

THE GRANT ROAD/SYLVAN NEIGHBORHOOD AREA MEETING REPORT

Responses to Issues Raised at the May 20, 2010
Council Neighborhood Committee Meeting

Presented below are the City's responses to various issues and concerns raised at the May 20, 2010 Council Neighborhood Committee meeting with the Grand/Sylvan 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. *Is Nadine leaving permanently? Is there a replacement and has that announced? I want to thank Nadine for her service.*

Yes, Assistant City Manager Nadine Levin will be retiring on June 4, 2010, after serving the Mountain View community for 20 years. A competitive recruitment and selection process is under way to select the next Assistant City Manager. An announcement will be provided to the community as the designee joins the City. (As she was present, ACM Levin also thanked the resident for their comments and best wishes).

2. *Can you please explain the controversy regarding "Shoreline Business District" taxes and not funding the City or schools.*

The City has two redevelopment areas; the Shoreline Regional Park Community and the Downtown Revitalization District. In these districts, the "Tax increment" is the revenue for redevelopment agencies, which is based on the assumption that a revitalized project area will generate more property taxes than were being produced before its establishment. When a revitalization project area is adopted, the current "assessed values" (AV) of the property within the project area are designated as the "base year" value. Tax increment comes from the increased "assessed value" of property, not from an increase in tax rate. This increase in tax revenue is the "tax increment" that goes to the Agency, which is governed by the City Council who acts as the Revitalization Authority.

The School Districts do not receive the same level of funding they would if the Shoreline Regional Park Community and Downtown Revitalization District did not exist. However, the City provides over \$1 million dollars annually in services to the School Districts from City funds, including an existing Joint Power Agreement (JPA) -funding agreement with the Whisman School District (MVW) and the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District (MVLA).

3. *Because of the rate of unemployment in our area, I wondered if Mountain View has any policy to consider Mountain View residents for any job opportunities.*

The City of Mountain View is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and Affirmative Action employer and has established policies for each. The City cannot legally provide preferential treatment for Mountain View residents in hiring decisions.

4. *Any employment search support at the City level.*

The City's Human Resources Division maintains information about positions in both the City and other municipal, County, and State agencies. Interested applicants can also go to www.Calopps.org to look at openings in Mountain View and other public agencies.

For additional references, the Mountain View Public Library offers free access to on-line databases that can assist residents in their job search to learn about careers, find out about local businesses and access other helpful information. The Library databases have a number of resources including;

- *Rich's Business Directories*, a nationwide database of high-tech, biotechnology, life sciences, medical device, pharmaceutical and drug discovery companies that can be searched by location, company size, and type of company.
- *Career Transitions*, providing information on a wide- range of industries, career aptitude tests, and help in designing a resume.
- *Learning Express*, offering practice exams for professionals and educational opportunities, such as the SAT, GRE, TOEFL, ASVAB and GED and practice tests for those wishing to work as a real estate agent, plumber, electrician, or law enforcement officer.

Other regional sources for assistance include *NOVA* (at 505 West Olive Avenue #550, Sunnyvale CA 94086, (408) 730-7232, www.novaworks.org). NOVA provides customized services to local businesses seeking solutions to their staffing, training and outplacement issues. Another resources is the *Workforce Investment Board—One Stop Center (WIB)* (at 2450 S. Bascom Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008, (408) 369-3606, <http://www.svwin.org/>). The WIB works with businesses, residents, government, educational and community-based organizations to maximize local and regional employment opportunities.

5. *Any chance to establish local neighborhood committees with authorization to expend funds on local needs as determined by the local community.*

The City does not currently have plans to establish local neighborhood committees with authorization to expend funds on local needs as determined by the local community. However, the City does have a process of providing small grants for specific uses to neighborhood associations. The Neighborhood Grant Program provides financial support to

help resident-based groups carry out programs and activities designed to improve participation and neighborhood conditions. Neighborhood grants are awarded each year and applications are typically available in May of each year.

Additionally, the City's FY 2010-11 budget development process invited and included community input and information has been provided throughout the process on the City's website and other communications.

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

1. *Are there any restrictions on placement of weekend realtor signs? Sometimes they block street islands.*

Real estate signs are not permitted in the public right of way, including the street medians and sidewalks. Please call Code Enforcement at (650) 526-7713 or send an email to code.enforcement@mountainview.gov to report problem signs. Since the signs may be gone before code enforcement can investigate, please provide details concerning the location, time, and realtor contact information. Code Enforcement depends on residents to call or email complaints and then officers respond within five working days. If you are not comfortable giving your name and phone number for a follow-up call, you are not required to do so. Code Enforcement will be happy to provide you with a status report regarding your complaint or concerns. You can either call Code Enforcement back in a couple of weeks after filing your complaint or ask for a follow-up call when you file the complaint.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT – (650) 903-6306

1. *Would the Adachi Project impact the sound wall issue? Isn't a developer responsible for sound issues for their development?*

The Adachi project (1911 Sun Mor) is not expected to affect the sound wall issue along Highway 85. The developer is responsible for addressing any noise impacts that would come from the development, but is not responsible for mitigating existing freeway noise affecting the neighborhood.

2. *The Adachi development concerns the nearby neighbors as to the end results. We would like to see a development conforming to our street – no sidewalks etc. Our expectation would be to have a cul-de-sac blending with our street. Can we have an overlay keeping it conforming to our street?*

The City's General Plan and development standards call for separated sidewalks (sidewalks with a planter strip) for all new residential developments. The City Council can approve a project that varies from these standards, so it is possible that the project could be built without sidewalks. Neighborhood interest in avoiding the installation of sidewalks for the rest of the neighborhood should contact the Public Works Department at 650-903-6311.

3. *Are there any policies or safeguards to assist long-time residents with neighbors who build very large (monster) homes. The project also is very long term and noisy and invasive of our privacy. (Near Wasatah Drive)*

The Zoning Ordinance has regulations that define the maximum size and height of new single-family homes or additions. In general, two-story homes are allowed. A neighborhood can work together to request a zoning overlay that limits building heights to one-story.

4. *Does the City have any landscaping guidelines to minimize water use? The development at Evelyn Avenue and Moorpark Avenue has put in a lot of grass in the parking strip, which uses the most water. This would be an opportunity to encourage or enforce lower water use plantings in a new development.*

For some time, the City has had landscaping guidelines to minimize water usage, which were not mandatory. In June 2010, the City Council adopted new regulations for water conservation in landscaping, which includes an emphasis on requiring drought-tolerant landscaping. The project at Evelyn and Moorpark was approved and began construction before these mandatory regulations took effect.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT – (650) 903-6331

1. *Any community gardens planned?*

The addition of a community garden is a long standing Council goal. Staff is exploring possible locations for a community garden including some areas of the Hetch Hetchy right-of-way. For further information concerning community gardens please contact the Recreation Division at (650) 903-6331.

2. *Are the tennis courts located at Mountain View High School available for use by neighborhood residents?*

Mountain View High School is currently not part of the City's Master Agreement for use of School Sites as Parks. City staff checked with the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District office and learned that the tennis courts at Mountain View High School are not open to the public.

3. *Sylvan Park is now being used for volleyball and soccer practices. Will the park continue to be used as a scheduled field? Especially on the volleyball games days, the entire field is in use with no area for free play*

The City of Mountain View uses a number of its parks including Sylvan as athletic fields. The demand for field space for Youth Sports Organizations (YSOs) greatly outnumbers the fields available within Mountain View. The Recreation Division works with the YSOs to be good neighbors when utilizing field space. While shared use is preferred, unfortunately, this is sometimes not the case with certain activities such as Spring Volleyball. Generally there is

more activity in the spring than in the fall time frame specifically with the youth volleyball league.

For fall 2010 there are scheduled soccer practices, volleyball practices and volleyball games at Sylvan Park Monday – Saturday. There are no groups scheduled at Sylvan on Sundays. An example of the fall schedule for Sylvan is included below.

Sylvan Park	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AYSO (Soccer)		3:30 Dark 9/7-11/15	3:30 Dark 9/8-11/16		3:30 Dark 9/2-11/18		
MVLA Soccer Club		3:30 Dark 11/22- 12/13	3:30 Dark 11/23- 12/14	3:30-5pm 9/8-12/15		3:30 Dark 9/3-12/17	
US Youth Volleyball League				5-7pm 9/8-10/27			9:30-11:30am 9/11-11/6

If you have any further questions, please contact Henry Perezalonso at (650) 903-6404.

4. Is there a reason why there are no benches in the park area at the Stevens Creek trailhead at Sleeper (where all the green grass and shade trees are)? Will there be benches?

The grass area adjacent to the Stevens Creek Trail neighborhood access point at Sleeper Avenue is maintained open space and is the property of both the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the City of Mountain View. While this is not considered a City park, the open space continues to receive a higher level of maintenance by City staff since the access point was opened in June of 2009. The request for a bench at this location may be pursued by Community Services staff if future funding is available.

5. *Sylvan Park has a horseshoe pit which I have never seen used for horseshoes (and I can see it from my kitchen window). It is mainly used by kids kicking balls against the fence that surrounds it or riding their bikes through the sand. This park does not really offer anything for older kids or teens. Would the City consider replacing the horseshoe area with a single basketball hoop? Would the City accept money from community fundraising for this?*

Thank you for the inquiry regarding Sylvan Park. The City of Mountain View is committed to providing a variety of amenities throughout our 35 park system. Horseshoe pits are located in three parks and basketball courts are available in 16 parks. If the Sylvan Park Neighborhood Association wishes to pursue a basketball court for Sylvan Park, a formal request for consideration can be made to the Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) either in writing or at one of the regularly scheduled meetings. The Commission meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Mountain View Senior Center located on Escuela Avenue beginning at 7:00 p.m. Further meeting information can be found on the City's website at www.mountainview.gov). Subject to review by the Commission, direction to staff would be given concerning next steps. Were a specific project to emerge from the above process, staff would work with the neighborhood regarding its interest in

assisting financially. If you have any further questions, please contact Bruce Hurlburt, Parks Manager at (650) 903-6326.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – (650) 903-6350

1. *Over the last few months the recycling bins on streets around Sylvan Park have been methodically emptied, often between 11:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. the night before pick up by two people working together. They often leave litter next to the bin as they dig through to get what they want and toss other items aside. What can or should we do when we see this happening?*

It is illegal for people to take recyclables from recycling bins and is considered theft. Please call our non-emergency number (650-903-6395) to report theft of recyclables as it is occurring. To assist the responding officers, please provide the dispatcher with as much information about the suspects as possible, including gender, age, clothing description and direction of travel. It is also helpful to know if they are traveling on foot, via bicycle or in a car. Please provide a description of any car or bike you see involved with the suspect(s). Officers will respond as soon as possible given other pending calls for service with a higher priority status.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – (650) 903-6311

1. *This question concerns recycling. Is the homeowner liable if a scavenger cut themselves with a broken glass, can lid, etc.?*

No. Once you put your cart out for collection, the contents belong to the City. Any claims related to these materials would be handled by the City.

2. *Sidewalks along Moorpark Way and Alice Avenue?*

Moorpark Way and Alice Avenue are partially unimproved streets where a street section may lack standard street improvements such as sidewalks, curb and gutter, streetlight, pavement section, and storm drain system. The cost of constructing these street improvements are the responsibility of the property owner fronting an unimproved section.

Normally, street improvements are constructed and financed by a private development project or the formation of an assessment district, which allows a property owner to finance the cost of designing and constructing the standard improvements over many years. Property owners who participate in an assessment district, receive an annual bill in their property tax assessment and statement.

In the 1990's, the residents and property owners in the Moorpark/Alice neighborhood area requested street improvements but did not acquire a simple majority vote for the formation of an assessment district. If there is interest to form a street improvement assessment district, the City will conduct an informational meeting and vote to determine level of interest.

3. *What are plans for alternate energy in Mountain View?*

The City installed a solar system on the new Bryant Street garage and is participating in a regional Power Purchase Agreement that would install solar panels on two additional city facilities. More facilities may be considered for solar in the future.

4. *With the Stevens Creek Trail extension from Sleeper Avenue over Highway 85 to Dale Avenue /Henderson Avenue, has any thought been given to the increased foot/bicycle traffic that will access the bike path between Martens Avenue/Yorkshire Way? Since Stevens Creek was opened to Sleeper Avenue, foot/bicycle traffic has increased on this route.*

As each trail extension opens to the public and becomes readily assessable to more residential neighborhoods, a trail access point is expected to receive a moderate amount of foot and bicycle traffic from the surrounding neighborhood area. The neighborhood access point was sited and intended for residents in close walking proximity to avoid the need to drive their automobile.

In 2001, the Council approved as part of the Stevens Creek Trail Feasibility Report, the Parks and Recreation Commission's endorsement of a future west side access point at Sleeper Avenue Open Space, El Camino Real, and Kentmere Court. The neighborhood trail access openings at El Camino Real and Sleeper Avenue Open Space opened in 2009, however a trail access point at Kentmere Court remains unfunded and unscheduled.

By winter 2010, the Stevens Creek Trail extension over Highway 85 to Dale/Heatherstone Way will be in construction and is expected to be completed in one year. After this segment is open, there is no funding or schedule to complete the trail further south from Dale/Heatherstone to Mountain View High School.

5. *When are the sidewalks on El Camino Real going to be replaced? Trees are lifting sidewalks and it is dangerous.*

The City is currently advertising the El Camino Real sidewalk replacement project (between Castro Street and Stevens Creek) for construction bids and will award a construction contract in September. Work is expected to begin by October 2010 and be completed by early 2011.

6. *Could you update us on the efforts to deal with the noise from Highway 85 from El Camino Real to the existing sound wall (near Sleeper Park)?*

The City's FY 2010-11 Capital Improvement Program includes funding for a Highway 85 Noise Barrier Study. The study will provide detailed right-of-way, geotechnical, utility, traffic management and environmental analyses required to place a request for a sound wall along Highway 85, between El Camino Real and Sleeper Avenue, on the Caltrans eligibility list for funding.

7. *Other than the speed bumps on Sleeper Avenue is there anything else being considered for slowing down the high school kids racing down Sleeper Avenue?*

No additional traffic calming devices on Sleeper Avenue are currently under consideration. At the conclusion of the one year demonstration period after the initial installation of the seven speed humps on Sleeper Avenue between Grant Road and Franklin Avenue, the speed surveys indicated a reduction of the critical speed (the maximum speed of 85% of the cars on Sleeper) from 33 mph to 26 mph.

If speeding on Sleeper Avenue is a concern, 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. Even though speed humps have already been employed, there are other 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 asking 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 on Sleeper Avenue and enforcement will be provided as resources are available.

8. *The Mountain View High School transportation study seems to be stalled after a productive Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting many months ago. What is the status of getting input on that from all parties involve? Please keep in mind that summer is not the time to collect pertinent data.*

Public Works Department staff is overseeing the traffic and transportation study to evaluate the improvements implemented, identify additional improvements around Mountain View High School and ways of increasing the use of alternative forms of transportation, such as transit, walking and biking. City staff has met with VTA, Mountain View High School and School District and the City of Los Altos to get input on the draft report. City staff will review the report with the Council Transportation Committee (CTC) by the end of the year.

9. *Left turn from El Camino Real to Grant Road is always backed up. There is a large median, so is there anyway to reduce this and lengthen the left turn lanes?*

This signal is owned and operated by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and is probably the busiest intersection in the City with approximately 85,000 vehicles per day. During the peak hours on weekdays, the green lights for northbound/westbound through and left turn movements from El Camino Real (State Route 82) (ECR) to Grant Road are provided at the same time. Therefore, the impact of backed up traffic from the left turn lane on the through movement is minimized.

The median could be reduced to lengthen the left turn lanes at this approach; however, this would require the removal of existing trees from the median. Being a State roadway, such a project is unlikely to be funded any time soon due to the State budget condition. If there are vehicles waiting to make the left turn obstructing the through lane, a much less expensive and more feasible solution may be adjusting the signal timing to provide more time to meet the left turn demand. This may impact other approaches resulting in additional delays, but staff has informed Caltrans of this concern and asked them to investigate further.

10. *Another left turn backup problem is at Grant Road north to Cuesta Drive. Will the new signal project on Grant Road fix this or is more space needed?*

While a second left turn lane from northbound Grant Road to Cuesta Drive would provide additional vehicle storage, removal of a number of large Heritage trees would be required.

The Grant Road Adaptive Signal Project which is currently under design should help. The installation of this system is scheduled for late 2010 or early 2011.

11. *Could you please explain what is meant by Levin Avenue redirected to meet Covington Drive? How would this help traffic – there is also Blach School traffic on Covington Drive that is a concern. It seems the Summerhill Homes should have two entry/exit points for earthquake/emergency safety*

Levin Avenue will be realigned to meet Grant Road at the existing intersection with Covington Drive. The new intersection will provide protected left turns into and out of the new development. The existing intersection of Levin Avenue and Grant Road will remain, but movements will be restricted to right turn in and right turn out with construction of a median island on Grant Road. The median island and the median curbs will be designed so fire trucks can drive over them. Therefore, the existing entry and exit points at Levin Avenue and Preston Drive will be maintained and one additional entry and exit point for emergency access for the neighborhood will be provided as part of the Summerhill Homes development.

Other traffic improvements included with the project are as follows:

- A second northbound through lane on Grant Road will be added along the project frontage.
- The existing left turn pocket from northbound Grant Road to South Drive will be lengthened to reduce the back up traffic on Grant Road and associated delays.
- A bus stop with a duck-out will be provided along the project frontage to encourage and facilitate transit use.

Only about 10% of the cars from the Levin Avenue neighborhood are expected to go to Covington, which is not a significant increase in traffic on Covington.

12. *Regarding Covington Drive traffic due to Blach School use. I heard that the Town of Los Altos is considering stopping school car traffic on Altamead Drive. They are asking school*

traffic to use Covington Drive only. They have done a trial study for 2009-2010 school year, closing Altamead Drive to vehicles from the school. How will this affect the new Covington Drive, Grant Road, Levin Avenue intersection?

City of Mountain View staff is aware of this study but is not aware of the results of the study or the plan for Blach School traffic circulation. This question should be directed to the City of Los Altos Public Works Department at (650) 947-2780.

13. Who should be contacted regarding shrubbery blocking long view of Grant Road at Levin Avenue?

Contact the City's Roadway Landscape Division at 650-903-6273 for public landscaping (such as street trees) that are obscuring traffic views. If the landscaping is on private property, contact the Code Enforcement Division at 650-526-7713.