

TOWN OF CORTE MADERA
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
DECEMBER 14, 2009
CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FINAL MINUTES

Commissioners Chair Stuart Tanenberg
Present: Barbara Becker
 Robert Czeck
 Ted Meyer

Staff Present: Public Works Director Dan Ring

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Czeck called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Open Forum for Non Agenda Items

Commissioner Becker asked for an update on the recruitment for a new Commissioner. Public Works Director Ring stated there was nothing new to report. Applications have been picked up from the Town Clerk's office but none have been returned to City Hall.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2009

M/s, Czeck/Meyer, to approve the meeting minutes of November 9, 2009 as submitted.

Ayes: All

4. Old Business

A. Tamalpais/Corte Madera Avenue Overlay Plan Review

Chair Tanenberg stated Commissioner Meyer requested an opportunity to look at the plans in relation to the elevations. Public Works Director Ring stated he would need to go to his office to get the plans. He stated there was a County study regarding the connections between Mill Valley and Corte Madera from a bicycle/pedestrian standpoint. A public meeting was held last week to allow individuals to comment. The plan is to improve three routes connecting Mill Valley to Corte Madera- the Corte Madera/Camino Alto route, the Horse Hill route, and the possibility of opening up the Alto Tunnel. The point of the study was to present the possibilities, engineering challenges, and approximate costs. No recommendations were made. The plan is for improvements to existing connections including widening the road to allow a wider bicycle path, pedestrian improvements, etc. The Alto Tunnel is a different matter. The idea is to improve the connections between the two cities. The study spent some time looking at the intersection of Tamalpais/Redwood and Corte Madera Avenue. Staff has just started looking at the study.

Commissioner Meyer asked if the improvements would include the parking lot area at the intersection of Corte Madera Avenue and Redwood. Public Works Director Ring stated some of the improvements could include the parking lot area and a lot of them have to do with crossing the trail and bike path across Tamalpais and how to get people through or around the existing bus stop and across the cross walk. He noted the public meeting brought out a lot of strong opinions from people. Commissioner Meyer asked if there would be an increase in funding. Public Works Director Ring stated "no" and noted it was a coincidence of timing that the report came out while they were doing improvements in the area. Commissioner Meyer asked when decisions would be made about the report. Public Works Director Ring stated the report would be finalized in January and the County, as the Lead Agency, would start making presentations to Corte Madera and Mill Valley. He noted staff was going out to bid in late January on the overlay project. Public Works Director Ring stated the report and its findings have no bearing on this

project. Staff would be pulling out pieces of the report to see if there would be anything useful to the design of the overlay project.

Chair Tanenberg asked if the report has some type of designations for the routes. Public Works Director Ring stated they have been labeled as “The Horse Hill Route”, “Corte Madera Route”, etc. Commissioner Tanenberg asked if the report makes reference to accessibility. Public Works Director Ring stated the two hilly routes were difficult in terms of pedestrian access but there was quite a bit of discussion surrounding the tunnel route.

Chair Tanenberg asked that this item be added to the agenda when the report is complete. He asked that the Commission be kept informed about future meetings.

B. Higgins Landing Boat Dock Update

Public Works Director Ring stated there was no update on this project.

C. ADA Mediation Update

Public Works Director Ring stated Town Manager Bracken is going out in the field tomorrow to look at a couple of key locations. He noted Town Manager Bracken would be briefing him on the contention that there were improvements that need to be made to things that were done in the 1960’s, 1970’s, and 1980’s.

Commissioner Becker stated she wanted to make sure that some of the things that were settled by the Commission do not remain on this mediation list. Public Works Director Ring agreed.

D. Police Station Project Progress

Chair Tanenberg stated the Twin Cities Police Department would be temporarily leasing space on Paradise Drive until the new facility was finished. He asked if the leased building was accessible. Public Works Director Ring stated the Building Inspector went over there the other week and is recommending a few changes in the ADA parking spaces and another minor interior change.

5. Commissioner Reports

Chair Tanenberg stated Commissioner Czeck attended the last Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Commissioner Czeck stated he also took a tour of the Recreation Center and the patio area with the Recreation Director. Recreation Director Fiorentini and Commissioner Czeck identified some areas that pose a problem from an accessibility point of view and talked about some solutions. He referred to the grade of the existing ramp and stated it was an easy push. He is curious about the size of the proposed stage and its accessibility issues. He stated the sidewalk outside of the Recreation Center was difficult to travel and has always been an issue. Public Works Director Ring stated they planned to make this improvement along with the others along that street.

Commissioner Meyer stated he would like the Commission to revisit the Transition Plan and make it more user-friendly.

Commissioner Becker she would like to get a monthly update on the recruitment for the Commissioner vacancy.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m. and will reopen as a Joint Meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

JOINT MEETING
TOWN OF CORTE MADERA
Accessibility Advisory Commission
and
Parks and Recreation Commission
Final Minutes

AAC Commissioners Present: Chair Stuart Tanenberg
Barbara Becker
Robert Czeck
Ted Meyer

Staff Present: Public Works Director Dan Ring

P&R Commissioners Present: Chair Kim Baez
Pamela Fong
David Moore
Kitty Prosser
Hartley West

P&R Commissioner Absent: Dennis Gillespie

Staff Present: Recreation Director Mario Fiorentini
Recreation Coordinator Brian Hernandez
Recreation Coordinator Shani Combs

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made.

3. Open Forum for Non Agenda Items

There were no comments.

4. New Business

A. Recreation Center Patio Improvement Project

Recreation Director Fiorentini presented a brief staff report. He noted the Corte Madera Community Foundation has implemented a grass roots effort to put together a plan to rehabilitate the Recreation Center patio. They have been working on the plan for about nine months and have done a lot of work with other organizations and residents. The plan has gone through several iterations. The plan includes installing a sound wall along Tamalpais Drive that would extend from the building along the existing fence that would remain. The two liquid amber trees in the back patio area and the deck structure would be removed. A smaller stage/deck area would be built in roughly the same configuration. Another aspect of the plan would be the creation of a sitting wall that would surround the back part of the lawn. The lawn area would be expanded a bit. They would also eliminate the 40' storage containers that are used by the Public Works Department and the Recreation Department and replace them with a smaller container. The plan also includes a water feature in the corner, raised planter boxes, and an outdoor kitchen. The intent of the plan is to provide more room in the patio area for recreation department functions and for rentals of the

Recreation Center. The Corte Madera Community Foundation is still working on the fundraising efforts since no Town funds would be used. The work will be done in phases.

Dr. Bob Bundy, representing the Corte Madera Community Foundation, stated they were aware that there was some grant money that would be available to help with renovations of the Recreation Center itself and they looked at a project that could be a part of those renovations. They are also working with the Lion's Club, the Women's Club, and the Beautification Committee. They think there is support in the community for the sale of tiles/pavers that would be placed in the patio area. He stated the Town Council would be reviewing the project tomorrow night. He stated elimination of the storage containers adjacent to the patio would enlarge the overall park space. He stated Ms. Robin Moller, landscape architect, helped with the preliminary drawings. She felt there was a need for a more formal back entrance to the patio area so this was added to the plan. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated this would help with the department programs.

AAC Chair Tanenberg asked about the construction timeframe. Recreation Director Fiorentini reiterated the work would be done in phases but he needs a usable patio by the first weekends in March for the Mother/Son, Daddy/Daughter Dinner Dances. He is excited about the plan which would allow them to expand these two events.

AAC Commissioner Czek asked if there were outdoor capacity limits. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated "yes" and the patio adds about 150 to the Recreation Center's capacity.

Recreation Commissioner Moore stated this was a very "doable" project and it would not affect any of the long-term plans for the Recreation Center or Town Park in terms of the Park Master Plan that was created last year. He felt that accessibility issues could be addressed.

Recreation Director Fiorentini stated he shares AAC Commissioner Czek's concern about access to the stage and the patio.

AAC Commissioner Czek asked if there would be a lot of work in the back to make that transition from the back of the patio to the parking lot. Dr. Bundy stated there was a minimal grade from the parking lot through that path. One of the goals was to level up the patio with the entrances to the building and sort out the doors at a later date.

Recreation Director Fiorentini briefly discussed the grant money originally earmarked for improvements to San Clemente Park but later re-earmarked for cosmetic improvements to the Recreation Center. The money was recently "unfrozen" but has not been received due to the State's budget problems. The sliding glass doors would be addressed when they receive this funding.

Public Works Director Ring stated this was a great project and he really like the cooperative spirit shown by the different organizations.

Recreation Commission Chair Baez stated it seemed like the AAC felt this was a good project and they would like to see it go forward. He felt this project would be a benefit to the community.

Recreation Commissioner Prosser stated the Lion's Club built the Recreation Center and they were very proud of the building. This project re-creates some of that original spirit.

AAC Commissioner Becker stated this project could be a springboard to other projects. Everyone agreed.

B. Recreation Center Path of Travel Improvements

Chair Tanenberg stated there was a very narrow sidewalk with a difficult slope that leads into the Recreation Department office.

C. Recreation Program Accessibility Issues

AAC Chair Tanenberg asked if there have been any issues or concerns regarding programs and services offered by the Recreation Department. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated the Recreation Department Brochure informs people that the department would be willing and able to accommodate any special needs. They have had children in wheelchairs participating in programs in the past. The restrooms in the Recreation Center were made more accessible about five years ago.

AAC Chair Tanenberg stated the Commission is there to help with any ADA or accessibility issues.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.