model code ordinances and the setting of a Public Hearing; the Public Hearing was scheduled for November 13, 2007. No action would be taken that evening. After the Public Hearing on November 13, 2007, the Council would proceed with their standard process of voting to adopt an ordinance and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.

Art Liberman, 752 Chimalus, spoke regarding Item 5 and stated the adoption of the ordinance would give the Fire Department new tools to implement better and stronger safe guards for the health and welfare for the members of the community.

**MOTION:** Council Member Beecham moved, seconded by Cordell, to approve Consent Calendar Items 3 through 8.

3. Ordinance 4970 entitled "Ordinance of the Council of the City of Palo Alto Adopting an Ordinance Rezoning the Parcel by Amending the Zoning Map of the City of Palo Alto to Change the Zone Designation for 395 Page Mill Road from the General Manufacturing (GM) Zone Designation to the Research, Office & Limited Manufacturing (ROLM) Zone Designation
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**MOTION PASSED for item 3:** 8-0, Morton absent.

**MOTION PASSED for item 4:** 7-0, Morton absent, Kleinberg not participating.

**MOTION PASSED for item 8:** 7-0, Morton absent, Barton not participating.

#### COUNCIL COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES

Council Member Mossar stated her concerns to the City Manager regarding significant emerging issues; graffiti and other unseemly behavior around the radius of Palo Alto High School and her neighborhood.

City Manager Benest said that based on concerns received from Council Members and citizens, he had authorized an increase of resources allocated to Public Works to enable the graffiti crew to respond quickly.

Vice Mayor Klein inquired on the Status of the citizen's letter regarding sewer problems in the Green Acres neighborhood.

Assistant City Manager Harrison said the sewer backup issue was included in an informational report being prepared for the Council.

Council Member Kleinberg encouraged a follow-up on the individual who spoke regarding the allegations of toxic waste being dumped.

Mayor Kishimoto noted that two weeks ago she was invited by the United Kingdom to make a trip to London, South Hampton and working with Mayors from Sacramento, Berkeley, Seattle, and Tucson. She noted in England there was a lot of discussion about Combined Heat and Power (CHP) as it was economically viable. One city's approach was to provide high energy efficiency of 80 percent sustainable energy, as opposed to 20 percent renewable energy.

Council Member Beecham reported his attendance at the annual Northern California Power Agency (NCPA); the preeminent energy meeting on the West Coast. The focus of the meeting was on global warming. The NCPA would be meeting with staff from Sacramento next week to help them work on options on a financial basis. Decisions on how allocations of emissions are made for CO2 from the electric industry needed to be made.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.