

MINUTES

ADJOURNED

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 29, 2008

The adjourned meeting of the City Council of the City of Rolling Hills Estates was called to order at 7:06 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 4045 Palos Verdes Drive North, by MAYOR ZERUNYAN.

ROLL CALL

City Council Members Present: Addleman, Mitchell, Seamans, Zerunyan, Zuckerman

City Staff Present: Doug Prichard, City Manager
Sam Wise, Assistant City Manager
David Wahba, Planning Director
Andy Clark, Community Services Director
Mike Whitehead, Administrative Services Director
Greg Grammer, Assistant to the City Manager

AUDIENCE ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMUNITY GOAL-SETTING WORKSHOP

MAYOR ZERUNYAN noted that the purpose of this meeting is for the COUNCIL to listen to issues of general interest by the public for discussion at the City's Policy Development Session scheduled for March 1, 2008.

City Manager Prichard noted that all written comments are accepted as well and encouraged anyone who may be so inclined to submit them to the CITY COUNCIL or himself and those comments will be incorporated into the discussion at the Policy Development Session.

Deborah Southwell, noted the following recommendations regarding safety issues for the Larga Vista neighborhood: 1) Institute "no parking" signs, paint red curbs and install stop signs at the top of Gaucho and Estribo Drives; 2) Install a gate at the bottom of Gaucho Drive to deter partying; 3) Decrease the speed heading downhill on Palos Verdes Drive East; 4) Institute a signalized crosswalk on Palos Verdes Drive East at the bus stop; 5) Follow up with Neighborhood Watch; 6) No soliciting policy; 7) Results of the emergency response survey; 8) Look into a reverse 911 notification system for emergencies; and 9) Golf course redevelopment and the support for an EIR.

Ingrid Neat, noted her concern with view restoration and tree trimming in front of her home.

Kathy Branconier, noted her concern regarding the chain-link fenced lots in the commercial district, i.e. former car wash, gasoline stations, that

are eyesores to the community with no apparent progress or development.

Carl Southwell, concurred with the problems in Larga Vista. He suggested reducing the speed limit coming down Palos Verdes Drive East from Miraleste entering the City limits as well as installing a raised median at Palos Verdes Drive East and Conestoga Drive as motorists tend to use this lane for passing.

Richard Gerlach, noted his belief that Peninsula Center is a travesty and requested that an EIR be undertaken for each project.

Jeff Petow, President, Marloma Homeowners' Association, concurred with the aforementioned comments.

Dr. Carlo Tabellario, read a letter into the record from Donald Hugh, Traffic and Safety Committee Member, where he noted the following concerns with how the City continues to review projects: 1) Create a progressive plan on what is happening on in the commercial district/residential zone over the next 20 years; 2) Create parking facilities to park and shop; 2) Create a pedestrian-friendly environment; 3) Provide shuttle service; 4) Have the City involved in buying and procuring certain properties; 5) Speed walks and escalators; and 6) A senior housing plan for the future.

Ted Wynne, noted the following items for discussion: 1) Streetscape program; 2) Determination of Quimby fees; and 3) Concern for safety of customers who park in the Town and Country Shopping Center who cross mid-block to the Post Office.

Richard Conway, expressed his beliefs that included: 1) The character of community being changed by traffic and will continue to get worse; 2) The type of commercial district that is being created will only add traffic congestion; and 3) That commercial centers, i.e. The Avenue are "over-stored."

Margaret and Edward Mohr, noted she was pleased to see that view preservation was on the list and distributed her comments to the COUNCIL and staff. Additionally, Mr. Mohr stated that there are many tested cases that were approved, particularly in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, and believed this is the right direction to follow.

Joan Moe, noted a brief history of her long-time residency in the City and noted her concern with residential development in the shopping center. She asked the COUNCIL to consider traffic and where children will play in the commercial district and believed that if there are too many people who live in condominiums, the equestrian atmosphere may be compromised in favor of development. She commented that she is very happy with the City and would like to see it consider unique economic developments in an effort to be more interactive with the business community. Additionally, it was her hope to attract young families to the hill to stimulate business.

Hugh Muller, concurred with Mrs. Moe and noted his understanding that the COUNCIL agreed to consider every development together and not individually.

City Manager Prichard explained that the City prepared a master plan for the commercial district in an attempt to create a vision and then held a town meeting to receive public input. He noted that the plan was

shelved, and when that occurred, the COUNCIL agreed that each project coming before the City would be considered on its own merits and under its own environmental review process.

Bannister Bray, noted that he is a long-time Peninsula resident and was concerned about the changes in the Silver Spur Road area with regards to traffic and crime. His additional concerns were with the geology of the hillside as he believed it to be unstable.

Jerry Schwartz, commented that he is a long-time resident. He relayed his experience with an injured person along the horse trails which prompted him to recommend identification markers on those trails in case of an emergency.

Julie Reynolds, commented on her experience with riding horses in the commercial district and was concerned about traffic on Silver Spur Road as well as with the onslaught of projects in the commercial district. She recommended that the COUNCIL take a stop, wait and see approach to these developments.

Dale Allen, responded to Mr. Schwartz's comments and noted that a trail guide is available through the PVP Horsemen's Association. He concurred with the recommendation for trail safety markers. He also noted that the Dapplegray Homeowners' Association has a Trails Committee where they had signs made up with house addresses and plan to go door-to-door to obtain donations to cover this cost.

Rick Freebairn, noted that he does not see anything positive coming out of the projects in the commercial district. He inquired as to why an EIR was not done by the Sanitation Districts regarding the gas-to-energy facility.

Tom Judge, noted his belief that each project should have an EIR. Other items mentioned were: 1) Speed control, i.e. speed humps; 2) Hill and lot drainage control; 3) Better code enforcement; 4) Better COUNCIL and staff information dissemination; 5) Emergency preparedness notification; 6) Modifying the City's newsletter; and 7) Patrons crossing the street at Deep Valley Drive to the Post Office.

Liz Griggs, Stolz Management, The Avenue, commented that she believed the City is moving in the right direction and encouraged the COUNCIL to proceed with its plans for the commercial district as many areas are underutilized. She suggested focusing on the amenities of the commercial district, i.e. pedestrian foot traffic and parks, that will generate interest and give the property owners the opportunity to find ways to redevelop their own sites and create the right mix in the business district to bring everyone together.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:14 p.m., MAYOR ZERUNYAN formally adjourned the City Council meeting to Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**ADJOURNED
CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
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Approved,

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Hope J. Nolan
Deputy City Clerk

Douglas R. Prichard
City Clerk