Call to Order / Roll Call
6:04 pm

Rachael Tanner, Assistant Director explained how public comments could be made using the Zoom App. Written comments were encouraged to be submitted via email to the Planning and Transportation Commission’s (PTC) email on the City’s website. The meeting was being held both via teleconference, video conference and in person at the City Council Chambers.

Madina Klicheva, Administrative Assistant, conducted the roll and announced all Commissioners were present with the exception of Vice-Chair Summa.

1. Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing Use of Teleconferencing for Planning and Transportation Commission Meetings During Covid-19 State of Emergency

MOTION
Commissioner Chang motioned to adopt the resolution.

SECOND
Commissioner Hechtman seconded.

Madina Klicheva, Administrative Assistant, called the roll and announced that the motion carried 7-0.

MOTION PASSED 6(Chang, Hechtman, Lauing, Reckdahl, Roohparvar, Templeton) -0 -1(Summa absent)

Commission Action: Motion by Chang, seconded by Hechtman. Motion Passed 6-0 (Summa absent)

Oral Communications
The public may speak to any item not on the agenda. Three (3) minutes per speaker.1,2

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Chair Lauing invited members of the public to address the Commission on items, not on the agenda.

Madina Klicheva, Administrative Assistant, began calling speakers for oral communications.

Rebecca Eisenberg strongly encouraged the Commission to consider environmental consequences when making decisions. Also, the Brown Act was clear that individuals representing the applicant can only speak during their time and cannot speak as part of the community.

Ms. Klicheva announced there were no more public comments.

**Agenda Changes, Additions and Deletions**

The Chair or Commission majority may modify the agenda order to improve meeting management.

Chair Lauing announced there were no agenda changes, additions or deletions.

**City Official Reports**

2. Directors Report, Meeting Schedule and Assignments

Rachael Tanner, Assistant Director, reported City Staff will begin to reoccupy City Hall and the Development Center has in-person as well as virtual appointments available. Council recently considered the Housing Element site selection and they motioned to adopt the sites. In their motion, they also directed Staff to do additional work. Council also considered an ordinance regarding Senate Bill (SB) 9 regarding lot splits and adopting Objective Standards. The Commission will soon be considering the permanent ordinance for SB 9 at a future meeting. Council directed Staff to identify properties that have been identified as eligible for listing on the National and/or State Historic Registers and to evaluate if those structures should be listed locally. The process would provide protections from SB 9 for those properties. Council did not change the process of how a property becomes listed on a historic registry. Typically, a homeowner of the historic structure begins the process but Council had directed Staff to be more proactive. The City’s Code does not require a property owner to support the Historic Resources Board (HRB) and the Council to explore and list the structure as a historic resource, but the City will be pursuing a collaborative process with homeowners.

Commissioner Chang asked how delayed will the South Palo Alto Bikeways Project be due to Council relinquishing funding and will the project team have to start from the beginning with planning and outreach?

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Ms. Tanner answered she was not familiar with how the reapplication process works for the grant. If it took several grant cycles to receive the funding, the City may have to redo some of the work to include all community members.

Sylvia Star-Lack, Transportation Manager, confirmed the work will help Staff complete the new grant application. The grant that was relinquished was for construction funding only and the City was funding the design of the project. Staff believed relinquishing the funding helped Staff have more time to plan a better project.

Commissioner Chang inquired when will the City know it has received the grant.

Ms. Star-Lack mentioned Staff was exploring several grants. The City will apply to the Bay Area Cycle Three grant in June of 2022 and should know by December 2022 if the City was awarded it.

**Consent Calendar**

3. Staff Recommend the Planning and Transportation Commission (PTC) adopts the 2022-2023 Work Plan and Forward the Plan to Council for Consideration and Approval.

Rachael Tanner, Assistant Director, explained the Consent Calendar was intended to have routine items that capture the consent of the Commission and not be discussed. If the Commission wanted to have a discussion, she suggested there be a vote to pull the item from the Consent Calendar and then hear the item at the end of the meeting. She reminded the Commission that a simple majority vote is needed to approve the Consent Calendar. If approved, the Work Plan will be forwarded to Council who may wish to make further refinements.

Commissioner Hechtman asked what the process is for asking questions regarding the Work Plan.

Albert Yang, Assistant City Attorney, confirmed the Commission can ask questions now. He recommended the Chair open the item for public comment before a vote is taken.

Commissioner Hechtman believed a vote was not needed to remove the item from the Consent Calendar.

Ms. Tanner reflected Council’s process was to have a majority vote to remove an item from the Consent Calendar.

Mr. Yang confirmed to remove an item required a motion and a second but no vote.

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Commissioner Hechtman stated the version of the Work Plan in the Packet was missing information for Project Goals 2, 7, 12 and 13. Regarding Project Goals 2 and 7, the box for the measure of success was blank.

Ms. Tanner apologized and remarked the Work Plan will be amended before it goes to Council. Some boxes were left blank intentionally because the information did not apply to the item.

Commissioner Hechtman pointed out Project Goal 12, the last column regarding a yes, no or not applicable was blank.

Ms. Tanner believed those should be marked yes.

Commissioner Hechtman commented Project Goal 13 was completely blank other than the description of the goal.

Ms. Tanner confirmed that was an error. She noted all of the Staff Board and Commission liaisons will be involved in a hearing with City Council to discuss the Work Plan. She suggested Staff revise the Work Plan and bring it back to the April 20th PTC meeting.

Commissioner Hechtman recalled providing clean-up language for the face page of the Work Plan at the retreat but none of those recommendations were reflected in the Work Plan.

Ms. Tanner noted a bullet was added at the end of the Mission Statement regarding land use planning.

Commissioner Hechtman felt Staff could make the changes and the item would not need to come back to the Commission for further review.

Commissioner Templeton believed the Commission should pull the item and discuss it. She recommended the Work Plan be changed to a draft if Council had to see it before the Commission had time to approve it.

Chair Lauing supported making the Work Plan a draft and discussing it at the next meeting.

Commissioner Templeton confirmed she would second a motion if another Commissioner wanted to pull the item from the Consent Calendar.

Ms. Tanner reiterated the Commission could pull the item from the Consent Calendar and if there was not enough time at the end of the meeting to discuss the item. The Commission could take up the item at the April 20, 2022 PTC meeting.

MOTION

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Commissioner Hechtman moved to pull Item Three, the PTC 2022-2023 Work Plan from Consent and continue it to the April 20, 2022 meeting.

SECOND

Commissioner Templeton seconded.

Mr. Yang recommended the Commission open the item for public comment and then take a vote.

Madina Klicheva, Administrative Assistant, called on the first speaker but after having technical difficulties she moved to the next speaker.

Rebecca Eisenberg explained the Consent Calendar procedures and agreed with Commissioners Hechtman and Templeton to remove the item from the Consent Calendar for further discussion. Also, the Work Plan was an incomplete draft and needed further refinement. She recommended the Commission discuss the prioritization of the Work Plan initiatives.

Ms. Klicheva announced the next speaker was Jochen Profit but acknowledged that Mr. Profit continued to have technical difficulties.

Ms. Tanner suggested Mr. Profit call into the meeting.

VOTE

Chair Lauing requested a roll call vote on the motion.

Ms. Klicheva conducted the vote and announced that the motion passed 6-0.

MOTION PASSED 6(Chang, Hechtman, Lauing, Reckdahl, Roohparvar, Templeton) -0 -1 (Summa absent)

Commission Action: Motion by Hechtman, seconded by Templeton. Motion passed 6-0 (Summa absent)

Action Items

Public Comment is Permitted. Applicants/Appellant Teams: Fifteen (15) minutes, plus three (3) minutes rebuttal. All others: Five (5) minutes per speaker.


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Parking Garages. Zone District: R1(10,000). Environmental Review: The Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was Published July 30, 2020 and the Draft EIR was Published July 15, 2019

Chair Lauing read the title of the item into the record and then invited Commissioners to share their recusals.

Commissioner Reckdahl announced that per direction from the City Attorney’s Office, he would be recusing himself from the item.

Commissioner Hechtman reminded the Commission that the item was not only quasi-judicial but also legislative due to the adoption of the Text Amendment.

Chair Lauing inquired if the Commissioners had any disclosures they would like to make. Seeing none he remarked the process was to receive Staff’s presentation. Then Commissioners will be allowed to ask questions and then public comment will be opened. The intention was to continue the item to the April 20, 2022 PTC meeting.

Rachael Tanner, Assistant Director introduced Amy French, and Osma Thompson, the Chair of the Architectural Review Board (ARB), and noted Office of Transportation Staff.

Amy French, Chief Planning Official, remarked the goal was to hear public comment and the applicant’s rebuttal to public comment. The item will be continued to April 20, 2022, to enable Planning and Transportation Commission (PTC) to discuss and make a recommendation to City Council. On January 19, 2022, PTC meeting, the Commission conducted 10 straw polls on seven topics. Seven of the polls were unanimous and two of the polls were split votes. There was consensus that the PTC did not need additional information regarding the Residential Parking Program (RPP) and the alternative campus, which left five topics which are coming back now to the PTC. These included the Text Amendment, enrollment increases, Traffic Demand Management Plan (TDM), parking options and special events. She invited the ARB Chair to summarize the ARB’s reviews.

Osma Thompson, Chair of the ARB, commented the ARB was directed to review the façade facing Kellogg Avenue and the parking garage options. The ARB recently acquired two new Members and those members could not vote on the project. They provided their feedback and engaged in the discussion. With respect to Kellogg Avenue, the ARB unanimously voted to revert the right side of the Kellogg façade to the original elevation and that the applicant study a hybrid option for the middle section. With respect to the parking garage options, the ARB supported a hybrid approach between Options D and E. They supported the relocation of the pool in Option E but the larger parking garage in Option D.

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Ms. French moved to the Gross Floor Area (GFA) Text Amendment and noted Staff provided their response to the applicant’s January 12, 2022 letter as Attachment F. PTC recommended Staff study a broader GFA Ordinance and this broadening is discussed in the body of the Staff report. Staff highlighted discussion about broadening the ordinance by reducing the threshold of acreage for the Text Amendment. If reduced to a 2-acre threshold to broaden, that would affect 16 R-1 Zoned properties in non-residential use. A 3-acre threshold would affect seven R-1 Zoned properties in non-residential use. A 4-acre threshold would affect 3 properties, and 5-acre threshold would affect two properties. Staff requested the PTC to determine the appropriate acreage threshold. With respect to phased enrollment, Staff provided a table that outlined yearly increases in enrollment over time and the table assumed 100 percent compliance with reporting targets. Also, provided in the Staff report was a hypothetical schedule for corrective actions if Castilleja did not meet the targets. Staff encouraged the Commission to come to a consensus on enrollment to help Council make its decision. Staff did not support the concept of Castilleja coming back to the City for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) amendment each time they wished to increase enrollment. If Council approved the CUP, Castilleja will be allowed to increase its enrollment to 450 for the 2023-2024 academic year. Attachment A, the applicant’s submittal attached to the Staff report, graphically showed the enrollment increases as well as a two-phased approach before and after attainment of maximum enrollment; reflecting the maximum 383 AM peak hour trips and 1198 Average Daily Trips. With respect to the TDM plan measures, the TDM included revised language as recommended by PTC for page 26 (word cumulative adjusted) and revised conditions that shifted authority to the City’s Office of Transportation and Planning Directors to identify and require additional TDM measures to address violations. Also, a new condition, Condition #33, to establish the TDM Oversight Committee that will be activated if there is an enrollment exceedance of one of the metrics found in Condition #22. With respect to special events, PTC requested Staff provide clarification on which events were evening/weekend events. That information was provided in the Staff report along with work responsive to Council’s direction that Staff explore other Bay Area high schools and their special events. With respect to the parking garage options, Staff is on record as supporting Option E which shows 89 spaces (with 52 spaces below grade) and requires a parking adjustment of 14.4 percent or 15 spaces below the code-required 104 spaces. Attachment H of the Staff report was a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review of the two parking options, Options D and E as compared to Project Alternative Four that meets the Code’s requirement of 104 on-site parking spaces. The slides showed distribution of trips as the garage would handle 38 percent of the total AM peak trips and will serve as a drop-off and parking location. Neither Option D nor E increased adverse impacts, they further minimized the impacts. Option E protected tree #155 due to ramp removal and pool adjustment and included five additional on-site parking spaces at the Bryant Street parking lot and six more spaces near Emerson Street. Also, Option E met Council’s direction of having no more than half of the required parking spaces below grade. Staff reviewed code requirement for parking spaces based on teaching stations and grade levels of

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students, the existing spaces on the site that include tandem spaces that aren’t counted toward required spaces and clarified about existing asphalt parking near tree #89 and trellis over equipment so not counted as floor area. Finally, staff showed a chart shown previously in December 2021 about how the TDM program affected parking demand.

Chair Lauing invited the applicant to proceed with their presentation.

Nanci Kauffman, Head of School for Castilleja, announced the goal of the project was to update the campus, reduce neighborhood impacts and expand educational opportunities for young women. She remarked the application for Castilleja was in alignment with Palo Alto’s Comprehensive Plan and over the past 9-years the school had proved it can reduce traffic trips through TDM. Also, the proposed building conformed to R-1 height limits, reduced GFA and was compatible with the residential character of the neighborhood. The application reduced at-grade parking, increased green space and met the City’s sustainability goals. She highlighted the summary in the Staff report that stated increased enrollment would not be detrimental or injurious to property or improvements in the vicinity. Also, the increased enrollment was not detrimental to the public, health, safety, or general welfare. The proposal was built on compromises between the school, neighbors, and the City. She introduced the applicant team.

Mindie Romanowsky, land use counsel for Castilleja School, requested that PTC honor City Council’s motion from March 29, 2021, that was prescriptive and narrowly tailored, by not introducing new concepts for the parking garage or adding new conditions related to enrollment. With respect to parking, the below-grade parking garage was an environmentally superior way to reduce surface-level parking and was strongly encouraged by the City’s Comprehensive Plan. Castilleja supports the hybrid parking solution the ARB recommended. She emphasized that there is no correlation between the size of the garage and the number of cars coming to the campus, noting if Castilleja violates stringent car trips in the EIR and conditions of approval, they will be subject to penalties including reducing student enrollment. With respect to the Text Amendment, she noted the Text Amendment restricted underground parking which conflicted with the Comprehensive Plan. Previously, the City approved an underground garage for non-residential use in an R-1 Zone and did not count it towards floor area. Also, the March 29, 2021 City Council motion did not recommend a broad GFA Ordinance. She encouraged PTC to not recommend the Text Amendment because it was not legally necessary and was arbitrary and confusing. With respect to enrollment, the school would only increase enrollment if it can comply with trip caps as an appropriate method. Castilleja can be trusted with trip thresholds, as monitoring reports submitted twice yearly over nine years have demonstrated compliance. If approved, the project will be subject to a highly stringent and detailed set of conditions with checks, balances, and penalties.

Adam Woltag, WRNS Studio and architect of the project, articulated that the new campus maintains or improves existing setbacks and the central campus circle has been reduced inside

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and repositioned. The new buildings also respect the height restriction of 30-feet, where the current building on site is taller at 34’6”.

Parking Alternative Four proposed a below-grade pool location and service drive that allowed trash and deliveries to be done underground. Parking Option E moved the pool over and placed service delivery at grade, and eliminated the need for the below-grade driveway. He briefly reviewed the elevations for the structures from Bryant Street, Kellogg Avenue and Emerson Street. He highlighted that the staff preferred Parking Option E will include an acoustic screen wall along Emerson Street to reduce noise and take in solar energy. With respect to GFA, the new design has less above grade GFA than the existing facility. Both Options D and E for the parking garage protect the redwood trees along the south side of the playfields and both require parking adjustments. He noted the ARB’s hybrid parking was an elegant solution which blends the below grade parking spaces from Option D’s (requiring less parking adjustment), and the above grade tree preservation measures of Option E. The new campus has many elements to improve sustainability and help the City reach its sustainability goals. He shared a 3-D video of how the new campus will look.

Ms. Tanner inquired if the application has a 3-minute rebuttal period after public comment?

Mr. Yang confirmed that is correct.

Chair Lauing invited the Commissioners to ask clarifying questions of Staff or the applicant team.

Commissioner Hechtman mentioned he will hold his questions until after public comment.

Commissioner Chang asked what trees will be impacted by the larger underground hybrid parking option. Also, which trees are positively affected by shifting the pool in Option E.

Ms. French mentioned trees #89 and #87 will benefit from the pool shifting over and Option E also saved tree #155. Option D was closer to the trees along the playing field than Option E.

Commissioner Chang inquired what the distance is between the trees near the playing field and Option D vs Option E.

Ms. Romanowsky mentioned even though Option D is larger, the garage still fell outside of the Tree Protection Zones (TPZ) for the trees along the playing fields.

Mr. Woltag added Option E was 20-feet farther away from the TPZ than Option D.

Commissioner Chang mentioned tree #6 and tree #22 and inquired if Option D would be up against their TPZ.

Mr. Woltag confirmed that is correct.

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1. Commissioner Roohparvar understood the parking hybrid option would still conform to less GFA on the site than existing conditions.

2. Ms. French answered that is correct, for the above grade gross floor area.

3. Mr. Yang mentioned there is a question about what gets counted as GFA and if the hybrid option exceeds 50% parking spaces, the below grade garage would be counted as GFA. Then the hybrid would not supply more above grade GFA, but if Council sticks with will supply more GFA which may pass existing conditions.

4. Commissioner Roohparvar inquired if the hybrid option exceeded the Council’s direction of having 50 percent of the parking underground.

5. Ms. French articulated Option D had 69 spaces below-grade of the 104 total required spaces. Option E had 52 spaces below grade and Option E met the Council’s direction that no more than 50 percent of the required spaces shall be below grade.

6. Chair Lauing wanted to know which option Staff supported.

7. Ms. French confirmed Staff supported Parking Option E because it met the Council’s directive to only put 50% of the required spaces below grade.

8. Mr. Yang expressed that Option E saved more trees compared to Option D, and Option E had the same tree protections as the hybrid option.

9. Chair Lauing invited the Chair of the ARB to explain why the ARB felt a hybrid option should be created.

10. Ms. Thompson stated the ARB recognized Option D underground did not appear to affect the trees and therefore favored the underground portion of Option D over Option E because they took to heart that the Comprehensive Plan advocates for more parking to be below grade, but wanted to merge it with the tree-protective aspect of Option E.

11. Chair Lauing asked if there is a risk of queuing if the drop-off is done inside the garage.

12. Ms. Romanowsky clarified Project Alternative Four used a distributed drop-off with drops inside the garage as well as at strategic locations around campus. The alternative was studied and was deemed environmentally superior due to its less than significant impact on queuing.

13. Ms. Thompson noted the Kellogg driveway would have drop offs.

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Ms. French highlighted that Kellogg Avenue circular driveway would receive 30 percent of drop-offs in the morning, Bryant Street circular driveway would receive 32 percent of morning drop-offs and the parking garage driveways would receive 38 percent of the morning drop-offs.

Commissioner Chang inquired if the ARB’s recommendation regarding changes to the façade along Kellogg Avenue changed the GFA for the project.

Ms. Thompson mentioned the changes proposed pertained to glazing which doesn’t effect GFA, as well as retaining the trellis and the planter.

Ms. French confirmed there would be no volumetric difference regarding the proposed height change by ARB.

Ms. Romanowsky stated there would be no GFA change.

Chair Lauing asked what measures can be implemented if the TDM fails.

Kathy Layendecker, Associate Head of School for Castilleja, articulated many elements can be changed if trip caps are exceeded, such as more shuttles, and off-site parking facilities.

Commissioner Chang highlighted there is a potential to lose Impact Fee revenue if the Text Amendment is approved and she asked for a range of how much that would be?

Ms. Tanner mentioned Staff has not calculated the fees.

Ms. French clarified Impact Fees are calculated for additions of GFA and there was no new above ground GFA proposed in the project. If the parking option D were to be counted towards GFA then Staff would have to calculate the Impact Fee.

Commissioner Chang highlighted she wanted to understand the impact of the ordinance if approved on revenue to the City. She requested that information be presented at the next meeting.

Ms. Tanner cautioned about bringing back new information to the next meeting.

Ms. French stated if the ordinance is broadened, then it would affect more parcels seeking an underground garage that go over the 50 percent of required parking underground in an R-1 Zone. Those parking garages would be counted towards GFA.

Commissioner Chang recalled enrollment increases were once proposed to be tied to the construction schedule. She asked how does the construction schedule overlay with enrollment increases? She predicted that increased enrollment and construction trips would push the school over its trip cap.

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Ms. French confirmed the original proposal did have enrollment increases tied to milestones of construction. Council later approved Castilleja to go to 450 students after the CUP is approved.

Commissioner Chang asked how were the TDM monitoring timeframes chosen.

Ms. French encouraged Commissioner Chang to reference Condition of Approval #23 which included specificity regarding the timeframes.

Mr. Yang predicted that $320,000 would be lost in Impact Fees if the garage is not counted against GFA.

Commissioner Templeton inquired if Impact Fees should be discussed at this time.

Mr. Yang understood Commissioner Chang's questions regarding Impact Fees related to her consideration of the Text Amendment.

Commissioner Templeton understood if the Text Amendment is broadly applied then the PTC can consider the general impact on the City. She encouraged Staff to interject if the Commission goes outside of scope.

Commissioner Roohparvar asked if below-grade parking facility is defined elsewhere in the Code.

Mr. Yang stated below-grade parking facility is not defined independently. The Code does define at-grade and below-grade and also defines parking facility.

Commissioner Roohparvar requested a summary slide that highlighted the focus areas for the next meeting.

Mr. Yang affirmed Staff has a summary slide.

Chair Lauing invited members of the public to provide their comments. He noted individual speakers will have 3-minutes to speak and groups will have 10-minutes to speak.

Bill Burch, who represented a group of five people, spoke in support of Castilleja’s proposed project. Castilleja is only a few years younger than the City of Palo Alto and its campus has been frozen in time. Other schools in the City have been allowed to update their facilities as well as many homes. He supported Castilleja’s efforts to become a more environmentally sustainable facility. The proposed changes decreased the size of the school and mitigated the school's impacts on the neighborhoods as well as the environment. Since 2013, the school has reduced daily car trips by 31 percent and will be required to remain at the reduced level for the future no matter how many students are added. Also, Castilleja has reduced the number of special events by 30 percent, limited hours of operations and worked under a very restrictive CUP.

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Regarding the scale, activities are drawn into the center of the campus and buildings are pulled away from neighboring homes. Rooflines are lower and keep the scale and shape of the neighboring homes. Regarding GFA, the proposal includes smaller structures than existing and fell below the current permits. The school pre-dated zoning, current residents and was requesting to change, not grow. He mentioned Council directed PTC to find a path for enrollment increases from 450 to 540. Not to deliberate a different number and/or create a new process for applying for a CUP amendment for every enrollment increase. The accountability measures for enrollment were built into the Conditions of Approval and CUPs should not become annual processes. He urged the PTC to support the project.

Jeff Levinsky, who presented a group of five people, explained Council directed Staff and PTC to consider exempting a specific size of the underground garage from GFA or to consider more GFA. He mentioned per his calculation, the Impact Fee amount presented by Mr. Yang was very low and requested Staff provide a breakdown of how that amount was calculated. With respect to the Variance, he mentioned a Variance is only required for special circumstances. In the Staff report, Staff referred to Castilleja as being an R-1 (10,000) Zone when it is located in the R-1 Zone. If approved, Castilleja would be allowed to build more floor areas than other R-1 lots. Castilleja requested a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 0.48 but 0.48 FAR did not qualify for a Variance because no other property is allowed that amount in an R-1 Zone. The Code also expressly excluded personal circumstances of the property owner which disqualified it from the Variance. Also, the Code stated that any changes in size or shape of the subject property should be excluded from the Variance process. Castilleja increased their property size in the year 1992. Special privileges are not allowed per the Code and Castilleja was requesting a FAR of .048 when many surrounding properties were subject to 0.45 FAR. The Variance should not be approved for those detailed reasons. He expressed confusion about the sentence in the ARB Staff report that pool equipment would be in an area below grade under a portion of the bleachers. There has been no discussion of bleachers above ground and the noise impacts they will have on the neighborhood. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) did not consider above-ground bleachers and it stated that loudspeakers at the pool would be evaluated after the CUP has been granted per Mitigation Measure (MM) 8A. He suggested the proposal clarify where the bleachers will be located. Also, to fix MM 8A to study the combination of the loudspeakers and the noise from the bleachers and pool. He recommended changing the CUP language regarding the pool noise and that monitoring begin on the day the pool opens.

Mary Sylvester, who spoke on behalf of five people, shared she is a neighbor near Castilleja and was concerned about the proposed project. She indicated the project proposed 50,000 square feet over what was allowed per the Municipal Code. The proposed pool posed a threat to Palo Alto’s groundwater. None of the proposed parking options were ideal for the neighborhood. The underground garage will greatly impact the environment by removing the soil, disrupting the groundwater and having tons of cement, producing Greenhouse Gas emissions, to be poured into the ground. The traffic plan as proposed by Castilleja did not have a net-zero

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carbon impact as it will increase car trips to the school. She shared that the existing campus’s GFA was not accurately counted and was currently over the limit of allowable GFA as outlined in the Dudek report. With respect to enrollment, the school has a history of violating enrollment caps. She recommended Castilleja be held to 450 students for some time to demonstrate they can follow the law. The neighbors have had to struggle with Castilleja and City Staff to save tree #89 and the grove of redwood trees.

Andie Reed, representing PNQLnow.org and a group of five people, shared she is a neighbor near Castilleja. She stated PNQL supports the school’s effort to modernize its campus but within Code and within reason. Neighbors have not been included in the process at all. Comments made by the neighbors are never addressed and the CUP included conditions that benefited Castilleja and not the neighbors. Many neighbors came together to discuss and draft their own CUP for the project. This was presented to City Staff in August of 2019 and planning Staff never responded nor included neighbors in the drafting of the proposed CUP. She expressed again that the neighbors reported the school to the City for over-enrollment, not Castilleja self-reporting it. With respect to special events, neighbors have complained about events at the school. Staff has never asked neighbors about their experiences with events and how events impact them. She could not support allowing Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) to use Castilleja’s campus and not have those occurrences count towards events. She pointed out TMD #20 which stated that the TDM will be finalized 60-days after Council approval. She requested that the TDM be finalized before the item goes to Council. She highlighted that the comparable schools listed in the Staff report were not apples-to-apples comparisons. Castilleja is far denser than other schools within the City.

Neva Yarkin, a neighbor of Castilleja, believed that increasing enrollment to 540 would lead to more traffic congestion in the area because many of the students come from outside of Palo Alto. She urged PTC to limit the expansion of Castilleja School.

Hank Sousa understood that the existing 89 parking spaces are enough to allow Castilleja to increase enrollment without building an underground garage. He recommended leaving the pool where it currently was, Castilleja retain the existing parking and modernize the buildings with no underground garage.

Rob Levitsky, the homeowner of a property adjacent to Castilleja, was disappointed to hear that the Urban Forestry Department was not represented at the meeting. He confirmed the Urban Forestry Department has approved Option E for the underground parking garage to protect the trees. Tree roots go where the water is and where not contained in the circle outlined on the plans. He expressed concern about the impacts of having underground classrooms with no access to light and air. An ARB Member remarked that he did not support having skylights be the source of light in the underground classrooms.

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Rebecca Eisenberg urged PTC to deny the project and use City and Staff resources for other projects greatly needed in the City. She noted that the Municipal Code stated that CUPs cannot be granted if the applicant will result in potential harm to the health, safety or convenience of the vicinity.

Lorrainie Brown emphasized the application is a campus modernization, not an expansion. It was inaccurate to state that the existing school was over its allowable square footage when the school operated under a CUP. Castilleja's existing FAR was 0.51 and the proposed FAR was 0.48. She mentioned that the enrollment of 540 students was contingent upon the school being successful with its TDM. She urged PTC to make a final decision and approve the project.

The Commission took a short break.

Jochen Profit reminded the Commission that 540 students was not just a number but individual women seeking an education. The school will only be allowed to enroll 540 students if the school can successfully implement its TDM plan and keep car trips under the cap. He did not support a process where the school would return each year for a CUP amendment to increase enrollment.

Roger L. McCarthy, who spoke on behalf of a group of five people, supported Castilleja's proposal and urged PTC to approve it as expeditiously as possible the proposal. Through the long and drawn-out process, many young women have missed the opportunity to receive an education from the school. He mentioned he had no connection with Castilleja and his interest in the school was to promote more women to go into the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. Many studies have concluded that young women can develop and grow leadership skills faster in an all-girls school environment. Castilleja can play a role in educating more girls to help increase the presence of women in the drastically overpopulated male STEM fields. Castilleja's project has been delayed every time they reach a compromise with the neighbors and the City. He agreed that the school must remain under the trip count cap to increase enrollment to 540 students. He highlighted that PTC already once recommended approval of the underground garage and the Council denied the approval. This action delayed the project once again. With respect to square footage, the City has done its diligence to count exactly what the existing square footage is on the parcels. The new arguments about square footage were another tactic to delay the project yet again. He summarized the underground garage is permitted under the current Municipal Code, the new building's square footage is below the allowable GFA and enrollment was contingent upon strict traffic limits.

Stewart Raphael expressed frustration that the enrollment increases were still being discussed. The school has proven over several years that it has been successful in reducing car trips to campus with its existing TDM plan. He pointed out the EIR assessed traffic and found there will

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be no negative impacts on traffic related to the underground garage as long as there is a
distributed drop-off/pick-up plan.

Priya Chandrasekar commented that because Palo Alto is at the epicenter of innovation, the
City should shepherd all forms of education in the Community. She commented that a small
group of residents are opposing the project and they should not stand in the way of educating
more women for the future. She encouraged a collaborative approach to make the community
stronger and thrive.

Jason Stinson found asking any school to reduce its event is detrimental to the student
wellbeing and positive student outcomes. The COVID-19 Pandemic highlighted this and showed
that teens and young adults need these experiences. He mentioned the many benefits the
project will have for students, the neighborhood and the community. Building for the future
required compromise and Castilleja has compromised many times over the years. He
encouraged PTC to recommend approval of the project

Ms. Tanner inquired if the Chair was interested in closing the list for public comment.
Chair Lauing approved closing the list for public comment.
Ms. Tanner requested speakers to raise their hands and the list will be closed shortly.

Julia Ishiyama acknowledged that the Commission has heard from many of the public speakers
before and has received the same feedback again and again. Castilleja’s proposal abided by the
Comprehensive Plan, helped further the City’s sustainability goals, reduced car trips,
maintained the character of the neighborhood and will enrich the community. The proposal
also preserved existing landscaping and will plant 103 new trees. She supported and
encouraged PTC to again recommended the approval of the project to City Council.

Maya Blumenfeld supported the project and highlighted Castilleja’s commitment to TDM. The
underground garage will remove cars from the streets and view.

Kimberley Wong proclaimed that even after all the revisions to the plans, Castilleja was not
proposing a safe or environmentally friendly campus. The safety of students, Staff, residents
and neighbors still needed to be addressed. The underground garage posed huge
environmental concerns, cars coming across the bike lanes to exit the garage was a safety
concern, students walking under the sewer line through a tunnel exposed them to environmental
hazards and underground classrooms to light and air would impact students' physical and
mental states. She requested the PTC recommend the project be tabled until the safety
concerns have been addressed.

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Bill Ross aligned his comments with Mr. Levinsky’s comments with respect to Staff’s incomplete analysis regarding the Variance. He believed there was no substantial evidence to support granting the Variance and the Staff report did not explain how the specific standards of a Variance are to be granted. He recommended the City provide an objective analysis of whether the Variance standards have been met.

Susie Hwang, a former Castilleja parent and a neighbor of Castilleja, expressed her appreciation for the school for its education and supported the application if it adheres to the same rules that are applied to other applicants. She noted she did not support Castilleja’s requested enrollment increase because the increase was inappropriate for a modest residential parcel. She mentioned 1-year before Castilleja admitted being over-enrolled, parents often discussed the violation. There is a lack of transparency between Castilleja’s Board and parents on increased enrollment.

Bill King, spoke on behalf of a group of five people, shared he is a near neighbor to the school and supported the project. He encouraged the PTC to support ARB’s proposal of the hybrid option for the parking garage. Castilleja recently changed the proposal and reduced the square footage so that it conformed with its current CUP. The new structures resemble the character of the neighborhood and respect the setbacks. He agreed that the application contained a lower FAR than the existing facility and he did not find the argument that the facility should follow R-1 construction requirements applicable. He questioned why the City would apply R-1 residential zoning requirements to a structure that will improve the lives of many people. He highlighted that there were no guarantees that the school will reach its desired enrollment of 540 students because it has to prove it can keep car trips down before increasing the student body.

Kathleen Foley-Hughes hoped the PTC saw both the sincerity and teeth behind the MM. She agreed the school will have to prove that it can limit car trips before it is allowed to increase enrollment. The Comprehensive Plan encouraged TDM Plans and collaborative efforts between applicants and the City. The proposed parking structure was such collaboration and followed the Comprehensive Plan.

Lian Bi supported a parking option that moved more cars below grade and away from the bike boulevard. She encouraged the PTC to recommend the hybrid parking option to Council for consideration.

Tony Hughes remarked that change, development and growth are not always bad. Castilleja creates benefits for the City and young women. He supported the project as presented.

Roy Maydan requested PTC support Castilleja’s project. He supported the hybrid option for the parking garage as well as the pool location recommended by the ARB.

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4. Ms. Klicheva shared that as a neighbor to the school he has witnessed impacts from daily traffic, dense neighborhood parking and school-related noise. He recommended PTC expand the TDM to include vehicles providing services to the school and modify the CUP to limit activities. He was concerned about how traffic will be measured during construction. He requested enrollment not be increased until construction is completed.

5. Ms. Klicheva announced there were no more public speakers.

6. Chair Lauing thanked all of the public speakers for their comments. He invited the application to provide their rebuttal.

7. Ms. Romanowsky emphasized that the findings for both the Variance and the CUP are well documented and supported by substantial evidence. If approved, the proposal will bring the school into further compliance with the Municipal Code. With respect to the pool and noise, the noise was studied and a mitigation measure has been put in place to reduce noise to less than significant. With respect to Impact Fees, per Council’s motion Impact Fees would not be charged because there was no new GFA if it is less than 50 percent. She reminded the Commission that the project was a product of compromise between the neighbors, City and Castilleja.

MOTION

8. Commissioner Hechtman moved to continue the item to a date certain of April 20, 2022 and to pick up the topic with Commission deliberation.

9. SECOND

10. Commissioner Chang seconded.

VOTE

11. Ms. Klicheva conducted a roll call vote and announced the motion passed 5-0 with Commissioner Reckdahl recused and Vice-Chair Summa absent.

12. MOTION PASSED 5(Chang, Hechtman, Lauing, Roohparvar, Templeton) -0 -1(Summa absent) -1(Reckdahl recused)

13. Commission Action: Motion by Hechtman, seconded by Chang. Motion Passed 5-0 (Reckdahl recused) (Summa absent)

5. PUBLIC HEARING / LEGISLATIVE. Recommendation of an Ordinance Amending Title 18 (Zoning) of the Palo Alto Municipal Code, Chapters 18.04 (Definitions), 18.16 (Neighborhood, Community, and Service Commercial (CN, CC and CS) Districts), 18.18

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Chair Lauing predicted the item will be complicated and Council did not provide clear direction on what they were asking PTC to review. He invited the Staff to make their presentation.

Rachael Tanner, Assistant Director, mentioned the item was on a tight timeline but the Commission could continue the item to their April 27, 2022 meeting.

Sheldon Ah Sing, Planner, reported Staff recommended the Commission recommend to Council to adopt the ordinance amending the Zoning Code for certain retail use definitions, limiting certain uses and relaxing conditional use thresholds for certain uses. To address the vacancies that were seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Staff was directed to return to Council with a temporary ordinance to help streamline the approval process for specific uses. Staff presented a temporary ordinance to Council who expressed concerns about the proposal. The Council directed Staff to explore six motion items on March of 2021. By April of 2021, all of the actions were incorporated into the adopted temporary ordinance. The temporary ordinance included definition changes and changes to Conditional Use Permit (CUP) thresholds. With respect to the draft ordinance, Staff recommended maintaining the substantive changes from the temporary ordinance as well as changing the eating and drinking establishment definition to restaurant. Also, retain the CUP threshold regulated in different sections and maintain the prohibition of nail salons and beauty shops on California Avenue. Staff suggested PTC recommend that Council consider reducing the parking requirements for restaurants in the future due to take-out becoming a more popular option than dining in. Regarding CUP thresholds, Staff suggested moving regulations and standards from footnotes to applicable sections. Regarding fitness studios and commercial recreation occupancy, Staff recommended maintaining the threshold as the best way to define the occupancy and have a max square footage threshold of 5,000-square feet before a CUP is required. With respect to beauty shops being prohibited on California Avenue, all existing nail salons would be considered a nonconforming use subject to Municipal Code Chapter 18.70. Staff conducted public outreach through conversations with property owners, email blasts, newspaper advertisements and notifications to property owners. Staff will present the item to Council on May 2, 2022 and predicted the ordinance will be adopted and in effect by June 15, 2022.

Commissioner Reckdahl commented Council’s list of items they requested PTC to explore further is very detailed and may take a substantial amount of time to discuss. He did not object to providing an ordinance that duplicated the temporary ordinance.

Commissioner Chang inquired why the ordinance was temporary in the first place.

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Ms. Tanner clarified the ordinance is considered temporary until it is heard by the PTC. Temporary ordinances normally did not have timeframes but this specific one did.

Commissioner Chang remarked it did not make sense to take a temporary ordinance and make it permanent without knowing if the ordinance was right.

Ms. Tanner believed the PTC could recommend to Council that they extend the temporary ordinance to allow for additional time for applicants to come forward.

Commissioner Chang agreed to allow for more data and also, address the issues in concert with the work of the new retail-focused Staffing positions coming online.

Albert Yang, Assistant City Attorney, agreed the PTC can make the recommendation to Council to extend the temporary ordinance.

Commissioner Hechtman wanted to understand the timing if PTC does not recommend Council extend the temporary ordinance.

Ms. Tanner confirmed if the item was continued to the April 27, 2022 PTC meeting. The item would not be presented to Council at their May 2, 2022 meeting. With that scenario, there was a possibility of there being a gap between the temporary ordinance expiring and the permanent ordinance coming online.

Chair Lauing mentioned another option was to have a subcommittee work with Staff on the ordinance in parallel and then bring that work back to the Commission for discussion at the April 27, 2022 PTC meeting.

Commissioner Reckdahl found Chair Lauing’s proposal to be optimistic.

Commissioner Hechtman agreed with Commissioner Chang that the Commission should have a thorough discussion of the permanent ordinance. He expressed concern about recommending extending the temporary ordinance and Council not agreeing to extend it. Then there is a risk of no decision being made in time and the temporary ordinance expires with no new ordinance in place. He asked if Staff could explore if Council would consider extending the temporary ordinance to allow more time.

Chair Lauing agreed and mentioned he could discuss the topic with the Mayor. He reiterated he does not understand what Council was asking PTC to consider.

Ms. Tanner added she can talk with the City Manager to understand what Council may think of extending the temporary ordinance.

Chair Lauing invited members of the public to provide comments on the item.

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Charlie Weidanz, CEO of the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, acknowledged that the business community in Palo Alto had been struggling since the pandemic hit. The Council had economic recovery as a priority for the year 2022. The City needed to develop policies that created a vibrant downtown that retained and attracted employers and employees. The Chamber of Commerce requested the PTC prioritize a review of the entire Retail Zoning Ordinance with the goal to remove all impediments.

Chair Lauing suggested the Commission postpone the item to a date uncertain to allow for time to gauge the temperature of the Council.

Ms. Tanner inquired if Council could extend the ordinance without a recommendation from PTC.

Mr. Yang answered yes, the Council can extend the temporary ordinance.

Commissioner Hechtman inquired what information Staff was able to understand from the discussions with stakeholders.

Ms. Tanner explained at the time, the discussions focused on helping retailers stay in business. She agreed it would be beneficial to have further discussions with stakeholders to understand their situations now.

**MOTION**

Chair Lauing moved to continue the item to a date uncertain to allow for time to consult with the City Manager and Mayor.

**SECOND and VOTE**

Commissioner Chang seconded.

Madina Klicheva, Administrative Assistant, conducted a roll call vote and announced the motion passed 6-0.

**MOTION PASSED 6(Chang, Hechtman, Lauing, Reckdahl, Roohparvar, Templeton) -0- 1(Summa absent)**

**Commission Action:** Motion by Chair Lauing, seconded by Chang. Motion passed 6-0 (Summa absent)

**Approval of Minutes**

Public Comment is Permitted. Five (5) minutes per speaker.

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Madina Klicheva, Administrative Assistant, noted Commissioner Roohparvar was absent from the meeting.

MOTION

Commissioner Hechtman moved to approve the December 15, 2021 verbatim meeting minutes as revised.

SECOND

Chair Lauing seconded.

VOTE

Madina Klicheva, Administrative Assistant, conducted a roll call vote and announced the motion carried 4-0-2 with Commissioner Reckdahl and Commissioner Roohparvar abstaining and Vice-Chair Summa absent.

MOTION PASSED 4(Chang, Hechtman, Lauing, Templeton) -0-1(Reckdahl and Roohparvar abstain)- 1 (Summa absent) -

Commission Action: Motion by Hechtman, seconded by Lauing. Motion Passed 4-0-2-1 (Reckdahl and Roohparvar abstain) (Summa absent)

7. January 12, 2022 Draft Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Hechtman asked why the item was titled draft meeting minutes when it included both verbatim and summary minutes.

Madina Klicheva, Administrative Assistant, clarified the December 15, 2021 summary minutes had already been approved.

Commissioner Hechtman understood the January 12, 2022 and January 19, 2022 meeting minutes included both summary and verbatim minutes.

Ms. Klicheva confirmed that is correct.

MOTION

Commissioner Hechtman moved approval of the January 12, 2022 draft meeting minutes both verbatim and summary as revised.

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1. SECOND

2. Commissioner Roohparvar.

3. VOTE

4. Madina Klicheva, Administrative Assistant, conducted a roll call vote and announced the motion carried 6-0 with Vice-Chair Summa absent.

5. MOTION PASSED 6(Chang, Hechtman, Lauing, Reckdahl, Roohparvar, Templeton) -0-1 (Summa absent)

6. **Commission Action:** Motion by Hechtman, seconded by Roohparvar. Motion Passed 6-0 (Summa absent)

7. [The Commission moved to the January 26, 2022 draft minutes]


9. Madina Klicheva, Administrative Assistant, mentioned the January 19, 2022 meeting minutes were included in a link in the Packet. Both summary and verbatim minutes were included.

10. **MOTION**

11. Commissioner Hechtman moved approval of the January 19, 2022 draft meeting minutes both verbatim and summary as revised.

12. Ms. Klicheva reminded the Commission that Commissioner Reckdahl was recused from the meeting.

13. **SECOND**


15. Commissioner Reckdahl noted he was only recused for the Castilleja portion of the meeting.

16. Albert Yang, Assistant City Attorney, explained Commissioner Reckdahl did not have to abstain.

17. **VOTE**

18. Madina Klicheva, Administrative Assistant, conducted a roll call vote and announced the motion carried 6-0 with Vice-Chair Summa absent.

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4. [The Commission moved to the February 9, 2022 draft minutes]


Madina Klicheva, Administrative Assistant, announced Commissioner Templeton was absent from the meeting.

MOTION

Commissioner Hechtman moved approval of the January 26, 2022 draft meeting minutes both verbatim and summary as revised.

SECOND

Commissioner Chang seconded.

VOTE

Madina Klicheva, Administrative Assistant, conducted a roll call vote and announced the motion carried 5-0-1 with Commissioner Templeton abstaining and Vice-Chair Summa absent.

MOTION PASSED 5(Chang, Hechtman, Lauing, Reckdahl, Roohparvar,) -0-1 (Templeton abstain) -1 (Summa absent)

Commission Action: Motion by Hechtman, seconded by Chang. Motion Passed 5-0 (Templeton abstain)

[The Commission moved back up to the January 19, 2022 draft minutes]

10. February 9, 2022 Draft Verbatim Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Hechtman understood only verbatim minutes were available.

Madina Klicheva, Administrative Assistant confirmed that is correct.

MOTION

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1. Commissioner Hechtman moved approval of the February 9, 2022 draft verbatim meeting minutes as revised.

2. SECOND

3. Chair Lauing seconded.

4. VOTE

5. Madina Klicheva, Administrative Assistant, conducted a roll call vote and announced the motion carried 6-0 with Vice-Chair Summa absent.

6. MOTION PASSED 6(Chang, Hechtman, Lauing, Reckdahl, Roohiparvar, Templeton) -0-1 (Summa absent)

7. **Commission Action:** Motion by Hechtman, seconded by Lauing. Motion Passed 6-0 (Summa absent)

8. **Committee Items**

9. Chair Lauing announced there are no Committee items.

10. **Commissioner Questions, Comments or Announcements**

11. Commissioner Hechtman commented that during Zoom meetings, it was nice to see how many participants were attending the meeting and how many hands were raised for public comment. He inquired if Staff could explore having that information on the screen for Commissioners attending the meetings in person at City Hall to see.

12. Rachael Tanner, Assistant Director, confirmed Commissioners can bring laptops and sign in to the meeting via Zoom. She noted she will check with the IT Department to see if an iPad can be issued to Commissioners for meetings.

13. Chair Lauing announced the Mayor will be holding a Commissioner/Chair meeting on April 12, 2022.

14. Ms. Tanner announced April 9, 2022 will be the State of the City address.

15. Chair Lauing requested that the downtown in-lieu parking ban be removed from the agenda for the April 20, 2022 meeting.

16. Ms. Tanner commented she would check with Staff to see if the item can be moved.

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Chair Lauing recommended canceling the July 27, 2022 meeting.

Commissioner Templeton suggested canceling the July 13, 2022 meeting as well.

Ms. Tanner confirmed that Council will also be on break for July.

Commissioner Hechtman supported canceling the meeting before or the meeting after the canceled July 27, 2022 meeting.

Chair Lauing asked when school goes back into session.

Commissioner Roohparvar agreed with Commissioner Hechtman.

Ms. Tanner mentioned August 10th and 11th, 2022 were the first days of school.

Chair Lauing suggested canceling the July 27, 2022 meeting and then discussing later what other meeting should be canceled.

Commissioner Templeton remarked the Commission has been flexible in its meeting schedule to hold special meetings for urgent matters.

MOTION

Commissioner Hechtman moved that the PTC canceled the scheduled meeting for July 27, 2022.

SECOND

Commissioner Chang seconded.

VOTE

Madina Klicheva, Administrative Assistant, conducted a roll call vote and announced the motion carried 6-0 with Vice-Chair Summa absent.

MOTION PASSED 6(Chang, Hechtman, Lauing, Reckdahl, Roohparvar, Templeton) -0-1 (Summa absent)

Commission Action: Motion by Hechtman, seconded by Lauing. Motion Passed 6-0 (Summa absent)

Chair Lauing adjourned the meeting.

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Adjournment

11:00