



PARKS, ARTS AND RECREATION ACTION MINUTES

Special Meeting of Thursday, January 29, 2004
City Council Chambers
1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

ROLL CALL

Present: Vice Chair Bautista, Commissioners Lippe, Boennighausen and Weiden
Absent: Chair Charlton, Commissioner Cooper

BUSINESS

CONSIDER THE PROCESS OF THE HETCH HETCHY PATHWAY CONCEPTUAL DESIGN STUDY

Vice Chair Bautista opened the meeting informing the audience that the purpose of the meeting was to present to Council, Commissions ideas with regard to the process. She expressed that the commission would take public comment, discuss and make a recommendation to forward to City Council regarding the process of the Hetch Hetchy Pathway Conceptual Design Study.

There were 17 speakers who spoke to the process and expressed concerns regarding the Hetch Hetchy Pathway Conceptual Design Study. The following community members addressed the Commission:

Madeleine Gerdes
Ray Wood
John Tompane
Tod Gamlen
Kirk Bostrom
Scott Neely
Mary Shougard
Carol Scheetz
Nigel Endersby
Chris Scheetz
Peter Moulds
Vicki George
Sybil Cramer
Gregory George
Yousuf Chaudhrf
Maridee Charlton
Kate Disney

The Commission discussed their concerns regarding the current Study process and the impacts the process was having on the Hetch Hetchy pathway neighbors. The Commission discussed the need for additional discovery information specifically relating to the issues of the VTA grant and the surface rights of adjacent property owners. The Commission also expressed a desire to hold additional community meetings to seek out community input and consider alternative uses of the Hetch Hetchy corridor or other park sites in north Los Altos.

The Commission debated the merits of different options for changes to the approved process. There was considerable discussion as to whether or not to eliminate any access to El Camino Real. Some Commissioners felt there was a need to end any continued discussion of this option while others felt all options should be considered in the Study.

COMMISSIONER WEIDEN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL to amend the process to 1. Eliminate access to El Camino Real from the process and consider only legs one and two; 2. Proceed with the discovery of facts including the VTA grants and surface rights issues; 3. Survey a larger area of the neighborhood regarding what they want to see in a park; 4. Hold workshops to present the survey results, and ask for help with design and to surface any issues and ask for help in solving them; 5. Implement the steps sequentially.

THE MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

COMMISSIONER LIPPE MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL to 1. Halt the Conceptual Design Study process; 2. Check into the VTA grant information and the surface rights issues; 3. Redirect the City's effort to pursue a survey to include not only the immediate neighbors but also a broader area of north Los Altos; 4. Host two or three brainstorming workshops; 5. Redirect the VTA funds to alternative projects in the city.

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BOENNIGHAUSEN AND FAILED ON A TIED 2/2 VOICE VOTE.

COMMISSIONER BAUTISTA MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL to 1. halt the conceptual design study portion of the Hetch Hetchy Pathway conceptual design process, 2. proceed with discovery of the VTA grant and surface and property rights issues and any restrictions by San Francisco water district; 3. recommend to proceed with a survey of neighboring sites as well as a greater area of Los Altos; 4. proceed with two or three workshops; 5. exclude direct access to El Camino Real from further consideration.

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WEIDEN AND PASSED BY A UNANAMOUS VOICE VOTE.

Commission discussion followed the motion to help define the recommended survey area. There was general consensus the survey should include a consistent radius from Yerba Santa Avenue to El Camino Real and San Antonio Road to Adobe Creek.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.