

Minutes
College Terrace Residents' Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 17, 2019, 7:00PM
Fireside room, University Lutheran Church

Attendance

Board Members: Ann, Eileen, Maggie, Taylor, Pria, Jens, Chris, Anne
Members of the Public: Fred Balin

Meeting Minutes Approval

Board approved the meeting minutes, previously reviewed via email, for May & June 2019

“Open Mic” (public comment time)

Fred Balin

CTRA received notification of Merck site cleanup (PCE, not TCE)

Comment period ends August 16

This is similar to what we saw with Stanford cleaning up TCE at University Terrace a few years ago

Any mitigation work stops at the property line (wouldn't impact CT homes)

Should send out notice to CT email list so neighbors are aware (also cc Weekly)

May be worth contacting Lenny Siegel (frmr Mt View mayor) who helped with Stanford issues to review

See cpeo.org for some of his previous work

Board Updates

Stanford (Pria)

GUP/ Development Agreement

The Planning Commission completed their hearings on the Conditions of Approval and forwarded their endorsement, but with the proviso that Stanford must construct about four times as much housing as they originally proposed and that 70% of it be located on campus.

County staff reviewed Stanford's boast that they are providing community benefits worth \$4.7 billion and pointed out that many of these so-called “benefits” are actually either part of the initial application or legally required mitigations! Only \$166 million is a more realistic value. This includes \$130 million offered to Palo Alto Schools and \$30 million offered for bike projects and other improvements.

On the traffic front, the 3-hour peak period counts in addition to peak hour was a win but it was disappointing that the Commission caved in on Stanford's insistence that nothing can be done to prevent additional reverse commute trips or to avoid exceeding the Average Daily Trips count. They recommended scrapping those requirements and reverting to the standard CEQA mitigation which is a monetary contribution to “fixing” affected intersections when the traffic level is impacted by all those new residents who simply must drive everywhere.

One interesting issue that was raised by the Commission concerned the construction workers who come from long distances to work on Stanford projects. They questioned whether these folks park in the neighborhoods (I said I hadn't seen them in ours...) or whether they are amongst those parking along El Camino Real. According to the article in last week's PA Weekly, there are, in fact, a number of workers doing just that. The Commissioner questioned whether such workers would benefit from a designated

overnight parking area on Stanford lands so they could make the drive from home less frequently. Clearly the answer is "Yes"!

Stanford continues to claim that the County is requiring an "unbuildable" project and is pulling out all stops with propaganda everywhere. I remain concerned as to whether the Board will be able to stand up to the barrage of folks who insist that Stanford can do no wrong. Supervisor Simitian's term as President of the Board ends in December. I believe this is why he's anxious to have the GUP process wrapped up by then.

Finally, the Development Agreement process is still on hold. As Deputy County Executive Sylvia Gallegos pointed out to the Planning Commission, the GUP process is a permit application and they will not negotiate away the Conditions of Approval.

There is a good summary of the Commission's decision on Palo Alto Online:

<https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2019/06/27/planning-commission-backs-stanfords-campus-expansion>

San Juan Neighborhood

At the request of the HLUET, staff prepared a proposal for a survey and evaluation of potential new development standards and zoning amendments for the San Juan Residential District. This will include

1. Preparation of a Historic Survey
2. Evaluation of Existing Neighborhood Design
3. Consideration of new Development Standards/Zoning Amendments (to be based on the results of the first two steps)
4. Public outreach and hearings.

It is also intended that they will create a limited-duration advisory group to work with the county on key decision points during the process. This group will consist of representatives from key stakeholder groups including leaseholders within the district as well as Stanford staff and other. Supervisor Simitian also mentioned that in addition to this special, limited duration advisory group, it might be appropriate to create a more permanent group representing Stanford stakeholders, perhaps akin to the Community Resource Group but specifically focused on Stanford issues.

Staff wanted to delay this process until after the completion of the GUP but Supervisor Simitian pushed back and suggested that this should be started sooner. Staff agreed that this process could start this fall.

City of Palo Alto (Maggie)

Parking programs revamp is coming next month (was mentioned in latest CTRA email)
We have no commercial parking in our area; need to make sure this is preserved
Will keep a close eye on changes (Doria also watching)

California Avenue Business District (Ann)

Adam's Pantry: unknown business next to Terun and Country Sun

diPietro Todd: leaving due to escalating rents

Building -> beautiful mid-century architecture: what are the plans for the building?

Cambridge buildings being demolished (PA Weekly article)

Parking lot behind California Ave is under construction

Project website:

https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/pwd/infrastructure_plan/psb_and_cal_ave_garage.asp

Summer Picnic

Saturday, August 10 at 4pm-7pm at Werry Park

Music: Nancy Cassidy not available, other artists discussed, but recorded music is probably better. Need speaker and extension cord.

Food: Eileen will do the Costco run (hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs), Taylor has the BBQ. Potluck also. Ice cream bar! Need coolers with ice to keep it cold.

Drinks: Lemonade jug (Chris). Water dispensers (Anne). No plastic water bottles!

Tables: Eileen has folding tables. Set up table for donations (print out QR code for PayPal).

Refuse Bins: Anne to take care of. Invite people to bring their own plates, utensils, napkins. Eileen to bring leftover plates/cups, etc. from last picnic (some may be plastic).

Activities: Craft activities (Eileen). Chris to do field games (three-legged race, water balloon toss, etc.). Bubble machine play area (Chris; Eileen to bring wands). Face painting (Sarah S). Other entertainment possibilities: Juggler? (Pria to check), Balloon Guy (Chris to check)

Budget: Know Your Neighbors fund: can we apply for grant? (Maggie to check)

Publicity: Taylor to do a posters. Post on Nextdoor, website, etc.

September Newsletter

Aim to finalize content by end of August; deliver in September/October.

\$300 for four pages (like last issue)

Content ideas

- CT Editorial/President's Message (Chris)
- Stanford GUPdate (Pria)
- PA City Council Update (including parking permit news, sustainability)
 - Public transit primer for CT residents (bus schedules, etc)
- Emergency Preparedness/CERT (ask Derek G?)
- Summer picnic recap w/photos

Advertising? Are there local businesses we can promote that would pay for small ads on the back of the newsletter? Ideas: Wund3rkid, State Farm, Country Sun (coupon?), Khoury's

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 14th at 7pm

Agenda item suggestion:

* Figure out what documentation we need to open a bank account at Provident Credit Union