

THE MIRAMONTE/SPRINGER ROAD NEIGHBORHOODS AREA MEETING REPORT

Responses to Issues Raised at the September 24, 2009
Council Neighborhood Committee Meeting

Presented below are the City's responses to various issues and concerns raised at the September 24, 2009 Council Neighborhood Committee meeting with the Miramonte/Springer Road Neighborhoods Area. If you have further questions about any of the following responses, please contact the responsible Department at the phone numbers noted below. General questions can be directed to Linda Lauzze, the City's Administrative and Neighborhood Services Manager, at (650) 903-6379.

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE – (650) 903-6301

1. How has the market (stocks) turn down affected Mountain View?

The City's investments are guided by the California Government Code and the City's Investment Policy. Due to the funds being viewed as being public funds, investments are restricted to more conservative investments. The government code or the City's investment policy do not allow investment in equity securities, therefore the City did not experience any losses due to the decline in the stock market. However, the City is allowed to investment in corporate notes, but did not have investments connected to any of the companies, such as Lehman Brothers, that have gone bankrupt. The City generally invests in only the most secure investments, such as US Treasuries, Agencies of the US Government or the State of California's Local Agency Investment Pool.

Investment earnings for the City are down, as they are for everyone everywhere, due to lower interest rates, etc. Most City revenue sources (sales tax, property tax, hotel tax, etc.) are down, presenting the City with current and future budget challenges.

2. Museum at Cuesta Park Annex

- Many neighbors including me (who participated in the workshops for the annex) are concerned about the impact of the size and location of the museum in the open space. Why and how did you decide on such a big building? This was not supported by the majority of the neighborhood.*
- What is your best estimate for when construction will begin and end for the Cuesta Park Annex, including flood basin, museum and picnic sites.*
- I think it is absolutely insane to have planned to build a structure in one of the last remaining open spaces in Mountain View. It and the associated parking will have a devastating effect on lost wild life. Why are sites that are central, close to parking and*

public transport and already developed not being considered instead? This is crazy and irresponsible.

- *I like playing in the Annex and it would be bad if there was a building there. (Age 11)*
- *Hello! Being as the “Museum” has been “approved” (in the open space lovely orchard), there was no contest, and it seemed to have been pre-determined. No matter how many people that have lived in the area a long time rejected it. It of course, went through. There are some lovely and historic trees; 1) willow at Cuesta Drive, 2) one of the finest glorious black walnut trees (huge) off the street into the orchard a bit, plus numerous other smaller trees that completely have “earned” their spot in and on the Cuesta (“Annex”) orchard. Saratoga, Los Gatos, Beverly Hills, Encinitas and numerous other “cosmopolitan”, affluently “well-build” and aware cities and towns, have truly been conscious and respectful of their trees, heritage and otherwise, and built buildings/ parking lots around them. How wonderful forethought and noble consideration has enhanced those places with those trees there in. Please regard this, if you read it. Last but not least. No trees in the Cuesta tennis parking lot should ever go for the “Museum”! No tree loss ever, thank you.*

The Mountain View City Council approved the Cuesta Annex Master Plan on December 9, 2008, including the approximate location and size for the museum. Before Council approval, the draft Master Plan was presented to the community for comment on September 22, 2008, followed by Parks and Recreation Commission review, including public input, on November 5, 2008. The Master Plan process was preceded in 2006 and 2007 with public input and the City Council’s selection of the “Culture, Agriculture and Passive” design/use concept for the site, and confirmation that a history museum was appropriate to this use concept.

The size for the museum, up to 10,000 sq. ft., was presented at the public meetings beginning in September 2008 and was based on the Mountain View Historical Association’s concept for the museum. It is up to the Historical Association to fund, design and construct the museum, and will be subject to the City’s design and environmental review processes, including additional opportunities for community input. The development and environmental review processes will address biological resources, such as trees, as well as parking requirements.

Construction timelines are dependent on the Historical Association’s fund-raising efforts for the museum and the Santa Clara Valley Water District for the rest of the site. Currently, the SCVWD portion is undergoing environmental review, with an anticipated timeline for design to begin during 2010, including neighborhood review, and bidding and beginning of construction during the 2012-2014 timeframe. Concerning the museum, the Historical Association will need to meet fundraising milestones over an eight year time period, with environmental review beginning by the fifth year.

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE – (650) 903-6303

1. *Why were bicycle jumps for our teens taken away from Stevens Creek? They so enjoyed that.*

The city's decision to remove the bicycle jumps was made out of concerns about safety and liability. Over the years, standards have been developed regarding the design and safety of a BMX park. The park in question was an informal park that did not meet the applicable design and safety standards. Unless the jumps are designed to meet applicable safety standards and maintained to the safety standard, the city's exposure to a lawsuit if someone gets hurt is unacceptable.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT – (650) 903-6331

1. *When the bocce ball courts were upgraded, the scoring post was removed and not replaced. Is there a current plan to replace it?*

Thank you for bringing this oversight to our attention. Staff has ordered a new scoring post and will install it upon its arrival.

2. *Many of the users of our public parks are families with small children. Can it be a standard policy to include a diaper changing station in every public bathroom? (Men's and Women's)*

The City of Mountain View is always interested in addressing the needs of park users. Staff will look at the various products available and evaluate if they are durable enough for the rigors of public restrooms. Additionally, all park restrooms will be measured to see if there is sufficient space available (keeping ADA guidelines in mind) for installation. A funding source will also need to be identified.

3. *Cuesta Park Tennis Center clubhouse is getting older. I believe that there was a study authorized concerning improvements. What is the current status on this?*

A study regarding the Cuesta Tennis Center building will be completed in spring 2010. Based on the outcome of the study, a project will be developed for review by Council as part of the 2011-12 Capital Improvement Program.

4. *I know that many old trees in our neighborhood are dying and being removed. Is there a plan in place to maintain our beautiful tree-lined streets as tree-lined?*

The Forestry Division has an ongoing program planting approximately 260 new street trees each year. Plans for the next two years are to plant approximately 500 new street trees annually in an effort keep our urban forest vibrant and healthy.

5. *Regarding the Bubb Park area, are there any plans to increase the amount of park benches for Bubb Park? There seems to be fewer areas to sit or rest, especially after the new playgrounds were installed years ago.*

Staff will evaluate the park for areas that may benefit from additional seating and install new benches as funding allows.

6. *What is happening with the four parcels at the end of Ernestine Lane and Mountain View Avenue? Bringing down the neighborhood. If it goes on sale would it be possible to put a playground at McKelvey. The neighborhood community supports such a feature – many children and apartments. Can the City buy this land or does it have monies for a park in our area?*

Three of the four properties have gone through a foreclosure sale and were sold to an individual interested in finishing the residential project. The fourth property is still going through the foreclosure process. This area is not identified in the 2008 Parks and Open Space Plan as a target for open space acquisition. Therefore no funds from Park Land Dedication In-Lieu fees have been committed for purchase of park land near McKelvey. Were the Santa Clara Valley Water District to conclude acquisition of the properties to be beneficial to the Permanente Creek Flood Retention proposal currently under consideration and willing to assist financially with the acquisition, the City would be open (given the property owners were as well) to expanding the footprint of the park.

7. *Why are there fences around the Eagle Park turf so often and then people cannot use the park?*

The turf at Eagle Park is heavily used by many different groups that include soccer, volleyball and even cricket. The overused turf degrades and thins making the field potentially unsafe for use. Periodically staff must close a portion of the field to allow the turf to recover and provide a more even and consistent playing surface. Temporary fencing is installed during the renovation to alert users to move to other areas during the renovation.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT – (650) 903-6306

1. *Is our zone overlay protection good forever? (No second stories in our block) – 24 homes.*

The Miramonte/Springer neighborhood has several single-family residential (R1) neighborhoods that chose to have an overlay zone limiting additions and new homes to one-story. This overlay can only be removed through a formal rezoning process, which requires full neighborhood notification and public hearings at the Environmental Planning Commission and the City Council. Staff believes that removal of the overlay would occur only if the neighborhood itself proposed the change.

2. *What is planned for the dirt parking lot at St Francis next to Cuesta Annex?*

The dirt parking lot next to Cuesta Annex is on land owned by El Camino Hospital but leased by St. Francis High School. The area has been used to stage construction materials and

equipment. St. Francis High School will convert that area to a small field when their Gym and Music Room construction is complete.

3. *What is the status of the Satake – Marilyn Drive project?*

SummerHill Homes purchased the former Satake Nursery at 1079 Marilyn Drive and received City Council approval for 30 single-family homes. Construction has started on the site and model homes are open.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – (650) 903-6311

1. *Is there a need for a limit line behind the crosswalk on Cuesta Drive at Montalto Drive? Some years ago one was requested, but instead of being painted on Cuesta Drive it was painted on Montalto Drive.*

Based on staff observations and the California Vehicle Code (CVC), there is no need for an additional limit line prior to the crosswalk on Cuesta Drive at Montalto Drive. If a marked crosswalk is in place, it normally functions as a limit line. CVC 377 defines a “limit line” as a solid white line not less than 12 inches and no more than 24 inches wide extending across a roadway or any portion thereof to indicate the point at which traffic is required to stop. The driver must stop behind a limit line at an intersection or street controlled by a traffic light and only proceed when the light changes.

If motorists are violating the CVC and stopping in the crosswalk, please leave a detailed message on the Police Department’s Traffic Hotline at (650) 903-6146. You can also contact Mike Vroman, City Traffic Engineer, at (650) 903-6311 to further discuss this or other traffic issues in this area.

2. *At intersection of Cuesta Drive and Miramonte Avenue, east bound lanes of Cuesta Drive squeeze the bike lane due to geometry. Is it possible to use dotted lines to better guide traffic to stay in lanes?*

The bike lane transition from adjacent to parked cars to curbside can be improved, which should satisfy this concern. The modifications should be completed by the end of the year. Please contact Sayed Fakhry, Senior Traffic Engineer or Mike Vroman, City Traffic Engineer, at (650) 903-6311 to further discuss this issue.

3. *At the intersection of Begen Avenue and Cuesta Drive there is currently no turning pocket from west bound Cuesta Drive to south Begen Avenue. This is a safety issue during peak periods. The median barrier is very wide. Could a turning pocket be considered?*

A turning movement count conducted during the evening peak period indicates that the volume of westbound traffic and left turning vehicles do not meet the guidelines for installing a left turn lane. Installing a westbound left turn lane would require elimination of on-street parking for the three homes on the north side of Cuesta Drive just east of Begen. For these

reasons, a left turn lane is not recommended at this time; however if conditions change, staff will review and reconsider.

- 4. Are there any plans to improve bicycle connections between Mountain View/Los Altos/Palo Alto, such as bike lanes on El Camino Real near Whole Foods and San Antonio Shopping Center? Getting to the bike bridge between Mountain View and Palo Alto and the path along Hetch Hetchy in Los Altos is very difficult.*

Mountain View and Los Altos staffs will be meeting to explore opportunities to improve bicycle and pedestrian connections along Grant Road. There are no current plans to provide bike lanes on El Camino Real or improve other bicycle connections with Los Altos or Palo Alto. Several years ago, the bike lanes along California Street were extended from San Antonio Road to Del Medio Avenue to improve access to the Miller Avenue/Wilkie Way bike bridge in Palo Alto.

The city is updating its General Plan and residents may comment on bicycle circulation as part of the update of the circulation element of the General Plan. Comments or questions you have regarding the Mountain View General Plan Update can be made at the following web site: <http://www.mountainview2030.com/comment.php>.

- 5. What's the status of the traffic calming devices for Bonita Avenue between El Camino Real and Hans Avenue?*

Approximately 80% of the residents/property owners in the neighborhood who responded to the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program postcard survey supported installing speed humps on Bonita Avenue between Hans Avenue and Camille Court and the Council Transportation Committee (CTC) approved the installation. Staff is soliciting bids for the work and installation should occur in early 2010.

- 6. The extension of and improvements to the Stevens Creek Trail are welcome and wonderful! However, at the intersection of Grant Road and Sleeper Avenue there is no traffic control – not even a crosswalk. On a bike navigating this area is dangerous and scary and drivers are not paying much attention. What are the plans for fixing this problem?*

Legal crosswalks exist at all public intersections where there is a sidewalk on at least one side of the street, and the California Vehicle Code requires the driver of a vehicle to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection. Although it also notes that no pedestrian may suddenly leave the curb or place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle that is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard. Painted or marked crosswalks are primarily used to guide pedestrians along a desired path from one sidewalk section to another sidewalk section.

Due to the traffic speed and volume on Grant Road at Sleeper Avenue, marked crosswalks would not be recommended at this location unless a traffic signal is installed. While pedestrians can legally cross Grant Road at Sleeper Avenue, they are advised to cross Grant

Road at the traffic signals at Cuesta Drive or Eunice Avenue/North Drive during peak travel times. Bicyclists riding southbound on Grant Road can use the left turn lane to access Sleeper Avenue; however, during peak travel times they are also advised to use the traffic signal at Eunice Avenue/North Drive.

7. *Potential accidents may occur near Barbara Avenue and Montalto Drive. Can Montalto Drive utilize “speed bumps” such as those found on Bonita Avenue?*

The City’s Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) was established to help residents work with City staff to address traffic issues, including speeding, on local residential streets. Speed humps, like those on Bonita Avenue, are one of the traffic calming devices available for implementation. To initiate the NTMP process, submit a petition to Sayed Fakhry, Senior Traffic Engineer in the Public Works Department, specifying your concern and ask that the NTMP process address the problem on your street.

Please contact Sayed Fakhry or Mike Vroman, City Traffic Engineer, at (650) 903-6311 to further discuss the NTMP process and/or to discuss traffic issues in this area. You can also leave a detailed message on the Police Department’s Traffic Hotline at (650) 903-6146 regarding concerns at Barbara Avenue and Montalto Drive and enforcement will be provided as resources are available.

8. *What does the City recommend be done about aluminum cans and bottles pirating from our recycle bins?*

- Report scavenging to Police each time it occurs by calling the Mountain View Police Department non emergency dispatcher at (650) 903-6395. Try to note the date and time of the occurrence, a description of the person, and the method of collection (bag, shopping cart, or vehicle with make/model and license number if easily available). If the scavenging occurs on a regular basis, let the dispatcher know. A police officer will try and be present at that time to warn or cite the scavenger. Do not approach the scavenger on your own. Please keep reporting scavenging each time it occurs so that the Police can establish a track record of areas that might need special enforcement.
- Set out your containers the morning before trash collection (no later than 7 a.m.).
- Put bottles and cans with California redemption value at the bottom of the cart underneath other recyclables.
- If you must set out your container the night before, keep bottles and cans with redemption value separate and place in the cart the next morning before collection.
- Please do not give permission to fundraisers to remove recyclables or garbage from any container.

9. *I have a 20 gallon trash and only fill half of it each week. Could the City consider a ten gallon insert?*

The 20 gallon mini-can (an insert that will be installed in a 32 gallon can) for those that produce very little waste is currently the smallest weekly service size offered. The City will be preparing a Zero Waste strategy in the upcoming year and will consider ways to further offer reduced services.

10. We moved from San Jose to Mountain View in 2008. In San Jose, yard trimmings are left on the street for pickup (not limited to a container). The yard trimmings collection in Mountain View is very limiting compared to San Jose. Could Mountain View replicate the San Jose yard trimmings collection system?

It is not likely that Mountain View would implement such a system. While it does offer more convenience to households that generate a lot of yard trimmings, interference with on-street parking and damage to street surfaces from loading machinery are concerns. In addition, the City's hauler has already invested in the equipment needed for the existing program (carts and fully automated collection vehicles). If you regularly have extra yard trimmings, order a second or larger cart (no charge). If you occasionally need more service, use an On Call Plus Clean Up appointment (no charge) or schedule an extra collection (\$10/cart). Call Recology Mountain View (formerly Foothill Disposal) at (650) 967-3034.

11. Banning Plastic Bags

- *What are Mountain View's plans for restricting use of plastic bags in super markets?*
- *When will Council ban plastic bags?*

The City Council has not taken any actions to restrict or ban plastic bags. A Council subcommittee will meet soon to hear an update on activities in other cities and discuss possible options. City staff continues to participate in a county-wide subcommittee evaluating this topic.

12. For the flood control basin at McKelvey Park, how about putting a reservoir under it like was done at Graham School's field? This is important because the City's population will be growing and we need to prepare for it.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District is proposing as part of their Permanente Creek flood protection project to lower the ball fields at McKelvey Park 15 feet below the existing ground elevation to create a flood detention basin. The Water District evaluated a flood control reservoir under McKelvey Park but determined it would be too costly.

A water reservoir under McKelvey Park is not needed. With the recent addition of the Graham and Miramonte water supply reservoirs, the City's latest Water System Master Plan confirmed that there is adequate long term water storage capacity to handle future growth and water supply emergencies.

13. What is the status of Cal Train upgrades, high-speed rail, and grade separation at Rengstorff Avenue and Castro Street?

The high-speed rail project is in the environmental review process, analyzing various alternatives, including below and above grade options at Rengstorff Avenue and Castro Street. The alternatives analysis should be available for comment December 2009/January 2010. A final alternative will be selected in fall 2010. Grade separations would be constructed as part of the high-speed rail project.

Caltrain and the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) have a joint project to install intersection improvements on Rengstorff Avenue and Castro Street at the railroad crossings, including new curb ramps, pedestrian swing gates, barrier fencing, flashing lights, sidewalks, and striping. Construction will be scheduled for next year, likely sometime between spring and fall 2010. Other Caltrain crossings in Santa Clara County will also be improved as part of this project.

14. Regarding Google, Inc's interest in a monorail transportation system, what is Mountain View's position with this idea?

The Council Transportation Committee received a presentation from a developer/manufacturer of a personal rapid transit (PRT) system earlier this year. However, the City has not taken a position on the monorail-type system.

15. Street Sweeper

A citizen commented (after the meeting) that the street sweeper was creating a large cloud of dust when sweeping near her home, and was concerned that the sweeper operator was not using water for dust control.

Sweeper operators should spray the street as part of the sweeping process, and can refill water tanks from hydrants when necessary; we will remind the sweeper operators to monitor water levels and ensure they use water when sweeping. Residents who have concerns or questions regarding the sweeping process should contact the Public Services Streets Supervisor at (650) 903-6329.

GENERAL COMMENTS.

- 1. I have been happy to see that the City finances seem to be in pretty good shape despite the financial crisis. Thanks to all those responsible for keeping Mountain View fiscally responsible!*
- 2. Thank you for all the wonderful parks in Mountain View. My two kids and I use them all the time, and we have had five birthday parties at Rengstorff and Cuesta. We love the new restroom at Bubb park? Thank you*