

FINAL MINUTES

**TOWN OF CORTE MADERA
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

JANUARY 11, 2010

CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Commissioners Chair Stuart Tanenberg
Present: Barbara Becker
 Robert Czeck
 Ted Meyer

Staff Present: Public Works Director/Town Engineer Dan Ring

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Tanenberg called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Open Forum for Non Agenda Items

There were no comments.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes
a. December 14, 2009

M/s, Meyer/Becker to approve the AAC minutes of December 14, 2009 with corrections.
Ayes: All

M/s, Czeck/Meyer to approve the minutes from the Joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission of December 14, 2009 with corrections.
Ayes: All

4. Old Business

A. Tamalpais/CM Ave. Overlay Plan Review

Public Works Director Ring presented a brief staff report. There is an overall site plan that depicts what is happening in the area with detailed drawings that outline the precise grade at each location. They are cleaning up all the elevations to make sure they make sense. They are also trying to incorporate some of the ideas from the Bicycle Corridor Study and there might be some funding available through the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program sponsored by the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM). There is a cross walk that connects the two bus stops on either side of the street that was pointed out in the study as being a difficult crosswalk but a major connection for pedestrians. The study made some recommendations that are outside the scope of this project.

Chair Tanenberg stated from a safety perspective the main issue is the fact that the crosswalk has to go through the middle of the street and is right above the curve. Public Works Director Ring agreed. He stated he was talking to the designer about installing a “speed table” which would raise the crosswalk level to the curb on either side so someone could just roll out onto the crosswalk. It is not a “speed bump” or a “speed hump”. It would be twelve feet wide. Commissioner Becker stated the Fire Department might not like this idea and might consider it a safety hazard. Public Works Director Ring stated he was not sure

whether they would be able to install these “speed tables” and whether they would be appropriate for this situation. There is a CalTrans standard for mid-block crosswalks that includes signage. Chair Tanenberg stated the City of Petaluma has a system of flashing yellow lights when someone wants to use the crosswalk. Commissioner Becker stated there is one of these crosswalks in San Rafael at Civic Center Drive. Public Works Director Ring stated he would give them a call and ask them how it works, what people have experienced, etc. He noted the tendency could be for pedestrians to view this as a “walk” signal instead of a warning signal. Commissioner Becker stated the San Rafael Police Department posted a patrol car at the Civic Center intersection and gave out warnings and then citations.

Commissioner Meyer asked if this system could be included as an option in the bid. Public Works Director Ring stated “yes” and hopefully the costs would come in so that this could be an alternative. Commissioner Becker suggested Public Works Director Ring contact Twin Cities Police Sergeant Sean Smith to get some feedback about some of this new technology.

Public Works Director Ring referred to the overlay project and stated he talked to the designer and the plans should be done by the end of February. They would go out to bid sometime in March.

B. Higgins Landing Boat Dock- update

Public Works Director Ring presented the Commission with a packet of information. He presented a brief staff report and briefly discussed the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration. He stated the Planning Commission would review the plans on February 9th. The application includes the proposed ADA accessible dock, construction of two ADA accessible parking spaces, and rezoning of the property from R-2 to POS (Parks and Open Space). He noted the Planning Commission would be making a recommendation to the Town Council for their approval. Comments should be forwarded to the Planning Department.

Chair Tanenberg asked when the Town Council would be reviewing the project. Public Works Director Ring stated probably their last meeting in February. Chair Tanenberg had questions about the zoning change.

Commissioner Meyer referred to the loading area and stated there did not seem to be enough room on the back of the sidewalk to maneuver around the truncated domes (small yellow bumps). The sidewalk should be widened a bit. Chair Tanenberg asked if that issue could be flagged. Public Works Director Ring stated “yes”. Commissioner Meyer referred to Section AA and asked about the rectangular structure depicted as “h/s” to the right of the sidewalk. Public Works Director Ring stated he was not sure what that was but he would find out. Chair Tanenberg stated there had been discussion about how to use that space and it was decided to use the whole space for loading and unloading.

Public Works Director Ring stated the environmental permitting for the project could be somewhat difficult because the structure extends far out into the creek area. Chair Tanenberg asked if the plan had been circulated to other agencies (Fish and Game, Army Corp. of Engineers, etc.). Public Works Director Ring stated he was not sure but he assumed that the Department of Boating and Waterways has a connection with those other groups.

C. ADA Mediation- update

Public Works Director Ring stated there is a second mediation conference schedule for Thursday at the Federal Building. He would get more information after the conference. Commissioner Becker asked if Town Manager Bracken could attend the next Commission meeting. Public Works Director Ring stated “yes”. Chair Tanenberg asked if the areas in the lawsuit had been identified. Public Works Director Ring stated the Town Manager, along with an ADA specialist, looked at about 15 to 20 locations. Chair Tanenberg noted some of the original repairs were not done correctly.

D. Bike & Pedestrian Corridor Study- update

Public Works Director Ring presented a brief staff report and stated the entire plan could be downloaded on the following website- walkbikesmarin.org. The comment period for the plan has been extended through the end of January. The County would be giving a presentation to the Town Council sometime in February or March. There is not a lot in the plan from a pedestrian standpoint since most of the routes are hilly. They are proposing pedestrian improvements in the flat portions of the routes.

Commissioner Becker noted the tunnel was probably the favorite route but the last to be implemented due to the cost. Public Works Director Ring agreed. However, the tunnel is being pushed by certain groups. He stated there is some opposition from Corte Madera and Mill Valley residents. There are also some safety issues since it is not a straight shot through the tunnel. In addition, maintenance and Public Safety enforcement are issues of concern.

Public Works Director Ring stated there were several aspect of the plan that could be readily implemented by the Town including the Tamalpais Overlay area and Meadowsweet.

E. High Canal Path at Lakeside- repair update

Public Works Director Ring stated the repairs were completed.

F. AAC member search- update

Public Works Director Ring stated the Town Clerk continues to advertise for the position in the Twin Cities Times and the Independent Journal. He noted staff is trying to update the Website and make it more user-friendly. This would be a good place to advertise.

Chair Tanenberg announced he was moving to Larkspur at the end of the month and would need to resign from the Commission.

5. New Business

A. Election of New Chair

M/s, Czeck/Meyer to elect Commissioner Becker as Chair.

Ayes: All

M/s, Meyer/Becker to elect Commissioner Czeck as Vice Chair.

Ayes: All

B. Transition Plan review- discussion of next steps

Chair Becker stated they need to get on the "same page" and decide how they are going to use the plan, if it is up to date enough to be usable, etc. Commissioner Meyer stated they should try to discuss the plan at each meeting and figure out if this document is the "guiding light" and whether funds are available to update it. Chair Becker agreed and noted they should first determine their objectives (why they are looking at it, what are they looking for, etc.). Commissioner Tanenberg stated that would be a good starting point.

Commissioner Czeck asked how often the plan was supposed to be reviewed and updated. Public Works Director Ring stated he was not sure but he would find out. Chair Becker stated it has never been updated since it was first written in 2002. Commissioner Czeck asked about the driving force behind the implementation of the plan. Chair Becker stated the Town got sued. She stated the Commission should figure out how they can be of most help to the Town and then develop a set of objectives. Commissioner Meyer stated a useful exercise might be to identify the projects in the plan that have been completed. Commissioner Tanenberg stated most of the issues they have dealt with over the past four years have been Public Works projects. He noted some of those projects were not done correctly in terms of curb ramps, etc.

Chair Becker stated the plan has established priorities and they should decide what they want to do as a Commission as opposed to being tied to those priorities. Public Works Director Ring stated it would be helpful to staff to know what the Commission considers are priorities since it could steer funding in that direction. Chair Becker stated the Commission should discuss the process, other priorities, etc. Commissioner Meyer asked if the Town has a priority list of roads that need repair. Public Works Director Ring stated there is a pavement management system that looks at the condition of the asphalt as a way to prioritize what streets need the most attention. A pavement condition survey is done every three years. Commissioner Tanenberg asked if the work on the laterals was through the Sanitary District. Public Works Director Ring stated "yes" but they would not be cutting into the street. The plan is to re-line every sewer lateral in Town.

Chair Becker stated one of her concerns is parking in the shopping centers. Commissioner Meyer stated that Safeway recently re-stripped the parking lot and he wondered if the plan addressed that type of work. Chair Becker stated "no". She stated she informed the manager of the shopping center that they were out of compliance and it was quickly rectified.

6. Commissioner Reports

Chair Becker presented a schematic of Tamal Vista and Wornum Drive and noted the shrubbery and chain link fence blocked drivers' views. She added there is a telephone pole with a button on the backside. Many vehicles do not even stop and it is an accident waiting to happen. It is a very dangerous corner. The Department of Motor Vehicles is reluctant to trim the hedge. Commissioner Meyer asked if there was an accessibility issue. Chair Becker stated someone on a wheelchair would not be seen at all. Commissioner Tanenberg stated perhaps this issue should be directed to the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC). Chair Becker stated a lot of school kids use this intersection since it is a designated route by the Safe Routes to Schools group.

7. Adjournment

Chair Becker stated the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 8, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.