

FINAL MINUTES

TOWN OF CORTE MADERA
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
MARCH 19, 2015
CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Commissioners Present: Tony Garza
Pati Stoliar
Thomas Young

Commissioners Absent: Chair Robert Czeck

Staff Present: Dan Ring, Engineer

1. Call Meeting to Order

Engineer Ring called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

2. Open Forum for Non Agenda Items

Commissioner Stoliar stated the Age Friendly Corte Madera Initiative could be viewed at the Age Friendly Corte Madera site along with the survey results. They are finished with the data collection. There are a lot of comments about safe sidewalks (the highest priority).

Commissioner Young asked if the Town would assist the elderly or people on fixed incomes in repairing their sidewalks. Engineer Ring stated “no”. Commissioner Stoliar stated it should be a requirement when a house sells. Engineer Ring stated the Town does require sidewalk repairs when a homeowner is remodeling or making substantial improvements. Commissioner Stoliar stated when a safety situation exists the Town should do the repairs and bill the homeowner. Engineer Ring stated that was something the Town Council would need to discuss.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes- May 21, 2014

M/s, Young/Stoliar and approved unanimously (Czeck absent) to approve the AAC minutes of May 21, 2014 as submitted.

4. Election of Officers

Engineer Ring suggested they continue this item to the next meeting. It was the consensus of the commission to continue this item.

5. Old Business

A. BRIP- GIS implementation

Engineer Ring presented a staff report. He referred to Section 4, Implementation, 4.2 “GIS Database” and stated they are using this information when a site is being redeveloped, the Town does a paving project, etc. He stated staff was in the process of creating a GIS system (database) from the existing spreadsheets. It is somewhat of a slow process. Commissioner Young asked how long the process would take. Engineer Ring stated it could be finished by next month.

B. BRIP- Tamalpais parking space

Engineer Ring presented a staff report. The BRIP includes a list of items that had to be completed by a specific time (Exhibit A items), Exhibit B items, and all other items. The timeframe for Exhibit A items has passed- 99.9% of these items were completed with the exception of this one location. It is a very difficult spot to create an ADA parking spot due to the grades. The Town told the plaintiff that there were other ADA parking spaces in the area but the plaintiff is insisting this item be completed as part of Exhibit A. The most favorable version of the plan was completed.

C. San Clemente Sidewalk/Bayside Trail- status of project

Engineer Ring presented a staff report. He noted this was not a BRIP item. This project was a grant associated with the high-density housing project in that area. The grant paid for improvements along the Bayside Trail and paid for a much wider paved path, more plants, benches, and a water fountain. Staff finished the project with some money remaining. Staff decided to use the remaining money to fix the sidewalk on the other side of the street (adjacent to the project). They talked to the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM), the agency responsible for the funding, about changing the scope of the grant to include disability improvements to the other side. One property owners were opposed to the changes that would be made to her property and the project was delayed. In the meantime, TAM decided the funding should be used for work on the Bayside Trail. Repairs to the San Clemente sidewalk might need to be added to the list of accessibility improvements and funded through another revenue source. There is approximately \$60,000 budgeted each year towards BRIP projects. There is currently about \$100,000 in the BRIP budget. Commissioner Garza stated there was one driveway in the area that was no longer a driveway (fenced off). Commissioner Stoliar asked if they could just do the others. Engineer Ring stated the plan was to create a continuous accessible path to get people to the Bayside Trail. Commissioner Young stated the AAC had decided years ago to make improvement to Paradise Drive as a “showpiece”.

Engineer Ring referred to the report from Coastland Engineering dated June 14, 2012 regarding proposed curb ramp/crosswalk work along Paradise Drive. The estimate from Coastland was approximately \$60,000.

Commissioner Young stated either project would fulfill the spirit of the AAC’s original agreement.

Commissioner Stoliar asked about obtaining funding from Safe Routes to Schools. Engineer Ring stated the Town just received funding from that grant for crossing improvements (flashing lights and crosswalks) on Tamalpais Drive.

Commissioner Stoliar had a question about the increase in Sales Tax rate and how that increase in revenue would be used. Engineer Ring stated an Oversight Committee has been established. Commissioner Stoliar stated that committee only reviewed how the money was spent- it was not a decision making body.

Commissioner Young asked Engineer Ring if he had any feedback about the Spindrift Drive route to the Cove School and the sidewalks at Prince Royal. Engineer Ring stated “no”. Commissioner Young stated the crossings have very high curbs and there have been several falls at night.

Commissioner Stoliar asked Engineer Ring to briefly discuss the poorly designed ADA ramps at Sanford/Tamalpais/Tamal Vista. Engineer Ring discussed Federal, State, and local funding and how the oversight differed and how ADA standards have changed since the installation of those ramps. The slope coming in and out is not in compliance, the landing is not in compliance, and the pavement in front needs to be at a certain slope and is not in compliance. Commissioner Stoliar stated she was a member of a grassroots committee called the “Save Sanford Society” whose goal is to figure out how to fix the intersection. She stated this intersection needs to be addressed. Engineer Ring stated one idea was to use the Union Bank/Peet’s Coffee parking lot as a “street” and give them a part of Sanford. Commissioner Stoliar stated there were several locations where a loop could be created. Engineer Ring stated that

intersection includes multiple travel paths convening at a very weird intersection with “Yield” signs that are ignored. Commissioner Young stated the intersection was redesigned many times. Engineer Ring reiterated there was funding for the Bayside Trail but not the San Clemente Sidewalk as of yet. Commissioner Young stated the AAC should revisit these projects at the next meeting.

Engineer Ring asked the AAC to think about the budget for accessibility improvements and where the money should be spent. He suggested the AAC do a site visit of the proposed projects and they could talk about them at the next meeting.

6. New Business

A. Blue Curb Parking Request- 404 Oakdale

Engineer Ring presented a staff report. He briefly discussed another request by a resident who lives behind City Hall that is somewhat on hold. The owner of 404 Oakdale did not go through the permitting process and a neighbor was inquiring about the blue curb and signs. The owner recently submitted an application. He noted the Town has approved only one or two permit requests over the years.

Commissioner Stoliar asked if anyone with a placard could park at this particular blue curb. Engineer Ring stated “yes” since on-street parking was public parking. One concern was that the space might not necessarily comply with ADA guidelines or regulations. He thought this could be problematic.

Commissioner Stoliar noted the applicant has no driveway. Commissioner Young noted the applicant indicated she has off-street parking but there was no explanation. Commissioner Garza stated the property extends over to Chapman Avenue.

Commissioner Garza asked if there could be a way to discourage parking such as a time limit. Commissioner Stoliar stated that would also apply to the applicant.

Commissioner Garza stated he was concerned about liability to the Town.

Commissioner Young stated he had some questions and he would like to look at the property. He suggested they continue this item to the next meeting. Engineer Ring stated he would revisit the property.

B. Mission of AAC

Engineer Ring presented a staff report. He discussed the formation and history of the commission. He noted the newest members came onto the commission with a focus on seniors and accessibility since that was how the vacancies were advertised. He asked the AAC to think about taking a broader approach to the mission of the commission. He noted the commission could easily dovetail with the Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee (BPAC), Planning Commission, and the Parks and Recreation Commission. He asked the commission if they wanted to pursue meeting with some of these other groups.

Commissioner Stoliar stated in their application to become an official “Age Friendly City” through the World Health Organization that their intent is to establish combined meetings with other boards and commissions. They would like everyone’s voice to be heard in perhaps quarterly meetings. Engineer Ring stated that made sense.

Commissioner Young stated they have worked with the Parks and Recreation Commission in the past and the BPAC too. He stated “access” trumps everything else.

7. Commissioner Reports

There were no reports.

8. Future Agenda Items

Engineer Ring stated the following items would be on the next agenda: 1) Election of Officers; 2) AAC mission and vision; 3) Blue curb parking request- 404 Oakdale; 4) Proposed projects on Paradise Drive and San Clemente Drive.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.