

Special Meeting  
February 13, 2007

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Chairperson Barton called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Council Conference Room, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California.

Present: Barton, Cordell, Drekmeier

Absent: Kleinberg

1. Oral Communications

None.

Chairperson Barton noted that the Policy and Services Committee (P&S) would meet at 6 p.m. for the remainder of the year.

2. Approval of Policy Addressing Agreement for Shared Use of Parkland

Assistant City Manager Emily Harrison stated in response to a Grand Jury finding and recommendation, the policy addressing agreements for and public notification of shared use of dedicated parkland has been developed. Adoption of the policy would complete the City's commitment to the Grand Jury to develop a policy for shared use agreements.

Council Member Cordell questioned Item No. 2 in the Procedures requesting assurance that the posting of the shared use would be visible and remains in place for the length of the agreement.

Mr. Harrison confirmed that would be the procedure.

Chairperson Barton advised he was familiar with the agreement, which has worked well for both the City and the PAUSD.

**MOTION:** Council Member Cordell moved, seconded by Drekmeier, that the Policy and Services Committee recommend to the City Council approval of a policy addressing agreements for the public notification of shared use of dedicated parkland.

**MOTION PASSED** 3-0, Kleinberg absent.

3. Colleague's Memo from Council Members Cordell and Drekmeier regarding the Request to Consider Renaming a Park or City Facility in Palo Alto in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King

Council Member Drekmeier commented the initial request was for staff to investigate renaming a street for the King Family, but it has been determined it would be more appropriate and meaningful to rename a City facility such as, City Hall Plaza, Lytton Plaza, the Friendship pedestrian bridge between the Palo Alto Baylands and East Palo Alto, the Main Library or the Baylands Athletic Center.

Council Member Cordell stated the first choice would be to rename City Hall Plaza because it is a free speech zone and where many rallies take place. Staff would work with the Historical Association to review this selection and bring a recommendation back to P&S.

Council Member Drekmeier stated, and the Committee recommended, art be incorporated in the Plaza that reflects the Kings.

**MOTION:** Council Member Cordell moved, seconded by Drekmeier, to direct City staff to further explore the possibility of renaming the City Hall Plaza in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King and return to the Policy and Services Committee with a recommendation.

**MOTION PASSED** 3-0, Kleinberg absent

#### 4. Council Referral of Draft Public/Private Partnership Policy

Assistant City Manager Harrison referred to the matrix, which defined the various types of public/private/non-profit partnerships and provided examples of each type.

Director of Community Services Richard James noted the original intent was to review all types of partnerships and attempt to formalize or codify some of them.

Ms. Harrison stated alliances with groups exist only to support City services.

Mr. James noted staff does not want to stop anyone from coming forward. He noted that recently the City staff was approached by a private school wanting to jointly build a gymnasium with the City, which did not proceed any further.

Council Member Cordell said the "say so" of the various groups regarding the activity is missing from the matrix.

Mr. James confirmed if it was an alliance the group would not have any say in the activity.

Council Member Cordell confirmed that alliances and co-sponsorships would not be able to tell the City how to use the facility, but she questioned the accountability and how the facility would be operated with a joint venture.

Mr. James advised with every joint venture case there would be negotiations with the City to determine the operations and there would be a contract or agreement stating the terms.

Council Member Cordell clarified all joint venture agreements or contracts would be approved by the Council. She asked if control issues would be specified and on joint venture issues how much authority would the group have to do certain things. It would be case specific and determined by each group that comes forward.

Ms. Harrison said there would be an opportunity to be more creative under joint ventures.

Council Member Cordell questioned if interested members from the public would be involved in the committees working on joint ventures.

Mr. James said it depends on the individual project. Some groups may not want public attention in the beginning.

Chairperson Barton noted that the committee composition should be determined by the City Manager.

Ms. Harrison confirmed the agreement would not be brought to Council on the Consent Calendar. The idea would be brought to Council as a recommendation for Council direction and/or Council could refer to P&S if necessary.

Mr. James noted there are joint ventures that may be policy issues, which also must be brought before Council.

Council Member Cordell referred to issues with joint ventures and existing staff, and noted she definitely would not approve anyone losing their jobs because of a joint venture. The policy does not address these facts.

Ms. Harrison said if the Committee members requested the policy could include some language regarding joint ventures and impacts on City employees' jobs.

Council Member Cordell noted she is very concerned about this issue. She would not advocate a policy that states we are going to save money, we are

going to cut costs, no matter what, and outsource, and we are sorry but all these employees are out.

Council Member Drekmeier referred to the Junior Museum and Zoo and said they were originally an alliance, but have become more of a joint venture.

Mr. James said if they go forward they would no longer be The Friends of the Junior Museum and Zoo. There would be a Board of Directors running the Junior Museum and Zoo with the power to hire directly.

Council Member Drekmeier stated the biggest challenge is what would happen to the staff. He recommended a discussion regarding that example. He also agreed with protecting staff but if a new group starts up there would be a transition from it being strictly a City program to something in-between.

Council Member Cordell said she would like to see the policy include a statement that strikes a balance with consideration to employees.

Chairperson Barton stated if the City had not established Avenidas and PACC as stand alone organizations years ago, those organizations would have served far fewer individuals and would have employed far few people than they do now. From a community service and economic standpoint, it was beneficial for those two organizations to become independent. Therefore, the broader community view must be recognized.

Ms. Harrison advised the Junior Museum and Zoo would be brought back for discussion, if desired. As staff looks towards cost reductions in the General Fund, this is only one of a number of issues. The audit recommendation was to look at the Golf Course and park maintenance areas as possible cost reductions with contracting out. The City Attorney has advised there is a strong contracting out section in the current MOA.

Chairperson Barton asked that this issue be held in the "parking lot" at this time while other issues are discussed.

Council Member Drekmeier agreed this is an important issue and the matrix explains the various types of partnerships well. He suggested deleting Friends of the Junior Museum and Zoo as an alliance because that is not what it is at this time.

Council Member Cordell requested a section be added to the matrix explaining who is in charge noting she prefers a policy that is not specific on everything.

Chairperson Barton said policies are generally statements and then a set of procedures. The policy presented merges the statement and procedures and he requested the policy statement be separated from the procedures.

Ms. Harrison stated it was a good idea and noted the policy would be brought back to Committee with the recommended changes.

Council Member Cordell commented she would like the policy to state that if transitioning to a joint venture, City employees be given priority when positions are filled. She requested a strong statement to this effect.

Ms. Harrison suggested that staff bring back language addressing this interest when revising the policy that would be brought to the Policy and Services Committee in March.

Council Member Drekmeier noted Palo Alto is a community with services that many other communities do not have and if the budget has to be cut those programs would be some of the first to be cut. Joint ventures might be able to save some of those programs.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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