CCAC Community Needs Subcommittee Minutes  September 11, 2012

Members present: Sheri Furman, Tom Crystal, Tom Vician, and Diane Reklis
Members absent: Jean Wilcox, Rachel Samoff
Staff present: none
Others present: John Northway, Mandy Lowell

We agreed to seek a solution including some shared space and some space at Cubberley dedicated to the non-student community even after a school is opened since the alternate hypothesis would not inspire the broad support needed to pass a bond issue to build community center facilities and we might as well all go home now. If we can make a convincing argument for a true multi-age and multi-cultural community center that would allow for shifting needs for each age group and include a modern school, then we might be able to convince the decision makers on the City Council and School Board as well as the wider community to support our vision.

Our next meeting is September 25 at 10:00 AM in Cubberley Rom D-1 and we plan to focus on 3 deliverables to report at October 3 CCAC meeting:

1. Table of current uses and users based on results of survey of current tenants including time of day, hours per week, target audience, facilities needs, etc.
2. Analysis of additional community needs based on surveys that have already been done, particularly the Comp Plan reviews. Preliminary vision for a true Community Center at Cubberley.
3. List of potential new services from those offered in community centers in other cities and ideas generated by our committee. Is there a need for a new survey of residents and do we have time to do a meaningful survey?

At our October 9 meeting we will focus on 2 deliverables to report at October 17 CCAC meeting.

1. Priorities for future tenant selection.
2. How higher prices might impact usage and how to decide how much to subsidize various users.

John and Mandy both mentioned that other subcommittees are eager for our input and are particularly interested in what services are not currently offered that could or should be.

Other issues that arose that need to be investigated include

1. We have observed confusion about the “Community Center” being built along with the new Mitchell Park Library. There are some, perhaps even on Council, who think that this will serve all needs for a community center in south Palo Alto. We will get a good description of the extent of this community center so that we can focus on additional needs.
2. We believe it would be useful to list locations of existing community services around town.
3. We will check to see if the field analysis done about 6 years ago (Friends of Recreation?) suggested changes in configuration that would impact our study.
4. We will ask representatives of several types of users (artists, child care providers, dance groups) to provide us with a “sales pitch” explaining how Cubberley benefits them, how they benefit the community, and how they might coexist with an open school or schools on the site. This will help us define a vision for a future community center.