

**FINAL MINUTES**

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

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2010**

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

Staff Present: Public Works Director Dan Ring

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Becker called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. Open Forum for Non Agenda Items

Chair Becker stated there was still a vacancy on the Commission.

Commissioner Young stated the bushes that were blocking the sidewalk on Prince Royal Passage have been cleared. There is still a problem at the intersection of Prince Royal Passage and Spindrift. Public Works Director Dan Ring stated he would check it out and send a notice to the property owner. Unfortunately, that is all the Public Works Department can do. They do not have the authority to perform the work and send a bill to the property owner. Chair Becker suggested they contact the homeowner's association.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2010

M/s, Young/Becker, to approve the meeting minutes of July 19, 2010 as corrected.

Ayes: All Abstain: Czeck

4. Old Business

A. BRIP (Barrier Removal Implementation Project) Update

Public Works Director Ring presented the staff report. He stated the Town Manager, Town Attorney, and ADA Consultant would be at the next meeting to discuss the next steps. The settlement is complete and he would receive a copy after they obtain all the signatures. The Town has already set aside 50% of the Gas Tax Revenue for the project and is in the process of sending out a Request for Qualifications for a civil engineering firm to implement projects within the BRIP. Many of the items being discussed tonight will either be folded into the BRIP or be handled by another department. The BRIP will be a plan that is meant to replace the Transition Plan. It will be a simplified, more directed, more project-focused plan on how to implement barrier removals within the Town. Half of the 72 sites cited in the lawsuit would be addressed by the project on Tamalpais/Redwood. The designers and the ADA Consultant are reviewing the plans. The BRIP would start with the 30 or so remaining sites along with any others that are identified in Town. The projects would be funneled to the civil engineering design consultant for design and then construction. The civil engineering consultant would also handle the exceptions (why they cannot make it work per the guidelines). He noted there are many layers that are intended to protect the Town. There will be other projects that are part of the BRIP that will not be paid through the Gas Tax Revenue. The scope of the Commission will get much more focused.

Commissioner Czeck asked what would happen if they run out of money. Public Works Director Ring stated the first year would be primarily developing the plan and in the second year they would chose some project to implement. They have about \$60,000 to \$70,000 allocated for ADA improvements on Tamalpais Drive. This project is not funded through the BRIP but can be a part of the BRIP. They are hoping to use some funds from the Bayside Trail Project to redo some driveways along San Clemente Drive. This would probably be a part of the BRIP. Half of the Gas Tax Revenue, or approximately \$60,000, has to be spent on the BRIP. In the future, the Town plans to put a measure on the ballot to fund ADA improvements.

Commissioner Meyer asked if this was the approach for just the projects identified in the lawsuit. Public Works Director Ring stated “yes” but it also extends beyond the 72 items identified in the lawsuit. It takes the place of the Transition Plan and becomes the guiding document for ADA improvements in the Town.

Chair Becker stated she welcomes this process because the Transition Plan was large and somewhat unstructured. This will help them to move forward. Public Works Director Ring added this was a mechanism to not only identify but also construct these projects. No ADA improvements would occur in Town except through this process.

#### B. Tamalpais/Redwood/Corte Madera Avenue Overlay Project Update

Chair Becker stated they spent a lot of time discussing this project. There is a proposal to put a ramp in from Sierra to make it ADA compliant. She is very concerned about the crosswalk at Sierra because it is a downhill slope that is located around a curve. She is adamantly against the switchback ramp to Menke Park because it would not be used. In addition, the crosswalk at Sierra would not be used. She was against spending money on projects that would not be used and she felt they should not support them. In addition, the corner that could not be made compliant would not affect the ADA community. There is no sidewalk on Corte Madera Avenue. There is no problem getting from the ADA parking to the gazebo. Public Works Director Ring stated the goal of the project was to address the 35 sites and not to look at the overall system and flow along that road. This is the way it was presented to the Town. Commissioner Meyer referred to the switchback ramp and asked about the accessible parking. Public Works Director Ring pointed out two accessible spaces. Chair Becker stated the businesses use those spaces. Public Works Director Ring reiterated that the lawsuit identified particular problems and did not discuss how someone would get from one location to another. Commissioner Czeck asked about the length of the switchback. Public Works Director Ring stated it would be as long as it needed to be to get the correct grade. Commissioner Meyer asked if there would be any signage that would indicate that a particular path was not accessible. Public Works Director Ring stated he was not sure but would find out. Commissioner Meyer stated the entire area was historic in nature and they did not want to get into redeveloping it in a way that takes away from its character. Chair Becker agreed.

#### C. On-Street blue zone parking space in front of 128 Willow Avenue

Public Works Director Ring presented the staff report. He stated he thought it was a “done deal” but the resident claims she never received the correspondence from the department. He met with the resident and found out she does not have a car any longer or use the parking space. However, she still wants the blue zone so her caregiver can pull up to the property to load her into the car. He stated he understood but explained that it was intended to be used as a parking spot and not a loading and unloading zone. He told the resident that she could re-apply for the blue zone parking space. She has not submitted the application. The Public Works Department has removed the sign but the curb is still painted.

Commissioner Czeck asked about the parking in the neighborhood. Public Works Director Ring stated it was not bad during the day but could be problematic at night. The driveways are small. Commissioner Czeck asked how many blue zones the Commission had approved. Public Works Director Ring stated this is the only one.

Public Works Director Ring stated he would call the resident tomorrow and find out if she plans to re-submit the application.

#### D. Traffic Signal Push-button Upgrades for ADA Compliance

Public Works Director Ring presented the staff report. He stated this would be part of the BRIP.

#### E. Bank of Marin

Public Works Director Ring presented the staff report. He stated they ran into a bit of an issue regarding the handrails. The Building Inspector went to the site and realized that the plans show handrails for two or three steps leading to the front door of the bank. The handrails were a part of the planter but did not extend the additional distance that is needed (a stair width plus another 12" on the end). The stairs end right at the end of the sidewalk and an extension of the handrail would stick out into the sidewalk by about two feet. Commissioner Young noted it was a very wide sidewalk. The correct thing to do would be to tear out all the concrete and end the stairs before the back of the sidewalk. The idea is to match it to the other side-extend the rail by 12" and turn it 90 degrees. The other alternative would be to leave it as is and put in a planter to block the handrail.

Chair Becker asked why the Planning Department did not forward this plan to the Commission. Public Works Director Ring stated the ramifications were not clear in the plans.

Commissioner Meyer stated there were some new businesses going into the Town Center and he was concerned that there would be something that was not up to current code and should be reviewed. Public Works Director Ring noted this was private property. Chair Becker stated any ADA issue should be sent to the Commission. Commissioner Meyer stated perhaps the Building Department permitting process should require CASP review. Public Works Director Ring stated that could be explored. Chair Becker stated this should also apply to new construction on commercial property.

Public Works Director Ring stated he would get the plans for the new businesses going in at Town Center and see if there is anything that the Commission should review.

### 5. New Business

#### A. Proposed path connection and crosswalk at intersection of Paradise Drive and Golden Hind Passage

Public Works Director Ring presented the staff report. The Safe Routes to Schools Program has a construction program called Safe Pathways to Schools that is intended to increase transportation alternatives for children mainly by bicycling and/or walking to school. Much of it includes improving sidewalks, upgrading paths, etc. One of the proposed projects would incorporate a left turn pocket and crosswalk at Paradise and Golden Hind to help students that are going to The French School. He decided against this since it was more beneficial for cars and the chance of it getting funded was slim. The local homeowner's association asked the Larkspur School District to do something about that corner (Paradise Drive and Golden Hind) and stated they were thinking of creating a cut-through from the current path and asking the Town to install a cross walk. The association would pay for the path connection while the Town would provide the cross walk and the left turn lane. He is bringing this to the Commission as a possible partnership project between the neighborhood and the Town. A crosswalk across Paradise Drive could pose some safety issues since there was no signal or stop sign. Commissioner Young noted it was a straight stretch of road. Public Works Director Ring agreed and stated there was good visibility. The project he is proposing to the Safe Pathways to Schools is an extension of the pathway from Westward all the way to Marin Country Day. He found out today that it has been funded in the amount of \$250,000. Commissioner Meyer stated the proposed partnership project with the homeowner's association would be great. He pointed out an area that lacks a sidewalk and noted the path of travel would need to be within the school grounds. The scope of the project might be larger than originally thought. Commissioner Czeck asked about the speed of the traffic in that area. Commissioner Meyer stated it was a straightway and

people travel at least 50 mph. Public Works Director Ring stated there are funds for a crossing guard through the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM). Chair Becker stated she liked the idea but more coordination would be needed with the homeowner's association, etc.

#### B. Commission member term adjustments

Chair Becker stated all four Commissioner's term would expire at the same time in 2012. She spoke to the Town Clerk about possibly extending some of the terms. She stated she would be willing to re-apply in 2011. Public Works Director Ring stated he would speak to the Town Clerk tomorrow.

#### 6. Commissioner Reports

Chair Becker distributed some recent articles from the Independent Journal regarding the Commission. Public Works Director Ring stated he would place the articles in the Public Works Department's AAC file. Chair Becker stated they need to get better cooperation from the Building Department in the form of a formal checklist when plans are reviewed. She would like to invite the Town Manager, Mayor Carla Condon, and a member of the Building Department to a Commission meeting. Public Works Director Ring suggested they wait until the BRIP process is established. Chair Becker stated they need better cooperation or the Commission would not survive.

#### 7. Future Agenda Items

Chair Becker stated the Election of Officers normally occurs in August. This item should be on the next agenda. She noted the next meeting would be held on Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### 8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.