

TOWN OF CORTE MADERA  
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION  
CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

FEBRUARY 9, 2009 MEETING  
FINAL MINUTES

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

Staff Present: Public Works Manager Debra Sue Johnson  
Information Services Coordinator Jasmine Dali

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Czeck called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2008

M/s, Tanenberg/Meyer, to approve the meeting minutes of December 8, 2008 as corrected.

Ayes: All

4. Approval of Agenda

M/s, Meyer/Becker, to approve the agenda with the following change: item #7 would be heard prior to #6.  
Ayes: All

Commissioner Meyer asked about the deadline to submit items for the agenda. Chair Czeck stated they should send items at any time. Public Works Manager Johnson stated she would like to receive items the week prior to the meeting. The agenda is posted and the packet is prepared on the Thursday prior to the meeting.

5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

There were no comments.

7. New Business

A. Website Update

Coordinator Dali presented a brief staff report and presented the Website to the Commissioners. She discussed the history of the site and the standards for compliance. The standards ask for a "reasonable accommodation". She discussed a 2004 lawsuit against the Town that claimed that the Parks and Recreation Department brochure was not ADA compliant. The brochure had been posted for "ordinarily sighted people". The Council decided to fix the entire site, including the brochure, pro-actively so that future lawsuits would not happen. She uses different programs to make sure that documents are compliant. Commissioner N. Becker asked for an example. Coordinator Dali stated the goals were multiple: 1) the

readable page; 2) tags; 3) organization for audio only. She stated they are looking for high contrast in the foreground/background, font colors, etc. Anything that has visual or audio content has a text version. She stated she is always looking for suggestions for improvements

Commissioner Meyer referred to the “tab” feature and asked if there was a “search” box. Coordinator Dali stated “ not right now”.

Commissioner Meyer had questions on Mac’s “Safari Search”. Coordinator Dali stated she was PC oriented and has not used it. She has not received any feedback about Macs.

Commissioner B. Becker stated they have received complaints in the past from residents who say they were not aware of the Commissions existence. She stated the public would want to contact the Commission for two reasons- a complaint or a suggestion. She would like to have a more efficient way for residents to communicate with the Commission. Coordinator Dali stated there was a method for residents to lodge a general, and not AAC specific, complaint. She would be happy to put something related to the AAC on the front page of the site.

Commissioner Tanenberg stated the listing for the AAC was difficult to find since it was listed under “Town Committees”. It would be better to list all the Commissions together on the left bar of the home page. Coordinator Dali stated the goal was to make it easier to find a particular group (Board, Commission, Committee, etc.).

Commissioner Tanenberg asked how a citizen could ask a question of a Commissioner. Coordinator Dali stated they would go through “access Town Hall”. Public Works Director Johnson stated the question would come directly to her. Coordinator Dali stated another way would be under “e-mail us”. Commissioner N. Becker stated part of the Commissions’ goal was to give people a chance to express themselves and create an outlet. Commissioner B. Becker stated they do have a grievance procedure.

Chair Czeck stated they need to edit the “AAC Grievance Policy” section and replace the name of the former engineer with Public Works Director Johnson’s name.

The Commission thanked Coordinator Dali for her time and efforts. Coordinator Dali thanked the Commission for their input.

## 6. Old Business

### A. Skaff Lawsuit Update

Public Works Manager Johnson stated there was no settlement and they are proceeding to discovery. The Town Council discussed the lawsuit in Closed Session last week. There is a Federal Court date set for March 12th. Commissioner N. Becker stated the complaint was a public document. Public Works Director Johnson stated the Commission received the complaint and the letter from the attorney. Commissioner N. Becker stated the discovery process could take months. Commissioner B. Becker stated the award would be much smaller if the suit went to Municipal or Superior Court. The jury pool for Federal Court was region wide. Commissioner N. Becker stated they might not get a jury trial.

Public Works Manager Johnson stated she would keep the Commission informed of any progress.

### B. Tamalpais/Corte Madera Avenue/Redwood Ave. Overlay and Improvement Project

Public Works Manager Johnson presented a brief staff report and the plans. She noted the highlighted areas were the main areas of the accessibility improvements. She pointed out the areas of additional signage. The project also includes overlay of the entire street and new striping. The overlay would include some major grinding due to the crown of the road.

Chair Czeck asked if there is a target date for the start of the work. Public Works Manager Johnson stated “not yet”. Commissioner Meyer asked if the bid cycle was 60 to 90 days. Public Works Manager Johnson stated it would take about six weeks to award of contract after the bids go out.

Commissioner B. Becker had questions about the purpose of the project. Public Works Manager Johnson noted when a street is paved, then the curb ramps need to be brought up to compliance. They are staying with the paths of travel that were established in the previous lawsuit. Commissioner B. Becker noted the bus stop was added to the Town Hall location. Commissioner Tanenberg stated the consultant acknowledged there was no accessible route. Public Works Manager Johnson pointed out the suggested route. Commissioner B. Becker was concerned that the route was still hazardous for the disabled.

Commissioner Meyer stated he has yet to walk the site and asked if all the sidewalks were shown on the exhibit. He was concerned that it seemed like a lot of “patch work” areas that were being brought up to compliance and he was not sure there was a continuous path of travel. Public Works Director Johnson stated parts of the project have already been made compliant and parts could not be made compliant. The plans represent the extent of the project and the extent of what the Town is required to do. She encouraged Commissioner Meyer to take the plans, walk the site, and submit any feedback to her. Commissioner Meyer had questions about accessible parking stalls. Commissioner B. Becker had questions about a placard parking area near the parking lot.

#### C. San Clemente Drive Access Improvements

Public Works Manager Johnson presented a brief staff report. She noted some of the Bayside Trail project funding could go towards this project. The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) has approved amendments to the Bayside Trail Project contract to allow funding for improvements to the driveways on the west side of San Clemente. Commissioner Meyer asked if this could be extended to the area near Paradise Foods. Public Works Manager Johnson stated “no”. Public Works Manager Johnson asked about the problems near Paradise Foods. Commissioner Meyer stated several of the driveways on the west side near Harbor Drive were not accessible. Public Works Director Johnson stated she could try to throw those into the mix. The original goal was to create an accessible path of travel from Paradise Foods to Macy’s.

#### D. Granada School Letter

Public Works Manager Johnson presented a brief staff report. She noted she sent the Commissions’ letter to the Reed Union School District, the Marin County Office of Education, and the State Architect’s Office. Commissioner Tanenberg asked for a copy of the letter. He asked if her cover letter asked them to make corrections. Public Works Manager Johnson stated she could not tell them to do that. She read the cover letter. She has not received any response.

### 8. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Tanenberg stated they had briefly discussed the purpose of the Commission at the last meeting. Public Works Director Johnson stated she would place this item on next month’s agenda. Commissioner B. Becker asked the Commission to come up with a list of priorities. Commissioner Tanenberg stated he, along with Commissioner Meyer, would like to do a review of San Clemente School. Chair Czeck asked if they wanted to approach all the schools. Commissioner Tanenberg stated “yes”.

Chair Czeck asked about the status of the Higgins Boat Dock Landing and any third party funding. Commissioner B. Becker stated she thought the Town Council had approved obtaining a cost estimate. Public Works Director Johnson stated Planning Director Pendoley was handling the project.

Commissioner Meyer stated the Commission had discussed listing some of their achievements as a public relations campaign. He stated the list would also be beneficial to the new Commissioners. Commissioner B. Becker stated this could generate more interest and requests from the public. Commissioner Tanenberg stated he would go through his folder and put together a list and bring it to the next meeting.

Commissioner N. Becker stated photographs could be posted to the Website. Public Works Director Johnson stated she would place this item on next month's agenda.

Chair Czeck state he would like to place the following item on next month's agenda: 1) The Commissions' fiscal role in ADA projects. Commissioner B. Becker stated it would be a good idea for several of the Commissioners to attend the Town Council Budget Hearings. Public Works Director Johnson stated all of her projects, excluding those that were grant funded, have been postponed. Commissioner Meyer asked if the Commission could assist with searching for more ADA funding. Public Works Director Johnson stated she has not run across any ADA specific grants. Commissioner B. Becker asked if the Commission should come up with projects that need to be looked at in the future. Public Works Director Johnson stated "yes". She noted the Commission had discussed making the pathway to the grandstands more accessible. Public Works Director Johnson stated that project was included in the budget but it remains unfunded. Commissioner B. Becker asked about curb cut compliance. Public Works Director Johnson stated that information was included in the Transition Plan.

Commissioner Tanenberg stated there was a project on Lakeside Drive almost to the corner of Birch that includes redoing the sidewalks and curbs. They completed the sidewalks on the north side of Lakeside and now there is no transition ramp from the new sidewalk to the path. It is totally inaccessible. Public Works Director Johnson stated there would be gravel leading up to the sidewalk. The path could not be paved. Commissioner Tanenberg asked if crushed gravel was considered "accessible". Public Works Director Johnson stated it would be as accessible as it is now. Commissioner Tanenberg asked why the cut outs were placed in the middle of the block as opposed to the corners by the stop signs. Public Works Director Johnson stated people refuse to go to the corners. Commissioner Tanenberg stated the situation is unsafe for people in wheelchairs because they have to cross in the middle of the block. Public Works Director Johnson stated the project was funded through Safe Routes to School. Commissioner Tanenberg stated the Commission should have had the opportunity to review the plans prior to construction. A gravel transition from the sidewalk to the path would get continually dug up and need to be replaced. Commissioner N. Becker stated the change in surfaces is not safe for kids on bikes. Commissioner Tanenberg stated the offset between surfaces was not safe and there should be a permanent, accessible solution from the path to the sidewalk. Public Works Director Johnson stated she would look into the matter. She noted Class II AB gravel that was properly compacted should be accessible.

Commissioner Tanenberg asked about the policy for cancellation of meetings. He asked if the Commission could meet without a staff person. Public Works Director Johnson stated "yes". She noted she was unable to get an agenda together for the January meeting. Commissioner Tanenberg stated he would be happy to help with the agenda in the Chair's absence. Chair Czeck stated he would like to have an open stream of agenda items sent to him two weeks prior to the meeting. He could then set up the agenda and have staff send it out one week prior to the meeting.

Commissioner N. Becker stated she went to view the accessible dock in Sausalito located on Johnson Street. She distributed a picture of the dock. She briefly discussed how floating dock accessible ramps work. The one in Sausalito is more expensive and has an elevator that runs up and down the ramp. Commissioner B. Becker asked if she talked to the Harbor Master or the person in charge. Commissioner N. Becker stated "no".

Commissioner N. Becker had some suggested changes to the notice at the bottom of the agenda.

## 9. Adjournment

Chair Czeck stated the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2009. He stated the following items would be on the next agenda: 1) Functionality of the Commission; 2) More school follow-up; 3) Past achievements; 4) Website additions and suggestions; 5) Budget update; 6) Project updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

