

Interview with

Roy Hayter

conducted by IdaRose Sylvester

for the “Understanding the History of Housing in Mountain View: Stories of Racism, Anti-Discrimination, and Movement towards Inclusion” project by the City of Mountain View’s Human Relations Commission,

in collaboration with Senior Lecturer Michael Kahan and team from Stanford University.

Mountain View Historical Association

Mountain View Public Library

Conducted on July 7, 2022

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of “Understanding the History of Housing in Mountain View: Stories of Racism, Anti-Discrimination, and Movement towards Inclusion” is to document the history of discrimination and efforts to fight discrimination in housing in the city of Mountain View, California. Some of the information collected was shared with the public at an event sponsored by the Mountain View Human Relations Commission, held on July 26, 2022. In order to make the interviews available to researchers and members of the public, they will be added to the historical collection of the Mountain View Historical Association (MVHS) and/or the Mountain View Public Library (MVPL) and made available for public use. They may also be shared with other libraries and collections, including those at Stanford University.

BIO

IdaRose Sylvester was an interviewer on this project representing the City of Mountain View Human Relations Commission, as Vice Chair, and the nonprofit Mountain View Historical Association, as board member. She has lived in Mountain View for almost 25 years, and works as the executive director of a local nonprofit. She lives in the Varsity Park neighborhood of Mountain View, the development of which played an almost forgotten role in exclusionary zoning practices south of El Camino Real.

ABSTRACT



Roy Hayter is a 90-year-old Mountain View resident who has been here since 1989. He has been involved in a number of housing advocacy organizations, including the Social Justice Commission, the Community Services Agency (CSA), and Advocates for Affordable Housing, who he helped establish. In this interview, he outlines his personal experience as both a volunteer and resident of Mountain View, particularly his role with the now-shutdown Alpha Omega Shelter, a shelter for the unhoused that was run by various churches in the Peninsula. He highlights his work on the Mountain View housing

element and the ways that the City Council has addressed or not addressed the community's needs over the years.

Date of Interview: July 7th, 2022

Interviewer: IdaRose Sylvester

Interviewee: Roy Hayter

IdaRose Sylvester: 00:00

Recording now. I love your vintage looking glass. Well, good afternoon, my name is IdaRose Sylvester and I'm an interviewer working with the City of Mountain View's Human Relations Commission, in partnership with the Mountain View Historical Association, and Stanford University on a product project entitled, "Understanding the History of Housing in Mountain View: Stories of Racism, Anti-Discrimination, and Movement toward Inclusion". The purpose of this project is to document the history of discrimination and efforts to fight it in the housing in the city of Mountain View. Some of the information collected today will be shared with the public at an event sponsored by the Mountain View HRC scheduled for July 26, 2022. Today is July 7, 2022, and I'm interviewing Roy Hayter. Because of the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic. We are conducting this interview by Zoom teleconferencing technology from our own residences in Mountain View, California. So Roy, thank you very much for being here today. Can you please state your full, full name to make sure we have it? Correct.

Roy Hayter: 01:13

Roy Graham Hayter.

IdaRose Sylvester: 01:16

And where do you currently live?

Roy Hayter:

In Mountain View.

IdaRose Sylvester:

And how long have you lived in the city of Mountain View?

Roy Hayter: 01:24

Since 1989.

IdaRose Sylvester: 01:27

Great, thank you. Now we'll go on to a few more in depth questions. My first question, what brought you to Mountain View?

Roy Hayter: 01:42

That time I was retiring from a job in Texas. My wife and I live in Mountain View, I had lived in California before. Actually, mostly in Berkeley. We were looking to move back to California. And I was looking for a job in retirement, I didn't want to retire completely. The job that I found in Menlo Park with SRI¹ lead us to looking for houses on the Peninsula, and that let us to Mountain View.

IdaRose Sylvester: 02:19

Was anything attractive about Mountain View or the particular neighborhood you picked?

Roy Hayter: 02:25

Well, we didn't know much about Mountain View. But it turns out, my son was living in Los Altos. So that was one factor. We knew that it was a place with a very attractive climate. And the location that we found for the house was well located with respect to hospitals, shopping, and freeways and so on. So it seemed like a good central spot. But we could reach up the Peninsula, we wanted to stay in touch with events in San Francisco. So that was one one factor and my son and the climate kind of came together.

IdaRose Sylvester: 03:15

Great. About the neighborhood: can you tell me what it was like to live in your neighborhood in 1989? And how has that changed over the last 30 or so years?

Roy Hayter: 03:28

Well, I can't say the neighborhood itself has changed that much. There has been a turnover of residents. I think we tend to see a few more people from overseas in the neighborhood, not not that much, but I think that's a change. I think that the main change, in Mountain View, maybe not in the neighborhood so much, has been the number of high powered jobs that have come into this area, which has resulted into a development and a burst of housing activity,

¹ Originally Stanford Research Institute, established by the Stanford University Board of Trustees in 1946. It separated from Stanford in 1970 and became SRI International in 1977.

IdaRose Sylvester: 04:22

But not so much change in your particular neighborhood? Or an increase in high powered people to go along with those high powered jobs. Yes. Great. Well, just a quick segue as we move on to even more in depth questions. I believe you've never personally experienced housing discrimination for you or your family in Mountain View, is that correct?

Roy Hayter:

No.

Great. So I will now focus the rest of our discussion on your housing activism, and for the purposes of this interview assume I know absolutely nothing about what you've done in the past. Can you tell me how you first became involved with housing issues in Mountain View, and if your housing advocacy started before that, please tell me about when it started and where.

Roy Hayter: 05:20

I had not done much volunteer work before retiring. But my wife had, and she encouraged me to look for something that would expand, if you like, my community involvement. I was going to the local church, St. Timothy's is just down the street from here. And I got involved in the Social Justice Commission [at St. Timothy's Church, members of the congregation interested in advocating for social justice issues]. That was a new activity for me; they were mainly concerned with hunger issues at the time. In particular, the beginning of homelessness was becoming, or had become by then a, an emerging issue. And what was happening between Mountain View and Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, was a collaborative movement between various churches to start a rotating shelter called the Alpha Omega shelter. Initiated by the Methodist Church in Los Altos. So there was an early committee, and the Rector of St. Timothy's where I was going asked me, if I would lead the activity, the project on behalf of St. Timothy's. At that time, that meant getting a [conditional] use permit, to use the church for shelter. And this was going on with other churches as well. So that meant I had to go and talk to the zoning commissioner in Mountain View, and this is all a new experience to me. Other members of the committee, from other churches, coached me on how to speak for three minutes, no more or less, and make my point, and give me background on what was going on with the shelter and the effect it was likely to have. And also actually, one of the police officers in city of Mountain View, was collaborating with us at the time. So when I approached the Zoning Commissioner for [the City of Mountain View to get approval for a conditional use permit for] St. Timothy's [in approx. 1990], he supported and came along, and spoke also in favor of us. I had previously interviewed neighboring houses around the church, to see how they would react to having a homeless shelter, say, every few months at St. Timothy's - not too many houses close to the church, but the occupants there were definitely not in favor. They were expecting crime, who knows what, but they did not expect good things to come from the shelter. And it was kind of hard at that stage to refute what they had to say because there was no track record. But we did what we could. The rotation started between

maybe 6-8 churches between the three cities. It was a great experience to join with people from other churches in the collaborative activity of that sort. So that was all new to me. Very, very rewarding.

IdaRose Sylvester: 09:10

I'm really glad you told me about those efforts, because, frankly, I didn't know about that. What happened with that collaborative approach, because in some ways, it seems like we've started all over again, a lot of people seem to be reinventing the wheel. Especially with faith groups trying to work on shelters and safe parking. So what happened, did that expand or how?

Roy Hayter: 09:35

Well they were taking shelter. Maybe 10, 12, 15 years, something like that. And then - well, I can get into the reasons that it was closed as best I remember them. It mainly came down to the cost of supporting the shelter we're working with CSA, Community Service Agency², to provide case case management. The cost of that case management was going up. And there was some frustration on the part of the churches with the homeless people. That kind of grew up over time they had the deal that the church would house the shelter, or, for several weeks, a month, I believe, each would rotate. And then that shelter would be open from maybe six o'clock in the evening until seven o'clock in the morning. And we would serve a meal in the evening and there would be breakfast fixings in the kitchen of the church, before the homeless people would go to their jobs or look for jobs or whatever. But there was some expectation on the part of the church people that the homeless people, our clients, if you like, would come to dinner. And that was not always happening. There would be a dinner prepared for maybe 10 or 15 people with some understanding that that number would come. But over a period of time, it was not that convenient for our clients to come to dinner on a regular basis at a specific time. So between the cost structure and some frustration with how many are coming in, is it worth our effort, and that sort of thing. There was a study done by one led by one of the ministers of one of the churches. And although I didn't agree with the conclusion, they concluded that churches didn't want the shelter anymore. They closed it down. I didn't agree with that decision. But that was a decision that was made and what resulted was there was no homeless shelter in the Northern County, Santa Clara County, which I thought was really sad.

IdaRose Sylvester: 12:35

Yeah, it I think for many years that continued to be that to be the case, too.

Roy Hayter: 12:40

² Community Services Agency is a nonprofit, provider of safety net services to low income and homeless people in Mountain View.

The nearest I believe is West Valley. And there are some safe parking, a church I go to St. Jude's in Cupertino has a safe parking arrangement for people to park overnight, and they help them with food and some financial help sometimes. So little bits and pieces here and there.

IdaRose Sylvester: 13:01

Exactly. It feels a little bit more like pieces than a concentrated community effort, which was amazing that so many churches got together and that it did last and work for a relatively long period. Thank you for sharing that, I actually didn't know that piece of history. I know your work. However, your advocacy continued after that. What did you do next?

Roy Hayter: 13:24

Well, so working with the shelter, I was on the steering committee for the whole group. And so I could get a picture as to the idea that our clients who were homeless would come and stay in a shelter for several months, there was not really a hard and fast time in the middle. But the concept was, after a few months with help and support and guidance, maybe some financial help, maybe some counseling on whatever issues were required that they would move on to housing, either transitional housing, and there was some of that in San Jose, or more permanent housing with a Section Eight voucher or something, something like that. So what we're finding over that period of time of 10 years or so, was that we were seeing repeat visits. Clients would come through and they would stay with us for a few months, they go on and find somewhere else. We didn't always know where they went. But then they would come back and stay, for whatever reason, financially or whatever. They were not really involved in the personnel issues. That was the purview of the case manager. But the observation was that the shelter was not really successful in the sense of giving the end of finding, solving the homelessness problem for individuals, it wasn't solving it, it was going through recycle.

IdaRose Sylvester: 15:17

That's a fair point. Was that before the shelter was established, though, was it the point?

Roy Hayter: 15:26

It was kind of a mystery. [This was the experience from running the Alpha Omega Shelter over 5-7+ years].

IdaRose Sylvester: 15:28

Ah, okay.

Roy Hayter: 15:31

This was towards the end, it was maybe after my experience, maybe 5, 6, 7 years on the shelter, but maybe, I'd say halfway through the life of the shelter, roughly speaking. And I began to see that something was missing. We weren't doing the complete job. So this would be I guess, I start

of '89 to mid 90s. And the housing element in Mountain View was coming up before... I knew nothing about the housing element. There was a great group of people involved with the shelter. And I remember Ruth Polata, Carol Togrimson, Gertrude Welch, of a great bunch of ladies. They ran a seminar on the housing element, we would get together in the afternoon sometime. And they would discuss what is the housing element, what goes into it, what makes it, what can we do to advocate effectively for the housing amendment in particular, would begin to deal with this problem of homelessness. So, I did that. I thought, well, this is not it's not a shelter issue. It's a housing issue. So that was when I formed the Advocates for Affordable Housing³. With a couple of people from my own church, and a group of other churches, maybe six or eight of us. And Tom Pamilla, who was the director of CSA⁴ at the time, kind of sponsored us. We would meet at CSA and figure out what to do. What I learnt out of this was kind of a critique of the last housing element. And the fact that some of the intent of the last housing element had been neglected, had not been followed through on or not effectively. And one particular issue that I remember in the previous housing element was, well, maybe we should study an impact fee. Maybe, possibly, yeah, nothing. So that was one thing, we could kind of get our teeth into, the housing impact fee being a fee that would be placed on on commercial property, new commercial property, prorated on the square footage of the construction, and that that money will be set aside for housing. There was already grant money coming in from the federal government. But that had been converted from building a certain number of houses into a block grant⁵, which was obviously going to decay over time. So one of our points in the housing element is that the city needs its own source of funding, you can't rely on the federal government to bail you out of the housing that you need. So we fastened on to this impact fee, among a few other things, but that's kind of a good theme to talk about. So, again, with guidance from these knowledgeable leaders, advocates for housing began to go and talk first of all, the planning commission. And the planning commission at that time, was a wonderful group to work with. They were Pat Showalter⁶, and Tom Frankom and, I think, Eric Anderson. [Pat, Tom and Eric were members of the Environmental Planning Commission for the City of Mountain View.] They were housing friendly, you might say - not always true for a City Commission. They listened to us. And gave us positive feedback. They said, we need to hear from you. We need to hear from you, or from, you know, citizens in the city. If we don't hear from you, we don't know what's going on, and we don't have any platform to take forward. So we had a very good relationship, I think, at that time,

³ Housing Advocacy group formed by Roy Hayter (another interviewee), along with others from various churches across Mountain View, and sponsored by the Community Services Agency (CSA), to (in the words of Roy Hayter) "advocate effectively for the housing amendment and deal with... the housing issue".

⁴ Community Services Agency is a nonprofit, provider of safety net services to low income and homeless people in Mountain View.

⁵ According to Merriam-Webster: "an unrestricted grant made by the U.S. federal government to state and local governments to be used at their discretion to pay especially for social services that were formerly paid for through specific federal programs"

⁶ Current City Councilmember of Mountain View

I think Pat will support that in developing a case for the impact fee. So they say, “Well, you have to have a Nexus study”. What is the Nexus study? Well, you hire consultants, and they figure out that there's a connection, a nexus between commercial building, and housing. So they went through this, the study evaluated what was going on in Mountain View, what was being built commercially, and what housing was needed, and so forth, and came up with a number, an impact fee, which would be enough, in principle, to support low income housing in Mountain View. Well, this went through umpteen stages of review, city council, and so forth. All in all, it did become part of the updated housing element. But of course, the council cut back the prorated fee. So it was not enough to provide housing on a prorated basis. But then the council decided, well, we'll offer the developers, they don't want to, this isn't enough to build a unit. And we'll offer them... you can pay the fee, and we'll put that lump that fee together with others and then we'll accumulate money eventually, to actually build something. But of course, from the point of view of the developers, that's a great deal.

IdaRose Sylvester:

Right.

Roy Hayter:

They get a cheap way out, they don't have to build low income units, which screws up their planning. They can just give a small amount of money to the city, and the city can do something with it. So we didn't like the outcome, but it was better than nothing. And it did begin to add to the city's source of its own funding for housing. So he eventually added that that was how we could build San Antonio Place.

IdaRose Sylvester:

Oh, okay.

Roy Hayter:

At the bottom of San Antonio road. That was kind of the first tangible, if you like, outcomes of, of our advocacy. That took about 10 years from start to finish, when we started working on the housing element. This was the first new affordable housing project to be built, but it was in 2005, '06, '08, '09, '10, somewhere in there. So it took a long time.

IdaRose Sylvester: 23:30

Probably I think overall over those years. Yes.

Roy Hayter: 23:37

Anyway, that was kind of our baptism, if you like, of advocacy. With the housing element eventually leading to something tangible.

IdaRose Sylvester: 23:53

Well, what were some of the other projects that AFH - I'm sorry, AAH continued to work on?

Roy Hayter: 24:01

Well, part because of, you know, turning up at these city council meetings week after week. I guess among many other things was collaboration with Tom Pamilla. He said, his concept was because the homeless clients were not going directly into permanent housing, there was a need for transitional housing. Not a shelter. But a place where a group of people could live for maybe a year, year and a half, and would have enough residence time, if you'd like, to get used to living in a home, collaboratively, and accumulate enough money that they could then get the down payments and so forth, for moving into a regular apartment. So I forget exactly how this happened, but there was a house in the Moorpark area, Sylvan Road, that was available that somehow we found out about. So we petitioned the city to use part of their funds to buy this house. And with case management from CSA to support a group of graduates from the Alpha Omega shelter, people that were ready to move into the next stage of housing, they would move into this transitional house for a year, maybe a year and a half or so. Again, it was a learning process as to how to do that. And we had to work with the neighbors, the neighbors didn't like it particularly. So we just have monthly meetings with the neighbors to talk to them about any concerns they might have and reassure their fears. I think over a period of time, not just my track record, it became an accepted part of the neighborhood. I don't know whether it's still there, to tell you seriously. I should go and inquire. It [was managed by] InnVision for a while, now renamed LifeMoves. So whether LifeMoves⁷ are still running that as one of their many facilities I don't know. But my main point is another example of trying to fill the gaps in the housing supply that was missing.

That's transitional housing. We also wanted to support others, if you like, permanent rental properties. Given that, by going to these council meetings, we met people from Mid-Peninsula Housing Coalition, Catholic Charities now called Charities Housing, who were nonprofit organizations who build low income affordable housing. So again, working with them, we could find out what they were thinking of. And then we could work with them, we could advocate for them. I mean, they have their point of view of expertise, I mean, fantastic expertise, in terms of finding property and, and building the construction. I come at it from the point of view of local advocates being concerned about the fact that there is simply not enough of this kind of housing, and it's bad for the community for that situation to persist as it still persists. So between the two of us, or three or four of us, we advocate for other properties that MidPen expanded their North Park property, for example. And... I forget. But anyway, the point is that we're collaborating with local nonprofits to get additional low income housing built. That was fresh, new edition.

⁷ LifeMoves is a non-profit organization that provides interim housing and support services for the unsheltered and homeless; previous called InnVision.

IdaRose Sylvester: 29:07

Right. That's great. What were some of the victories in getting that additional low income housing you mentioned the one MidPen property. Were there others?

Roy Hayter:

Say it again?

IdaRose Sylvester:

Sorry, were there some of the successes you had getting that new low income or I'm sorry, low income housing built? You mentioned a property at Mid-Pen that you influenced, where there are others?

Roy Hayter: 29:34

North Park is what I remember. Catholic Charities had one or two, I really forget now which ones they were. Sometimes they were expansions. Sometimes they were cleaner, more additions, so I don't remember.

IdaRose Sylvester: 30:01

That's great. So this gets you up to relatively recent times. Did your advocacy continue past the work trying to get more low income housing built? Or?

Roy Hayter: 30:18

That was the theme... that was the other activity, which I was involved in, was with Habitat for Humanity.

IdaRose Sylvester:

Oh, Okay, tell me more.

Roy Hayter:

A bit of a different angle. Because that's ownership housing, rather than rental. And I have a personal strong interest in Habitat, particularly because... well, this is all separate from AAH; it was more sort of the church volunteer activity, that, you know, I would go and work on these Habitat projects in different parts of the Bay Area, and not necessarily Mountain View, wherever there's a project going on. Worked in Alviso, Redwood City, Campbell, San Jose, a number of different projects. So it was my ambition to get something started in Mountain View. But it was more my ambition than Advocates for Affordable Housing,

IdaRose Sylvester:

Ah, okay.

Roy Hayter:

Because their position was that in rental property, you get more bang for your buck. If you're going to invest in land and property. If you buy rental housing, you can house more people. And there was also an income issue. You would need to have people that have enough income that they could pay by mortgage. And so it was a different market. [Laughs] Anyway, so I tried hard for several years, pretty much on my own to find land in Mountain View, that could be a Habitat project. And we came pretty close a couple of times. We got to the point it was on the City Council's to do lists, there they were evaluating, in different times, a particular piece of property. I think, I think there were three of them altogether over a period. But they all fell through.

IdaRose Sylvester:

Why did it fall through?

Roy Hayter:

Mainly because of the cost of land. It was just, it didn't didn't work out. What Habitat could do was that they could provide the volunteer labor, they could provide free labor, and in many cases, donated materials, but they needed the land and bought the land. Plus, in some cases, the remediation that was needed to make the land suitable - because of the stuff that is underground in Mountain View, in a couple of instances -it was just too expensive. We never could never get it off the ground. That's that's the way it is. Habitat is building elsewhere in the Bay Area. But they're building further out, where land is cheaper, and there's more available. Maybe the right piece of property will pop up one of these days, but so far not. That was like a failure.

IdaRose Sylvester: 34:08

I see why you frame it as such. But I'd argue that there's no such thing as a failure when you're trying to advocate for something to be improved. You're always advocating somebody or moving the issue forward in some way.

Roy Hayter: 34:21

Oh, yeah, I didn't catch that.

IdaRose Sylvester: 34:23

Oh, I wouldn't necessarily frame that as a failure. When you're advocating for something like that you are making a difference. But you point to a very big issue. The cost of land is what it is and I don't know how we can overcome that. After you did the work looking for land for Habitat for Humanity, what did you, was that the end of your advocacy efforts or what happened next?

Roy Hayter: 34:53

I think I was running out about that time because of personal reasons, my wife's health was not good. So I decided I would withdraw. So still keep in touch but not not be the active advocate.

So that was probably at least 10 years ago now. But Joan⁸ and Doug DeLong [volunteer colleagues in AAH] and a few others that have carried the flag. And in particular, I should mention that we weren't alone in doing this. In particular. Let me see.. .before I withdrew, we linked up with a number of other local people that were tremendous allies. Judy Lovins, [member of LWV and a colleague in AAH] you may have heard of her. She was fantastic as a resource and advocate. And more recently, Sue Russell⁹. I don't know whether you've heard of Sue, but..

IdaRose Sylvester: 36:10

I'm talking to her today. I'm talking to Sue later today.

Roy Hayter: 36:17

Okay. Well, unfortunately, she lives in Los Altos, which is not her fault. [Laughs]

IdaRose Sylvester: 36:25

[Laughs] An accident, I'm sure.

Roy Hayter: 36:28

Sue retired from the Mid Peninsula Housing Coalition¹⁰. So her background as a lawyer, and housing is incredible. So we linked up our support for affordable housing. And Sue was very much involved with the League of Women Voters, their housing committee, that's still going on, essentially, as a joint venture, now led by Sue. They have regular monthly meetings, and they advocate. Sue has advocated herself with Los Altos. And then we found a friend of mine, who has now moved away. Anyway, we found somebody who lives in Mountain View to advocate on behalf of the group in the city council, because the city didn't like people from Los Altos telling them what to do. That's still going on, and I think that's fantastic. Joan is still involved, as I said, and the current Mayor of Mountain View goes to these meetings.

IdaRose Sylvester: 37:57

Yeah. I'm sorry, what are those meetings? What are those meetings that Sue runs? What organization is she running those under?

Roy Hayter: 38:09

Say it again?

⁸ Referring to Joan MacDonald, another long-time Mountain View resident and interviewee involved with the League of Women Voters, Mid-Peninsula Housing Coalition, "No for 14" movement, and Advocates for Affordable Housing. She also helped pass Measure V in 2016, also known as the Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act (CSFRA)

⁹ Sue Russell, another interviewee and member of Mid Peninsula Housing Coalition

¹⁰ Referring to Mid-Peninsula Housing Coalition, a Nonprofit Housing Developer in the 1990s.

IdaRose Sylvester:

What organization is Sue running those meetings under again?

Roy Hayter:

League of Women Voters.

IdaRose Sylvester:

Ah, yes, I thought you had mentioned something else as well.

Roy Hayter: 38:20

They [LWV] run a different process. They work by consensus. So they have to have some kind of corporate consensus before they can advocate for a particular issue or policy. So instead of a neat combination with the [AAH and the] League of Women Voters [can be very helpful in advocating for] affordable housing, because Advocates for Affordable Housing can move faster, [while supported by the expertise of LWV].

IdaRose Sylvester: 38:53

Understood.

Roy Hayter: 38:54

Whereas the big women [large LWV organization] take their time. But when they [decide to take a position], they come in with their depth of expertise and credibility. So it's a good combination.

IdaRose Sylvester: 39:03

It's a good mix. People learn from each other when the styles are so different, right? But the League of Women Voters definitely has procedures. And some of us when we advocate tend to be a little bit more loose and casual. [Laughs]

Roy Hayter:

But that has power.

IdaRose Sylvester: 39:24

Yes. The combination has incredible power. Both styles have their own power, too. I'm fascinated by the work you've done. And I know you're not doing advocacy work directly right now, but I *know* you're paying attention to the issues going on right now in Mountain View. So I'm wondering, how - I don't I don't want to pin this on council - but how do you feel the City of Mountain View is doing now can you know compared to the past in terms of issues about inclusive housing. Where are we on that journey in your mind? How are we doing?

Roy Hayter: 40:08

Ah..I think there have been councils in the past that are more proactive, more positively inclined to, if you like, look out for the citizens who are on the lower end of the spectrum. I think the current city council tends to have a stronger business favor, attitude, than that has been the case in the past. I've been very disappointed with their treatment of the parking issues of the large vehicles and how they responded to that, and how they've *not* provided alternatives for people that they're forcing off the street. I think that's abysmal, their lack of concern for people that are forced into a corner by rules and regulations, and all you just do is add more rules without providing an alternative, however difficult that may be, but that's the task that you were elected to solve. And I'm disappointed that they're not doing that well.

IdaRose Sylvester: 41:39

We could definitely talk about that issue [laughs] over coffee or something at some point for sure, in more detail. Well, is there anything going on that you would say is going well, in terms of Inclusive Housing? It sounds like you're pretty negative about our current state. But have we done anything right recently in your mind?

Roy Hayter: 42:12

Well, I think the efforts to try to open up the North Bay Shore is very powerful. It's a complex problem. But I think that there's a very strong effort to try to find a way to open up that are for a variety of housing, not just high end, for a mix of housing, covering the whole spectrum of incomes. I hope that comes to fruition. I think the groundwork has been laid, I think it's been taken a lot, a lot of guts to push it through. I think so far so good. That goes along with some improvements in transportation, to get people in and out. And I think we'll have a part of the city where everybody has the right to be proud of. An addition, that is needed in this whole area to add a significant amount of housing, not little bits here and there, but a significant amount of housing. I think that's something which most of you can do. And I think they've got a lot to be proud of. The groundwork has been laid for that.

IdaRose Sylvester: 43:39

Great. So taking a step backward a little bit. When you look at what you're working on in Mountain View, what do you feel your biggest accomplishment has been?

IdaRose Sylvester: 43:54

Sorry, part of that was missing.

IdaRose Sylvester: 43:57

When you look back at the work you've done on housing in Mountain View, what do you feel is your biggest accomplishment? Personally?

Roy Hayter: 44:06

Oh, well, I think San Antonio Place. That was kind of a first in the sense of a from-the-ground-up 100 unit, mostly studio apartments into which people who are very low income could move and grow and move on from there. I think that that was a high point. Because it was a first, and partly because it was a result of laying the groundwork for the, not for the policies, for the impact fee that I mentioned. And then the time that we spent with individual city council members, and with the planning commission to develop a relationship. So they would trust what we had to say, and perhaps even believe in it and act on it, you know, so that combination of building up to that point, I think was an apex of achievement. I still have the trowel.

IdaRose Sylvester:

You're kidding.

Roy Hayter:

To break the ground on that.

IdaRose Sylvester: 45:41

The ceremonial shovel, right?

Roy Hayter: 45:44

I'm very proud of that.

IdaRose Sylvester: 45:46

You should be. That's an amazing project. And as you mentioned, it has the sort of complete Genesis to the ultimate, you know, completion and it had a lot of parts. So I hope someday, the trowel can become part of the Mountain View Historical Association's collection. I think we need to do a good job of capturing our current history. But that's another story. I think we're nearing the end of some of my questions. I have a couple more. Couple more big ones. What do you, you've hinted at this pretty pretty extensively, but what do you think we can do to make Mountain View a more inviting and, and inclusive community? Going forward, what can we all do?

Roy Hayter: 46:48

[Pauses] Well, you know... it seems to me that the city doesn't really have a plan to have a Mountain View population that's diverse. And not only diverse, racially, per se, but diverse occupationally, that can support a community. Not completely self-sufficient, but to a large extent may be a self-sustaining community that doesn't have to import thousands of people or export thousands of people. It's a community that has a sense of unity, and identity, and character. I felt that when we moved to Mountain View, that was one of the things that I sensed, because at the time, Castro Street was undergoing renovation, the City Hall and the theater works

were being built - all over budget. But it turned out well. But at the moment, I don't feel there's a real plan to have a self sustaining community. One of the things one of the projects that I did, to go back a little bit, wasn't part of the housing element, I thought, "Why don't we do kind of, not a top down response to the ABAG [Association of Bay Area Governments]¹¹ numbers of how many houses we should build, but a bottoms up analysis. Look at the population. Look at the distribution of population income wise and housing wise in terms of numbers per houses, and do a bottoms-up assessment of what Mountain View could look like if it was a self sustaining city. Not just battling A-Bag, but having its own purpose, its own identity, its own sense of future. So. [Laughs] I don't know where that came from. But anyway.

IdaRose Sylvester: 49:34

It was brilliant.

Roy Hayter: 49:37

It wasn't necessarily a very academic exercise, but I came up with a number of houses that Mountain View should build per year, per income, across the brackets -

IdaRose Sylvester:

Oh!

Roy Hayter:

-to sustain the city, pretty much like it looked at the census of the year 2000, as a base point. Maybe that's not perfect, but take that as a base point. And if you wanted Mountain View to continue to be balanced like that into the future, what would it take to sustain? I worked with Mike Kasperzak¹², at the time. I remember we used to see each other on Castro Street and we'd say "149 houses per year!" But of course, that was not on the high end, which they tend to be built. But anyway. But that's totally utopian. There are other people that think along those lines, that are probably better skilled than I am. In response to your question.

IdaRose Sylvester: 51:05

Never underestimate your skills as an informed community advocate. It's really hard for anyone to get it right, there's no reason your analysis is any less worthy. As a matter of fact, I quite like the fact you did it. [Laughs] Do you have a copy of that analysis?

Roy Hayter: 51:37

¹¹ The Association of Bay Area Governments is a regional planning agency incorporating various local governments in the San Francisco Bay Area in California. ABAG sets periodic targets for each city (Housing Element) to plan for additional housing at each income level.

¹² Michael Kasperzak was a city councilmember and mayor of Mountain View. He was elected to city council in 1998 and reelected in 2002, 2008, and 2012. He served as mayor in 2008 and 2012.

[Laughs] I'll look and see if I can find it.

IdaRose Sylvester: 51:38

If you do, I would love to see your work and and look at your thought process, even separate from this project, as an engaged community member, I would really love to see how you thought about it. And learn from it. So thank you. Is there anything else you would like to share before I ask you a few demographic style questions?

Roy Hayter: 52:12

[Pauses] Yeah, it's not something that I've been that involved in, but I have volunteered in the schools over a period of time. And it seems to be that the school situation in this area is not particularly healthy. I can't really put my finger on it. But perhaps it's a matter as to where the schools are, how many north of 101, how many parks north of 101. Again, this is a matter of balancing the city. Having in mind its population and what their educational and recreational needs are. It seems to me the things are a bit out of balance on this side, we get the cream of the crop sort of thing. I haven't spent much time with that. But it passes my mind sometimes.

IdaRose Sylvester: 53:21

I think there's a lot of truth in that and a lot more to discover. And think about, in terms of equity and balance, the phrase balancing is really important. I think it says it all. So you more than anyone I've spoken to so far has been a treasure trove of names, people who've been involved all along the way. Other than Sue Russell, is there anyone else other than Joan, obviously, is there anyone else you suggest I talked to?

Roy Hayter: 54:06

Doug DeLong is a great character.

IdaRose Sylvester: 54:10

You're the first person who's pointed me in his direction.

Roy Hayter: 54:13

Yeah. Yeah. It's sometimes hard to talk to. But he's been around a long time, you know, he talked with us pretty early on. So I think his point of view may be a bit unorthodox, but it might be worthwhile talking to him,

IdaRose Sylvester: 54:38

How do I find him? I don't think I've ever spoken to him.

Roy Hayter: 54:47

No probably not. I could give you his email address, or, maybe I should ask him if -

IdaRose Sylvester: 54:53

Yeah, if you could ask him that would be great. I really appreciate that. In the meantime, I'll definitely be looking for him. Yeah, I think I'm looking. I'm just checking my emails now to see if he's come up. I suspect I've heard the name in passing, but nobody else has suggested him for this project yet. So thank you. Is there anyone else?

Roy Hayter: 55:24

No I think the most of the others have passed through or left town or, passed on.

IdaRose Sylvester: 55:31

True. That's why this work is so... I don't think we realized when we started this project, just how significant the timing was, how many people who were early advocates are, you know, just gone, in one way or another.

Roy Hayter: 55:51

Tom Myers.

IdaRose Sylvester:55:53

Oh, interesting. Tom, every time I talk to Tom, he says send my regards to your neighbor, to you. I've never talked to him about housing. I think maybe I will.

Roy Hayter: 56:09

Or his predecessor Tom Pamilla, I think he's now in San Diego or somewhere. I don't know how I can get a hold of him.

IdaRose Sylvester: 56:21

I could probably network my way to him, to Tom Pamilla. And I realize I do have Doug DeLong's email -

Roy Hayter: 56:31

He would probably have an excellent historical perspective, about the area we are talking to.

IdaRose Sylvester: 56:37

Yeah, a really interesting one too. I have found Doug DeLong's email looking at an email chain from one of Lenny Siegel's mail lists. If you want to, if you could check with him to see if you'd be interested in talking. I'm all ears, I feel the sort of importance in trying to connect you to connect all the dots, collect all this historic information and also be inspired by it, hopefully with the impact of inspiring others. [Laughs] Big, big effort there. But let's see, actually, unless you

have anything else to add, I just have three very short demographic questions to end our formal interview. What would you say is your racial or ethnic identity?

Roy Hayter:

English.

IdaRose Sylvester:

What would you say is your gender identity?

Roy Hayter:

Male.

IdaRose Sylvester:

And if you don't mind, would you tell us your age.

Roy Hayter:

90.

IdaRose Sylvester:

I remember, Happy Birthday. Well, wonderful. I'm going to stop our recording.