

**FINAL MINUTES**

**TOWN OF CORTE MADERA  
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 8, 2010  
CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Commissioners      Chair Barbara Becker  
Present:              Robert Czeck  
                             Ted Meyer

Staff Present:        Public Works Director Dan Ring

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Becker called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. Open Forum for Non Agenda Items

There were none.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2010

M/s, Czeck/Meyer, to approve the meeting minutes of January 11, 2010 as corrected.  
Ayes: All

4. Old Business

A. Tamalpais/Corte Madera Avenue Overlay Plan Review

Public Works Director Ring presented the staff report. He presented the plan and pointed out the areas where they were grinding out the existing asphalt and replacing it. The second page shows the plan in general and the third page shows the details of the plan. The Town Manager, the designer, and the ADA consultant met last week in the area of the Recreation Center but did not have time to walk the entire project. The concern is that the design for the ramps meet ADA requirements and each area has a blown-up detail showing individual grades. There are 2%, 5%, and 8% slopes and they all have to work with ADA requirements and the steep slope of the street. The design continues to be refined.

Chair Becker stated the slope of the curb ramps was important but it also should allow for runoff. Public Works Director Ring agreed and stated the slope was steep enough in this area for the runoff. Chair Becker pointed to a corner that was a potential problem. She stated there had been some previous discussions about moving a catch basin. Public Works Director Ring pointed out the area where this would occur.

Chair Becker referred to the crosswalks and the “tabling effect” and stated the curb cuts could be effective but it could still be difficult for someone to get across the street. Public Works Director Ring agreed and stated that was part of the reason why a “speed table” might be a possible consideration.

Public Works Director Ring stated the design process has slowed since staff wants the ADA consultant to spend more review time.

Commissioner Czeck asked about the next steps on this project. Public Works Director Ring stated the ADA consultant was reviewing the project components with the designer. Commissioner Czeck asked if that was depicted by the shaded areas. Public Works Director Ring stated “yes” and noted the third page has enlargements of the shaded areas with existing, but not any new, elevations. The Town Manager, designer, and ADA consultant plan to meet again this week. The Town plans to go out to bid in April.

Commissioner Meyer asked if the intent was to make whatever infrastructure touches the overlay ADA compliant. Public Works Director Ring stated “yes”. Commissioner Meyer referred to the northeast and northwest intersection of Corte Madera Avenue and asked if it was already compliant. Public Works Director Ring stated “yes”. Chair Becker stated that was done about two years ago. Public Works Director Ring stated it was part of the traffic signal project. Commissioner Meyer had questions about a particular driveway. Public Works Director Ring stated one of the driveways was going to be redone.

Commissioner Meyer asked if the northwest ramp would be redone and made compliant. Public Works Director Ring stated the plans do not address that corner and perhaps nothing could be done. Commissioner Czeck stated it was a difficult corner. Chair Becker agreed and stated they could spend a lot of money and it would still not be satisfactory.

Chair Becker stated the Fire Department does not encourage the use of a “speed table” in general because the change in elevation could be dangerous as they approach it going at a high rate of speed. She noted this would be an uphill approach and they might not be traveling at the same rate of speed as in the flat section. Commissioner Czeck asked about the proposed location of the “speed table”. Public Works Director Ring pointed out the proposed location.

The Commission discussed the issue regarding landscaping near sidewalks that can become an impediment to pedestrians, etc. Public Works Director Ring stated that maintenance of this landscaping was the responsibility of the property owner. Commissioner Czeck asked about the size of the Public Works Department crew. Public Works Director Ring stated there were seven employees who take care of the storm drains, parks, sanitary sewers, roads, medians, etc. They are spread pretty thin.

Public Works Director Ring stated he would present a more finalized version of the plan at the next meeting.

#### B. Higgins Landing Boat Dock Update

Public Works Director Ring stated the Planning Commission would be reviewing the project tomorrow night. He noted the plan includes a widening of the sidewalk to get behind those truncated domes. He noted there was a question at the last AAC meeting about the designation “h/s”- he stated it indicates areas of “hardscape”.

Commissioner Meyer stated he drove by the area recently and noticed the sidewalk was not typical and pitches back into the private area. Public Works Director Ring stated the cross section was going to change and the street would come down to where the gutter would have been and come up to the sidewalk area. Commissioner Meyer was concerned about accessibility coming from the Redwood High School parking lot into that area and noted there might be path of travel issues. Public Works Director Ring stated that was a very good point and the designer from California Boating and Waterways is very familiar with those issues. Commissioner Meyer stated there was a crosswalk in that area but he was concerned about the reverse pitch.

Chair Becker stated she wanted to be sure they were designing it from the street to the ramp since there is quite a bit of dip. Public Works Director Ring stated there would be some re-grading in the grass area and creation of a more standard configuration. Chair Becker pointed to the “triangle” near the Redwood High School parking lot and asked if they were talking about modifying that so someone in a wheelchair would not have to navigate around it. Public Works Director Ring stated he did not think that the project extended that far.

Public Works Director Ring stated the project has been submitted to the various agencies for environmental processing.

Chair Becker asked if an AAC Commissioner should attend the Planning Commission meeting. Public Works Director Ring stated the Planning Commission has received the AAC’s comments but it would

certainly be a good opportunity to express support. The Town Council would also review the application. The application includes a rezoning of the site to a Public Park District and approval of a Conditional Use Permit. Commissioner Czeck asked when the AAC would review the detailed plans. Public Works Director Ring stated probably in the next couple of months. Chair Becker stated they have approved the plan in concept but they need to see the details.

#### C. ADA Mediation Update

Public Works Director Ring stated the second mediation meeting has not been scheduled. Chair Becker asked about the objectives of the second meeting. Public Works Director Ring stated he was not sure but he would ask the Town Manager.

#### D. Bike and Pedestrian Corridor Study

Public Works Director Ring presented the staff report. The study contains a long list of issues brought up by the Marin Bicycle Coalition and this has slowed things down a bit. He noted the public comment period is closed.

Chair Becker referred to the proposal to open up the Alto Tunnel and noted there were two issues; 1) cost; 2) the fact that the tunnel was not straight and there could be security issues since it was not possible to see from one end to the other. Public Works Director Ring stated the Bicycle Coalition felt that the study did not accurately reflect the increase in ridership and this was not factored into the cost/benefit analysis. Commissioner Czeck asked how extensive the study was and whether or not it linked with other communities, etc. Public Works Director Ring stated the concept was to link Sausalito with the Sandra Marker Trail. More time, money, and resources could certainly make Corte Madera Avenue and Meadowsweet more bicycle-friendly. The intent of the report is to present the three alternatives, possible projects, and costs.

Commissioner Czeck asked if all this information was clearly spelled out on the County website. Public Works Director Ring stated "yes" and noted the Bicycle Coalition website has information.

Chair Becker stated this was a long-term process. Public Works Director Ring agreed. He stated there would be a presentation to the Town Council sometime in March or April.

#### E. AAC member search

Chair Becker stated the advertisement was placed in the Independent Journal, the Twin Cities Times, and through the Chamber of Commerce. Public Works Director Ring stated it was also emailed in the Corte Madera News. No applications have been received as yet.

Commissioner Czeck asked about the terms for the current members. Public Works Director Ring stated he was not sure but would present that information at the next meeting.

#### F. Recreation Center Patio

Public Works Director Ring presented a staff report. He stated the project was ongoing and currently requesting some topographic and survey work.

Chair Becker asked if the issues could be presented to the Commission. Public Works Director Ring stated Ms. Robin Moller, landscape architect, could make a presentation to the Commission. Chair Becker stated she would like to stay better informed about the ADA issues. Public Works Director Ring noted the design for the project is happening concurrent with the construction of the project and at this point they are working out the details.

Commissioner Czeck referred to the current plan and stated it was a bit different than the one he saw at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Public Works Director Ring agreed.

Chair Becker referred to the proposed planters and asked if they would serve a dual purpose (such as a sitting area) because they take up a lot of space. Public Works Director Ring agreed.

Public Works Director Ring stated he would ask the landscape architect to come to the next meeting.

Commissioner Meyer referred to the walk areas and stated there did not appear to be any curbs. He wondered about the differential elevation.

Commissioner Czeck stated it looked like a great project for the community.

#### G. Transition Plan Review

Chair Becker stated she brought an overview of the plan. She noted there was no Town funding to pursue a rigorous review of the plan and she suggested they review this overview. Public Works Director Ring asked if there was a priority document or any prioritization of the chapters. Chair Becker stated “yes” but it was done in 2002 and they should not take much stock in it. The Town was looking at doing as many curb cuts as possible in the “early days” since they were low cost. She stated the objective of the Commission should be to not stifle any of this but to make sure the improvement are done correctly the first time. She would like each Commissioner to review the overview and make comments.

Commissioner Meyer stated he would like to get as many projects “off the list” as possible.

Commissioner Czeck stated there was a summary sheet that showed the prioritization of all the projects. Chair Becker stated that was the budget from two years ago.

Commissioner Meyer stated he was recently at the crosswalk at The Village by Nordstrom’s and noticed there was about three feet of planter area between the sidewalk and the signal button. He asked if that was on the list. Public Works Director Ring stated he would check. Commissioner Czeck stated there could be a long list of these smaller projects and perhaps they should take a “field trip”. Public Works Director Ring stated that was a good idea and some of these small, inexpensive projects could be accomplished. Chair Becker agreed and stated she would like to place Commissioner Meyer’s concern on next month’s agenda. Commissioner Meyer referred to the Beautification Committee and stated the Commission could ask them to provide some resources for these small projects. Chair Becker stated the Corte Madera Foundation was also a source of funds. Commissioner Czeck stated this could be a “joint venture”. Chair Becker wondered how they would get the word out.

Chair Becker asked each Commissioner to review the summary and come back with comments and a priority list of projects.

#### 5. New Business

Chair Becker stated there was a traffic button behind a telephone pole that sticks out in the sidewalk at the intersection of Wornum Drive and Tamal Vista (by the DMV). The pole is in the wrong place. Public Works Director Ring stated the area would be checked. Chair Becker stated this is one of the Safe Routes to School and students want to dart into the street. Chair Becker was concerned that there is going to be an accident some day. Public Works Director Ring stated he would go out with Chair Becker sometime soon to look at the situation. Chair Becker stated she would like to place this issue on the next agenda.

Public Works Director Ring referred to the Bayside Trail and stated there might be some remaining funds for the project. Staff was looking at possible additions to the landscaping, etc. Chair Becker asked if some benches had been added since she thought this aspect was sorely missing. Public Works Director Ring stated benches have been added but the orientations were somewhat odd. Commissioner Meyer stated this project seems to be “never ending”. Public Works Director Ring agreed and stated he thinks some things are left undone. Commissioner Meyer asked if there was a current plan. Public Works Director Ring

stated a plan was done by a landscape architect. Public Works Director Ring stated he would like to place this issue on the next agenda.

6. Commissioner Reports

There were no reports.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.