

Evergreen ♦ East Hills Orientation Meeting Summary

The first meeting of the Evergreen East Hills Vision Strategy Task Force was held on August 17, 2005 at the San José City Hall, 200 East Santa Clara Street, Wing 118, San José. Vice-Chair Nora Campos called the session to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Task Force Members Present:

Chair Dave Cortese, Vice-Chair Nora Campos, Sylvia Alvarez, Jenny Chang, Steven Cox, Alan Covington, Nancy Dellamattera, Steve Dunn, Joe Head, Mike Hill, Bob Levy, Felipe Juarez, Lou Kvitek, Nora Campos, Gordon Lund, Mark Milioto, Khanh Nguyen, Al Munoz, George Perez, J. Manuel Herrera, Vince Songcayawon, Jim Webb, Ike White, Rob Wooten, Homing Yip, Chris Corpus, Jim Zito

Members of the Public Present:

Bill Ashman, Carol Ashman, Kathleen Collins, Carlos M. DaSilva, Dustin DeRollo, Ruben A. Dominguez, Ellie Glass, Katja Irvin, Daniel Jacobs, Mark D. Lazzarini, Charles Perrotta, Shawna Sanders, Robert Sandoval, Menka Sethi, George Shirakawa Jr., David Snively

Developer Community Present:

Bo Radanovich, Gerry DeYoung, Mike Keaney

Staff Present:

Laurel Prevetti, Rabia Chaudhry, Christine Silva Burnett, Dave Mitchell, Andrew Crabtree, John Baty

After brief opening remarks Vice-Chair Campos introduced the facilitator Eileen Goodwin who reviewed the evening's agenda.

Introductions:

Ms Goodwin asked the Task Force members to introduce themselves, explain which group or neighborhood they represent and highlight which issues were of most interest to them.

The Committee members introduced themselves. Committee members mentioned the following topic as interest areas or areas of concern: traffic, housing density, quality of life, sports facilities, finding a win-win solution, school impacts, need for additional medical offices, and potential for Route 101 improvements.

Chair David Cortese gave the Task Force an overview of the Evergreen Vision Process and how it relates to the Evergreen East Hills Vision Strategy. He stressed and cautioned that there would be a tendency to think of this process as four (4) pieces or property and nothing else; however, he feels these parcels need to be viewed in the context of a larger vision.

Brown Act: Renee Gurza, San José City Deputy City Attorney

Ms. Gurza presented to the group a summary of the Brown Act Open Meeting Law. Ms. Gurza noted that members of the Task Force had significant prior experience in the public arena and generally had a good understanding of their obligations under the Brown Act.

Ms. Gurza reminded the group that they were appointed by the San José City Council and were, therefore, subject to the Act. Their deliberations and discussions must be public, not in private. Ms. Gurza noted that discussions were not only personal meetings but also included materials and emails distributed between members of the Task Force. Ms. Gurza asked that Task Force Members contact her with any specific issues they subsequently face and provided her telephone number, 408-535-1913.

Two questions were raised by participants:

First, how can the two task forces interact (the original Evergreen Task Force and the Evergreen East Hills Vision Strategy Task Force)? Ms. Gurza advised that such interaction would be potentially difficult since a lot of members overlap between the two bodies, other than in a public session.

Second, can a developer interested in Evergreen East Hills development, and a member of the Evergreen East Hills Vision Strategy Task Force be involved with presentations to another Board in the area? Ms. Gurza asked the speaker to give her more specifics off-line so she could further understand the circumstances.

Ground Rules: Eileen Goodwin, Apex Strategies

Eileen Goodwin of Apex Strategies, the meeting's moderator and facilitator, reviewed with the Task Force the ground rules of the meeting. A printed copy of the Ground Rules was provided to Task Force members and those in the audience. Ms. Goodwin was asked what should be done with the "old" binders maintained by members of the original community task force. San José Planning Department Deputy Director, Laurel Prevetti clarified that the new binders presented tonight had much of the same information as the old binders and that the Task Force members should use the new binders.

Background Materials:

San José Planning Department Deputy Director, Laurel Prevetti reviewed a power point presentation which contained a history of the planning done to date, clarification of the purpose of the Task Force, review of each of the parcels in the Study Area, an update of the process, and a review of the San José City Council approved Vision and Expected Outcomes. Ms. Prevetti stressed the need to balance between development, traffic impacts, and community amenities would be key.

Each member of the Task Force was provided with a three-ring binder containing background materials. Ms. Goodwin noted that a website has been set up which will contain digital copies of all materials provided to the Task Force members, including the binder contents. The website address is www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/evergreen.

San José Planning Department Deputy Director, Laurel Prevetti reviewed page by page the contents of the binders.

Ms. Prevetti answered questions from Task Force members concerning the binder contents. Ms. Prevetti noted that the EIR chart in the binder reflected the fact that an EIR is presently underway; with ranges of potential outcomes being reflected in the draft EIR under development. Chair Cortese also noted that the previous task force looked at additional documents not in the binder, such as fire plans, etc. The Chair advised Task Force members that his council office had all of those documents available if needed.

A question was raised as to how the Mirrasou property would fit into the work being done by the Task Force. Answer: While the property is separately available for “pool units,” it would have to wait for the property owner to move forward, in particular with respect to traffic studies.

Which developments have submitted General Plan amendments? Answer: General Plan and Zoning applications are on file for all four (4) sites highlighted in this effort.

Public Comments

Comment/Question

Response/Answer

When would zonings be voted?

Earliest would be June '06.

Are there any environmental advocates on the panel, i.e. people with a focus on open-space?

Two or three seats were identified as members of the environmental community.

Comment/Question**Response/Answer**

More assistance and clarification is needed with respect to the Brown Act. Specifically, how can members of the Task Force go out and get information from the public? Also, how can members of the Task Force interact with the Roundtable and the old Evergreen Visioning Plan Task Force.

Renee Gurza will provide a mini-seminar to those interested (approximately half of the Task Force members had received no prior formal training in the Brown Act). Also, Ms. Gurza could attend one or more Roundtable meetings.

Would web-based discussion among Task Force members be "public" for purposes of the Brown Act?

No.

Can the Task Force provide information to the public at the Day in the Park?

A representative will be there.

What is the definition of "affordable housing" that the Task Force will use?

The definition will be the Federal definition of what qualifies as affordable housing.

Is the affordable housing to be maintained only in reference to the Evergreen East Hills study area or to balance needs citywide?

The affordable requirement is to apply to new units approved through this process.

There was concern expressed that the needs of senior be met.

This comment was noted

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m. The next Evergreen East Hills Vision Strategy Task Force meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at San José City Hall. A Community Meeting will be held on September 6, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at LeyVa Middle School, 1865 Monrovia Drive San José.

Prepared By: Eileen Goodwin

Distribution: Attendees