

FINAL MINUTES

**TOWN OF CORTE MADERA
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

NOVEMBER 15, 2010

Commissioners Present: Chair Barbara Becker
Robert Czeck
Ted Meyer
Thomas Young

Staff Present: Public Works Director/Town Engineer Dan Ring
Architect and Access Consultant George Dedekian

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Becker called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Open Forum for Non Agenda Items

There were no comments.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. October 18, 2010

M/s, Czeck/Meyer to approve the AAC minutes of October 18, 2010 with corrections.

Ayes: All

4. Election of Officers

Chair Becker stated this occurred at the last meeting.

5. Old Business

A. BRIP (Barrier Removal Implementation Plan) implementation strategy

Public Works Director Ring presented a brief staff report. He stated they discussed an overview of what should be done at the last meeting. He suggested the Commission discuss how to break down the task into manageable parts such as prioritization or sorting of items, dealing with a particular area or type of barrier, eliminating things that have already been done, etc. He stated he created a database that includes a spreadsheet with all the items in the report. He could email this to the Commission. Commissioner Meyer stated he went through his assigned volume and could tell that about 50% of the items could be eliminated (residential driveways with cross slopes of more than 10%). Public Works Director Ring stated he would help to pare down the document. Chair Becker suggested they work in pairs and visit each site with one person driving and the other person writing down information. Public Works Director Ring stated that was a good idea. Access Consultant Dedekian stated the Pavement Management Plan would come into play in many of these instances. Commissioner Meyer asked if each item should be incorporated into the BRIP. Access Consultant Dedekian stated "yes" but the overarching concept is that Title II entities (local and State jurisdictions) that provide programs and services can provide access programmatically. He stated it was a matter of how to get from Point "A" to Point "B", i.e. using signage and not modifying every defect along the way. They need to meet the spirit of what is intended by providing a Town that is accessible to its residents and visitors. Fixes can be programmatic as opposed to structural. They should not lose sight of this concept.

Public Works Director Ring asked Access Consultant Dedekian if he had suggestions on how to proceed (breaking it down geographically, by importance, etc.). Access Consultant Dedekian stated the way he has done it in the past was to establish the highest priorities (something that is fundamentally not accessible) and leaving the items that are technically non-compliant (minor deviations), but usable, as the lower priorities. For instance, there were quite a few locations that were minor technical deviations that the Town agreed to fix them. They should deal with the issues related to the path of travel to all primary City facilities and the ones that are currently the least accessible. Public Works Director Ring stated that made sense and it would no longer be a long, non-ending laundry list of items that had no purpose. Commissioner Meyer stated he did not want to simply reorganize the Transition Plan and continue to have an overwhelming list organized in a different fashion that never gets done. There is still no funding mechanism that funds the first project, etc. He would like to see the areas that the Pavement Management Plan would affect and then incorporate some of the items into those areas. Public Works Director Ring stated the Pavement Management Plan would relate more to the scheduling of items after they have been prioritized. Access Consultant Dedekian stated a curb ramp or set of ramps in a critical location that are a priority could be done right away irrespective of when the paving would occur. Public Works Director Ring stated they have talked about “packaging” several improvements for economy of scale. He reminded the Commission that the Pavement Management Plan would be updated sometime in May. Access Consultant Dedekian stated many of the roads in town have a high crown and he asked if there was a plan to fix them. Public Works Director Ring stated there was a cost savings in grinding along the edge and continuing the overlay on top. There is a substantial cost to grinding the entire road. Chair Becker stated that 90% of the curb ramps have an associated crosswalk as a secondary project. They can do curb ramps independent of the paving. Commissioner Meyer stated they need to decide where the funds can be best spent. Access Consultant Dedekian stated they would not be able to provide a compliant curb ramp when the crown of the road is so high. Public Works Director Ring stated this type of situation could be designated as a low priority since they would need to wait for the funds to do some serious work on the street. They could start with the critical buildings including City Hall, the Recreation Center, etc. Chair Becker asked if the Pavement Management Plan talked about the crown of streets. Public Works Director Ring stated he was not sure. Access Consultant Dedekian stated another strategy he has employed in certain situations where there are difficult topographic situations is to use bulb-outs which builds the corner out into the public rights-of-way. This would allow them to deal with a steep crown coming down by bridging out to it. However, this could pose a traffic safety issue. Commissioner Meyer stated this is a common traffic-calming device. Chair Becker asked everyone to look at the intersection of 4th and Linden in San Rafael which does not employ curb ramps but is rather a big semi-circle rounded off. Everything is flush. Access Consultant Dedekian stated it is the Commission’s task to prioritize where they would like this type of project to occur and then the design team would figure out a way to make that happen. Commissioner Meyer stated it was safe to assume that most of the street crowns in the Town exceed 5% so making the connection from Point “A” to Point “B” might force the issue of grinding those key streets or having some missing connections. Access Consultant Dedekian stated the 5% figure was a target and they are obligated to do things to “the maximum extent feasible”. The idea of using signage and directing people was to avoid those kinds of problems. Chair Becker asked how that comes into play with the litigation. Access Consultant Dedekian stated the litigation would hinge solely on Exhibit A, the first sites they have to deal with, and the creation of the BRIP. Commissioner Czeck asked if there were any negotiations in terms of the litigation. Access Consultant Dedekian referred to the synopsis and stated if they are going to assert that something is technically infeasible then they have to show what they propose to do to make it accessible to “the maximum extent feasible”. The plaintiff has an opportunity to critique that. Commissioner Meyer asked if there would ever be a situation where they would want to take away a sidewalk for the general public because they are telling a disabled person to go another way. Access Consultant Dedekian stated “yes, that was a valid option”. The key is non-discrimination. Commissioner Meyer asked if they should look at the major services areas and then go back to their respective zones. Access Consultant Dedekian stated that would make sense. Access Consultant Dedekian reiterated that Exhibit B was Phases Two and Three while Exhibit A was Phase One. Phases Two and Three are basically the BRIP. Public Works Director Ring noted that Exhibit A should be done prior to the development of the BRIP. Public Works Director Ring stated it would make sense to start with the key services areas. He referred to the paths of travel from Town Center and asked how they decide the extent of the “reach” of accessibility. Access Consultant Dedekian stated Tamalpais Drive should be accessible since it was a

major arterial. Chair Becker stated they need to make a list. Commissioner Meyer stated they should focus on shopping centers, schools, banks, parks, etc.

Commissioner Meyer stated they need to figure out priorities and how they are going to move forward with the plan but also get an idea of what the City Council would be willing to fund. Public Works Director Ring stated it might be a good idea to have a Councilmember attend some of the meetings to give the Commission some direction. Chair Becker stated she would like to see a Council liaison for this process. Public Works Director Ring stated the Commission should have a plan of attack prior to the Councilmember attending the meetings. This representative does not need to be included in the Commission's deliberations. Access Consultant Dedekian stated the "plan" should include some key locations and topographical considerations that inform the recommendations. Chair Becker stated they should shoot for the first of the year. Public Works Director Ring stated he would provide maps and perhaps an aerial photograph for the next meeting.

5. New Business

A. Status of Request for Qualifications for BRIP consultant

Public Works Director Ring presented a staff report. He stated staff sent the RFQ to nine consultants and received five responses. Several of the consultants were local. The consultants are trying to show that they have the staff and expertise to deal with the project. Chair Becker asked if the Commission would participate in the selection. Public Works Director Ring stated "no". Most of them had questions about the Transition Plan and they all understand that the Town is basically setting up a long-term commitment. Staff would review the responses in the next couple of weeks. Commissioner Czeck asked if the Town had worked with any of the consultants in the past. Public Works Director Ring stated "yes, all of them". Commissioner Young asked if the Commission could take a look at the responses. Public Works Director Ring stated "yes". Commissioner Young asked if there was a deadline for submission. Public Works Director Ring stated "yes, it has passed". Chair Becker asked about the selection process. Public Works Director Ring stated they would probably interview the top two or three firms. It will be a "time and materials" project.

B. Presentation of Site Listing from the 2002 Transition Plan

Chair Becker discussed the summary document she created from Volume 1 of the Transition Plan which included: 1) Introduction; 2) Project Background; 3) Town of Corte Madera Streets & Sidewalks ADA Survey; 4) Curb ramps and marked crossings; 5) Protruding objects into the path of travel; 6) Sidewalks surface; 7) Sidewalks and street crossings; 8) Pedestrian Signals; 9) Signage; and 10) Survey Report Glossary.

Chair Becker referred to #4, Curb ramps and marked crossings, E, which indicates that there are cases where there is a curb ramp on one side of the street with a crosswalk but not the other side and noted the Transition Plan gives this item the highest priority. She noted it was difficult to be able to detect these situations and from an economy of scale standpoint they should be working on the same block before they go to the next block. Commissioner Meyer stated that goes back to what Access Consultant Dedekian had recommended about providing access on one side of the street, making the other side accessible, and using signage. Chair Becker stated that would work for some sidewalks but they should take care of the level one sidewalks.

Chair Becker referred to #9, Signage, B, which discussed audible pedestrian crossing signals, and stated that they should be installed in the commercial areas and probably not residential areas.

Chair Becker referred to #10, Glossary, B, and stated the Commission had discussed the possibility of charging homeowners or sharing costs for repairs of sidewalks. Public Works Director Ring stated Town Attorney Abaci had clarified that sidewalks were the responsibility of the private property owner and he was not sure how this program of sidewalk maintenance would be implemented. The Town Council at one time implemented a sidewalk improvement program whereby the Town would perform the work and send a bill to the property owner. More often than not the Town would not get paid. He was not sure the Town

should get into the business of replacing property owner's sidewalks. Chair Becker stated she did not want the property owner to do the work since they might not do it correctly. She would prefer that the Town do the work correctly the first time.

Chair Becker discussed page 3 of her summary document which includes her observations about Volume 1. She noted Menke Park should be included in Volume 1. The Town-wide map does not include street names and was too small. The photographs do not label problem locations and there is no way to connect them with the following list. This is not a reference document. "Costs" included total costs for the entire area. There were eighteen Priority One projects for "A1" in the amount of \$43,200 and ten Priority Two projects in the amount of \$6,040. Commissioner Meyer stated the summary document prepared by Chair Becker was very helpful and a good way to start the process. They could also create some sub-committees. Chair Becker stated they would probably need to reorganize.

Chair Becker discussed the Ecumenical Association for Housing (EAH) project and noted the Commission wanted to make sure there were adequate paths of travel to both shopping centers. A good portion of this has been done but there is some work that needs to be completed. Commissioner Meyer stated that project provides a good example of Access Consultant Dedekian's suggestion of bypassing barriers by using signage.

Commissioner Young asked if all the bus stops in Town were addressed in the plan. Chair Becker stated the plan refers to bus stops but she could not find any examples. Commissioner Young stated he was concerned about school bus stops since they are not marked. Chair Becker stated they need to know the locations of the bus stops and whether or not they are school busses or Golden Gate Transit busses.

Commissioner Meyer stated he would like to continue the process of identifying the places of major public interest within each zone and identifying which ones are in Exhibit "B" or Exhibit "C". Chair Becker agreed. Commissioner Meyer asked how they could distinguish between apartments for rent or condominiums. An apartment complex is more like a public gathering place and he would give priority to this type of use. Public Works Director Ring stated the information obtained from the Assessor's Office does not differentiate between owners and tenants. He would check with the Planning Department.

Public Works Director Ring asked the Commission to email information directly to him and he would distribute it to the other Commissioners. Chair Becker stated she would like him to sort the priorities within the subareas. She stated the worksheet should list the item number, location, barrier type, barrier condition, recommendation, priority, and cost. She would like this in an 8 1/2 X 11 format.

6. Commissioner Reports

Chair Becker asked about the status for the request for a crosswalk on Paradise Drive at Golden Hind Passage. Public Works Director Ring stated the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) met and this topic was discussed. They unanimously recommended the installation of a crosswalk at this location. Chair Becker noted it should be on the correct side. A representative of the Twin Cities Police Department noted that there was a prescriptive crosswalk in that location- anytime a sidewalk comes up to a street intersection it is presumed that the sidewalk extends across.

7. Future Agenda Items

Chair Becker stated the following items would be on a future agenda: 1) Continuation of the BRIP; 2) Role of the AAC in relation to the Building and Planning Department; 3) Status of the blue curb at 128 Willow Avenue.

8. Adjournment

Chair Becker stated the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 20, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.