

Minutes for the Meeting of the College Terrace Residents' Association (CTRA)
Wednesday May 15th, 2019 – University Lutheran Church

Board members present: Pria Graves, Eileen Stolee, Ann Balin, Chris Saccheri, Taylor Brady

Agenda

I. Approval of April minutes

- Motion by Taylor Brady
- Seconded by Eileen Stolee
- All board members present voting in favor of approval as is

II. Discussion of University Lutheran Space Use Expectations, 2019

- Cleanup conditions: empty all trashes, remove all items brought into the space, place all furniture as it was found when the users first entered the space
- These conditions were discussed and accepted by the board, with the caveat that we speak to groups preceding us and respectfully request that they follow the same guidelines so that no blame is placed on CTRA Board for issues with how the space is used.

III. Board Observer Updates

(A.) Pria Graves: Stanford Observer:

(1.) GUP Review Process

- Stanford has placed ads in the Palo Alto Weekly endorsing the GUP
- The university has demonstrated a general inclination to negotiate behind closed doors.
- Last autumn it was determined by the county planning commission that the GUP could proceed under the terms of a development agreement.
- The county planning commission staff will release its recommended conditions of approval (COA)
- Forthcoming meetings:
 - May 30th, 18:00: Palo Alto City Council Chambers*
 - Thursday June 13th, 13:30 at Isaac Newton Senter Auditorium, 70 West Hedding Street San José, CA 95110*
 - Thursday June 27th, 13:30 at Isaac Newton Senter Auditorium, 70 West Hedding Street San José, CA 95110*
- Full details of the update are available in the written report submitted by Pria Graves.

(B.) Ann Balin: California Avenue:

- The restaurant Spalti has closed. Its two owners are scheduled to open a new Turkish-Greek restaurant in the space.
- There is an indefinite lane closure in the southeast-bound direction on Birch Street between California Avenue and Sherman Avenue for construction of the new parking garage.
- The board is interested in when gyms were reclassified as an acceptable occupancy for retail-zoned spaces. Research when and how this occurred.
- Businesses defined under “personal services” (e.g. hairstylists, barbers, nail salons, massage parlors) are also now protected under the city’s Retail Preservation Ordinance.
- Bodeguita del Medio will now have hours extending later into the evening: until 22:30 every day except Sunday (when the restaurant is closed).

- California Avenue and Downtown were classified under two separate parking assessment districts.
 - Downtown parking ratio per square foot: 150 ft² per parking spot [for which uses, citation needed]
 - California Avenue: Restaurants are assessed at highest parking ratio per square foot [citation needed]
 - The required parking ratios were locked in at the last assessment (when the California Avenue district closed in 2016). [citation needed]
- College Terrace Center
 - Ann Balin asserts that LaserAway's leasing of one of the first floor spaces is in violation of the prohibition on medical services occupying spaces designated for retail.

IV. Residential Parking Permit Program (RPP Program) Agenda Item at City Council Meeting on May 13th, 2019

- Pria Graves expressed continued interest in the option to purchase a guest permit without having to purchase a resident permit. This could be endorsed as a sustainable measure to help dis-incentivize personal automobile ownership.
- The city has been sending notices regarding renewal later and later each year for the past several years.
- Stanford and the College Terrace RPP:
 - \$100,000 in the 2000 GUP was set aside (as a condition of approval) for starting the RPP in College Terrace.
 - Stanford's traffic consultants for the GUP have been mis-stating the provenance of the College Terrace RPP as a conflict between the neighborhood and the Stanford Research Park, rather than a holistic issue with the university's growth increasing traffic and nonresident parking in College Terrace.
 - Any funds leftover from the original \$100,000 allotted for the creation of the RPP in College Terrace were to be used to study similar parking issues in Southgate and Evergreen Park neighborhoods. Anything left when the GUP expired was to revert to Stanford (confirmed after the meeting on 2019/05/16 by Pria Graves).
- The board would like to focus on distinguishing our ongoing parking issues from those of other neighborhoods. Notably, the board maintains that employees of nearby businesses (California Avenue Business District, Stanford Research Park, etc.) should not be allowed to purchase permits to park in College Terrace. This item is not currently in the recommended changes to the RPP put before the City Council by city staff [citation needed, link to recommendations, perhaps].
- Doria Summa indicates that there is a benefit to the CN zone in certain parts of the neighborhood (e.g. on Yale Street between College and California) to provide 2-hour parking for restaurants and retail along El Camino Real which otherwise would not be able to meet parking requirements for their uses...further disincentivizing retail in favor of new office development.

V. Capital Improvement for College Terrace Parks (Planning Commission Item)

-Doria Summa indicates the following preliminary timelines for capital improvements conducted by the city in our neighborhood parks:

-Cameron Park: Summer 2019 to Autumn 2019

- Werry Park: 2021 to 2022 (ADA-compliant accessibility improvements)

-In addition, median landscaping improvement along El Camino Real just outside of the neighborhood are scheduled to begin soon [citation needed, any more specific timeline would be helpful].

VI. Discussion of CTRA Board Priorities for Spring 2019-Spring 2020 Session (Chris Saccheri)

-Increased and improved communication. Frequent board updates now distributed via CTRA mailing list. Agendas, minutes, and board observer reports now placed on the CTRA website regularly.

-Board would like to commit to creating and distributing at least two “Views from the Terrace” newsletters annually.

VII. CTRA Summer Picnic (Eileen Stolee – Social Coordinator)

-Tentatively scheduled for August 10th

-Board recommends that we host it at one of the parks with more play area for younger children: perhaps Werry Park or Cameron Park, rather than the usual location of Mayfield Park by the College Terrace Library. This may present issues, however, with quick access to restrooms, for which we have always relied upon the generosity of the College Terrace library and a weekend volunteer to staff it while we host the picnics.

-The board thinks that a late afternoon time slot, approximately 16:00 to 19:00, would be an apt time to host the picnic.

-Fundraising and activities ideas?

VIII. Next Meeting

-Scheduled for June 19th, 2019 at 19:00, at University Lutheran Church