



## **Task Force Meeting No. 12 Synopsis September 22, 2008**

### **Task Force Members Present\*:**

Co-Chair Shirley Lewis, Co-Chair Sam Liccardo, Vice-Chair David Pandori, Jackie Adams, Teresa Alvarado, Shiloh Ballard, Michele Beasley, Frank Chavez, Judy Chirco, Gary Chronert, Harvey Darnell, Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins, Enrique Fernandez, Leslee Hamilton, Sam Ho, Nancy Ianni, Lisa Jensen, Matt Kamkar, Charles Lauer, Linda LeZotte, Pierluigi Oliverio, Jennifer Rodriguez, Patricia Sausedo, Erik Schoennauer, Judy Stabile, Neil Struthers, Alofa Talivaa, Michael Van Every and Jim Zito.

### **Task Force Members Absent:**

Yolanda Cruz, Pastor Oscar Dace, Pat Dando, Dave Fadness, Frank Jesse, Karl Lee, Dick Santos,

### **City Staff and Other Public Agencies Present\*:**

Ru Weerakoon (Mayor's Office), Jessica Garcia-Kohl (Mayor's Office), Roma Dawson (Councilmember Liccardo's Office), Peter Hamilton (Councilmember Chirco's Office), John Ristow (VTA), Junko Vroman (ESD), Joseph Horwedel (PBCE), Laurel Prevetti (PBCE), Stan Ketchum (PBCE), Michael Brilliot (PBCE), Anthony Drummond (Councilmember Williams's Office), Wayne Chen (Housing), Hans Larsen (DOT), Dave Mitchell (PRNS), Matt Cano (PRNS), and Albert Balagso (PRNS).

\*As verified by registering attendance on Sign-In Sheets.

### **1. Welcome and Review of Agenda**

Meeting convened at 6:33 p.m.

### **2. Review and Approval of August 24, 2008 Meeting Synopsis**

The August 24, 2008 synopsis was approved.

### **3. Review of Agenda and Work Program Status**

Stan Ketchum provided a quick review of the Agenda and Work Program Status.

### **4. Report Back on Community Workshops held on September 3, 4, and 6, 2008**

Michael Brilliot gave a brief report back on the Workshops.

### **5. Presentation and Discussion on Parks Planning**

Albert Balagso, the Director of PRNS, gave a presentation on Parks Planning.

The Task Force provided the following input:

- The idea being discussed by Task Force to have central parks in each of the four quadrants of the City is counter to the current policy of providing 3.5 acres neighborhood/community serving parks per 1000 people.

- Concern that pocket parks are not being used and that there is a need for larger parks.
- Having more trees within pocket parks would increase their use.
- 3.5 acres per 1000 people is not a useful measure of whether the City is providing adequate park land. Need to focus on what people need and less on the quantity of park lands. For people with kids, proximity of parks is more important than the size of the parks. Having a Central Park or Central Parks is important, but having neighborhood parks is more important.
- As City becomes more dense, and residents have less private open space, neighborhood parks and community gardens will become more important.
- What areas in the City are park deficient?
- The Trust for Public Land has done an equity analysis in the Bay Area for parks.
- Staff should explore how Philadelphia achieved having 7.1 acres of park land per thousand of population.
- Having parks within a quarter mile of all residents contributes to the walkability of a neighborhood.
- Social equity means that everyone should have equal access to parks. Would like to see parks deficiency map showing those areas in the City that are park deficient.
- Park facilities can contribute to the economy and the positive image of the City. For example a recently opened San José skate park is attracting region and nation wide attention and visitors.
- More sports fields are needed for adults so that adults are not competing with children for park space. Perhaps there is an opportunity to have joint storm water retention basins/sports fields.
- Are there plans to put trails on all or most creeks? – *Albert responded that this is the goal.*
- Need to complete the links in the Bay and Ridge trails
- Need to re-evaluate definition of parks. Private open spaces often function as public parks. Developers will, in the future, be providing different types of park spaces. Should ask community how it defines park space. Developers should be able to contribute towards the improvement of existing parks and not just towards the development of new facilities.
- The Guadalupe Trail system is the backbone of the parks/trails system and is the Central Park for downtown. Trail use has increased 69% after the completion of recent improvements.
- Need to connect Coyote Creek with the Guadalupe River.
- Regarding parks standards: One size does not fit all. Areas have different needs. Large parks are desired in some areas and other areas need more accessible pocket parks.
- Parks needs in future could be very different than today. High density communities need a great diversity of spaces.
- Need to complete trail system to connect people and neighborhood parks to the City's large central parks.
- Have we looked at partnerships with churches with large facilities that could provide park space? – *Albert responded "no."*

- Parks need to be ADA accessible.
- Seniors need parks and there is projected to be more seniors in San José.
- Look at surplus VTA and County lands for potential new parks.
- Need east-west connection between Coyote Creek and Los Gatos Creek.
- Park needs should be analyzed from both a macro level but also a micro level.

## **6. Interim Acceptance of Draft Land Use/Transportation Scenario Guidelines**

The League of Woman Voters distributed a letter to the Task Force on the Draft Land Use/Transportation Guidelines. The letter was not discussed

No comments were made on the Guidelines. Co-Chair Shirley Lewis said that the staff and the Task Force would move ahead with the Guidelines as they currently stand, with the understanding that the Task Force will revisit them as the process moves along.

## **7. Announcements**

Revised meeting dates for November and December meetings

- The Co-Chairs agreed that missing a Task Force meeting for a religious holiday is an excused absence.
- The Task Force agreed to keep the November Task Force meeting on November 24<sup>th</sup> as originally planned, and not move the meeting to November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The Task Force agreed to move the December Task Force meeting from December 24<sup>th</sup> to December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Stan Ketchum discussed the September 29<sup>th</sup> Panel Discussion and the Task Force Referral Tracking log.

- A request was made for a broadcasting schedule listing when the videos of the Great Cities Speaker engagements would be shown on the City's Television Station (Channel 26). Staff agreed to provide a broadcasting schedule.

## **8. Public Comments**

Mr. Pizzo submitted a letter to the Task Force

The Public made the following comments

- Play fields in San José are in poor shape. The City conducted a field study, which is great. Now need to find funding to implement the recommendations of this study.
- Guadalupe Park has lots of airport noise. Need to consider this when deciding which types of facilities would be appropriate.
- The County Fairgrounds should remain open space for cultural, recreational, and communal activities. Proposed a bond measure to develop the whole 150 acres as a Grand Park.
- San José needs to be a Green leader.

- Access to parks needs to be improved. It is not just about the quantity of parks. Need to develop trails to improve connectivity between parks.
- Hire a marketing director to monitor and improve public's image of San José.
- Need to develop Community/Culture Centers by improving the ones we have and building new ones.
- Combine walkable village concept with neighborhood parks concept by creating town squares or plazas.
- Do not give up on the Willow Glen spur trail, which would connect the Los Gatos Creak trail with the Guadalupe Trail and the Coyote Creek Trail. This trail could be called the "Three Creeks Trail."
- On Guideline E 28 (the Guideline related to water supply) change the word, "would" back to, "could".
- Parks equal economic vitality. Need to invest money into parks that will stimulate health, play, social interaction, community building and will attract mobile high tech workers. Cannot rely solely on Parks Dedication Ordinance funding for parks because these funds often result in small parks that do not feel community serving. Keep the 3.5 acres of park land/per thousand population goal and go higher.
- After Envision San José 2040 process is completed, the City needs to regularly track how the Council and staff are succeeding in implementing the Plan's goals.
- You can provide great parks on rooftops.
- Need to maintain the 3.5 acres of park land/per thousand population goal. Need to consider equity when deciding where and how to develop parks.
- The book, "Last Child in the Woods, Nature Deficit Disorder" was recommended. The premise of the book is that playtime in nature contributes towards the healthy development of children. San José needs natural play areas for its children.
- Need to create connected space. Trails need to be developed to connect spaces, including parks. Bay Area Ridge Trail needs to be completed.
- Check out pps.org. This web site discusses creative park design.

## **9. Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.