

THE MONTA LOMA/FARLEY/ROCK STREET NEIGHBORHOOD AREA MEETING REPORT

Responses to Issues Raised at the April 21, 2010
Council Neighborhood Committee Meeting

Presented below are the City's responses to various issues and concerns raised at the April 21, 2010 Council Neighborhood Committee meeting with the Monta Loma/Farley/Rock Street Neighborhood 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. *There appears to be more airplane noise late at night – what is the policy on this?*

There are periodic flight pattern adjustments that are made by San Jose International Airport or San Francisco International Airport due to changes in weather or other factors. In addition, there are periodic flights that go in and out of Moffett. It is helpful to know what the specific dates and times are when the noise is occurring so that we can more accurately determine the cause of the airplane noise. When there is a noise problem, residents can contact the City by using the new *Ask Mountain View* on-line system, contacting the City Manager's Office by phone or E-mail, or by visiting the City's website for additional information.

Residents can also call the airports directly. To report Moffett Federal Airfield aircraft noise or to get more information, please call 650-604-2940. Aircraft noise may also be from flights departing from or arriving at San Francisco International Airport or San Jose International Airport. San Francisco International Airport noise-reporting number is 650-821-5100 and San Jose International Airport noise-reporting number is 408-452-0707.

2. *The High Speed Rail people have said that their budget does not allow for the more expensive options such as a tunnel. Would the City Council be willing to consider paying part of the cost, in order to minimize disruptions for the people of Mountain View?*

On May 3, 2010, the City held an informational meeting on the High-Speed Rail (HSR) Preliminary Alternatives Analysis followed by a Council study session and Council meeting to discuss these alternatives and prepare a formal response from the City. The City's response letter on the alternatives analysis was sent to the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) on June 30, 2010. Three alternatives for Mountain View were presented in the Alternatives Analysis (AA): 1) an open/covered trench option, 2) at-grade option, and 3) an aerial viaduct option. The AA did not include a tunnel alternative for

Mountain View. In the letter to the Authority, the City has requested that a tunnel option be included in the AA.

Of the three alternatives in the AA and based on community input and Council discussions, the City's letter to the Authority states a preference for the open/covered trench alternative. The letter also raises significant concerns with the other alternatives. It is still early in the process and the City Council has not made final decisions concerning the funding of HSR. However, it is the City's position in the response letter, that the CHSRA has the financial responsibility for the cost and implementation of project mitigation measures, not the City of Mountain View or other local agencies. For more information on the HSR project and copies of the City's response letter, please go to the City's web page and click on High-Speed Rail under the "City News & Events" section or contact the Public Works Department at (650) 903-6311.

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

1. *Ellison's Towing Company – we are concerned with the growing size of the operations of this towing company – especially since their location on Middlefield is adjacent to our residential property. We have concerns over noise pollution, hazardous materials, chemical storage, etc. Is this business being monitored for compliance of relevant codes around operations?*

Ellison's Towing Company has a conditional use permit to operate a storage yard for towed vehicles. A few conditions in the permit regulate the noise pollution.

Drivers emergency lights shall be turned off upon entering the site after hours and the tow truck access shall be limited to the site from Old Middlefield Way. Sierra Vista Avenue shall only be used in the event of an emergency or to enter the 1957 Old Middlefield Way site from Old Middlefield Way. Trucks shall not be permitted to drive south on Sierra Vista Avenue through the adjacent residential areas. The Fire Department inspects the property every two years and the once a year the business is inspected by the Water environmental Specialist. In addition, the Code Enforcement Division will respond to any complaints. Please contact the Code Enforcement Division at (650) 526-7711.

2. *In my neighborhood, Ellison's Towing parks their company vehicles in their lot and all personal vehicles on my street. Merry Maids parks both personal and company cars on my street. Who in the city can we speak with about concerns regarding specific industrial complex tenants?*

The Code Enforcement Division has contacted Ellison's Tow and Merry Maids and requested the businesses to ask their employees to park in the parking lot instead of the residential neighborhood. You can direct any concerns you may have regarding specific industrial complex tenants to the Code Enforcement Division at (650) 526-7711.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT – (650) 903-6306

1. 1958 Rock Street Project

- *What is the status of the apartment complex on Rock Street (between Rengstorff and Sierra Vista) that was approved at three stories high? What can be done to prevent three story units from being constructed in our single story neighborhoods?*
- *The apartment complex next door has plans to build three-story condos. The plans show the buildings facing my fence and looking into my single story duplex. I feel that this would pose a privacy issue for myself and my tenants. To resolve this, I would like to propose that the building face the street and use the existing trees on that property to enhance privacy.*

It was determined that these questions are about a project at 1958 Rock Street. A three-story rowhouse project with 19 units was approved for that site in 2006. Since the project is approved, the City cannot force the developer to change the plans.

If there are future public hearings on this project, you would have an opportunity to comment on your concerns. Properties within a 300 foot radius would be sent notices of these hearings. If you are outside of this radius, you can have yourself added to the notification list for any future public hearings on this project by contacting the Community Development Department. The hearings are an opportunity to present your concerns to the Zoning Administrator and City Council. You can make comments in person or write letters for any of the public hearings on the project. Typically, a developer will try to adjust the plans to respond to public comments.

When new developments are being reviewed by the City, the developer will place a notification board on their property. If you see one of these boards, you should come to the Community Development Department to view the plans and see if the project would affect you.

- 2. Recently, CalTrain's budget crisis made the news. There are major cutbacks in service looming (e.g. fewer trains will be running, stopping at fewer stations). In light of this, does it still make sense to build higher density housing at Hewlett Packard/Mayfield? The rationale used to be build close to San Antonio station. But maybe now trains will not stop there any more.*

Service may be reduced in the short term, but there are no plans to discontinue service at San Antonio Station. In the long term, the infrastructure itself remains, so that service can be reinstated if there is sufficient demand. There is still a need for compact housing located near transit stations to facilitate transit ridership and reduce greenhouse emissions. Placing employment and housing centers near transit remains a major goal of the City, and is emphasized by regional and state planning initiatives as well.

4. *Fresh & Easy Status*

Please update us on the "Fresh & Easy" status. When will they give up on the lease altogether, should they not find a sub lessee. Can the grocery store lease be given to another company?

The lease agreement is between two private parties; the property owner, Charlie Borello, and Fresh and Easy. The City does not have information on the terms and conditions for the lease assignment and/or lease termination provisions that would determine whether or not the lease could be assigned to another store.

In the shopping center where Starbucks is on Middlefield Road, what is the status of the vacant building? Also, is that called Monta Loma Shopping Center?

The shopping center is called Monta Loma Plaza. There are two vacant spaces in the center. One of those is leased by Fresh & Easy as previously described. The separate pad building fronting Middlefield Road has been leased to Meriwest Credit Union.

5. *What are the parking requirements for businesses that have one company vehicle per person or one for every 2 people?*

Parking requirements for businesses vary based on the type business. Specific inquiries should be made to the Planning Division at 650-903-6306 or using Ask Mountain View.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT – (650) 903-6331

1. *The City's parks department prohibits use of "powered RC Airplanes" in all parks. Last time I inquired, no history was available about why this ordinance was made. Gas powered RC aircraft have been obsoleted by small, quiet, light and safe RC aircraft. Is it possible to accommodate such aircraft?*

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the use of powered remote control airplanes in the parks. Section 38.13 of the City Code prohibits a number of different activities in Mountain View parks. Among these are hitting golf balls, archery, operating vehicles, motorized scooters or motorcycles on park pathways and use of motor driven airplanes. In the past each has shown potential to cause harm to other park patrons. Safe operation of any remote control airplane is highly dependent on the skill level of the operator. Since even a small motor driven plane can harm some one if flown into them, all of these types of airplanes are not allowed in the parks.

2. *It would be helpful to post more maps along the Shoreline/Stevens Creek trail.*

The City of Mountain View provides maps of the trail system in each bulletin board provided along the Stevens Creek Trail and Shoreline at Mountain View trails. The bulletin boards are located at the established trailheads: Crittenden Lane, Whisman School Park and Yuba Drive.

In addition, directional signage is used throughout the trail to provide guidance to areas of interest and adjacent streets. The Stevens Creek Trail is scheduled to be extended southbound from Sleeper Avenue, and the need for additional signage will be evaluated by staff. A complete trail map can be printed at home from the City's website at:

<http://www.mountainview.gov/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=3669>

3. *What is the City policy on community gardens? Is there a way to start a garden at West Middlefield Road and Alvin Street? This of course would stop if a development project got started on the property.*

The addition of a new community garden is a long standing goal of the City Council. Staff continues to look for possible locations on City property or portions of the Hetch-Hetchy Right of Way. Using public land is preferable as the purchase price for new land would be quite high and the number of residents who would benefit from the garden would be relatively small. Regarding the West Middlefield and Alvin Street property, a private developer has expressed interest in a residential project at that location.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – (650) 903-6350

1. *What can be done about vehicles with boats that park on the street for months at a time? They know the 72 hour limit and move their vehicle a few feet every three days.*

The city's municipal code prohibits vehicles from parking in one space for more than 72 hours. If a vehicle moves spaces within the 72-hour time period, it would not be in violation. If you believe a vehicle is in violation of the code, you may call the Abandoned Vehicle Hotline at 650-903-6358. It can also be reported online at www.mvvpd.gov. A Community Service Officer will monitor the vehicle for 72 hours. If it did not move spaces after 72 hours, it would be towed.

2. *I am noticing an increase in graffiti – especially news stands and lamp poles.*

There are many different kinds of graffiti and much of it is not gang-related. Graffiti "taggers" often tag poles, signs, etc. with their moniker and it can look like it might be gang related but usually it is not. Gang-related graffiti will most likely contain roman numerals or the numbers 13 and 14. Additionally, gang graffiti often contains acronyms for local gang sects, such as VMV or MVS.

No matter what type of graffiti it is, it needs to be cleaned up. It should be reported to the Graffiti Abatement Hotline at (650) 903-6767. Your concern regarding the increase in graffiti and the possibility that it is gang related has also been forwarded to the Police Department's Gang Officer.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – (650) 903-6311

1. *Within the last year or so there has been an increase in rats in our area. They were never an issue before. We heard that the City cut funding to some type of extermination program. Is that what happened?*

The City does not have an extermination program. Pest control in Mountain View is handled by the County of Santa Clara's Vector Control. Program. They can be reached at (408) 918-4770.

2. *I read that some city in the East Bay has passed a new law/ordinance requiring property owners to replace sewer lines that connect to the main? Any plans in Mountain View of such an ordinance/law?*

The City is contemplating no such law at this time. According to the City's Ordinance Code, the sanitary sewer lateral is the responsibility of the homeowner all the way to the sewer main. The City does replace sanitary sewer mains in the street at no charge to the property owner when the main in the street is being replaced.