

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT • NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION DIVISION
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THE SAN ANTONIO/RENGSTORFF/DEL MEDIO NEIGHBORHOOD AREA MEETING REPORT

Responses to Issues Raised at the May 9, 2012
Council Neighborhood Committee Meeting

Presented below are the City's responses to various issues and concerns raised at the May 16, 2012 Council Neighborhood Committee meeting with the San Antonio/Rengstorff/Del Medio Neighborhood Area. If you have further questions about any of the following responses, please contact the responsible Department at the phone numbers noted below. General questions can be directed to Linda Lauzze, the City's Administrative and Neighborhood Services Manager, at (650) 903-6379.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT - (650) 903-6306
CommunityDevelopment2@mountainview.gov

1. *Are there any plans to honor the birthplace of Silicon Valley near the corner at San Antonio Road and California Street?*

There is a sign that acknowledges the significance of 391 San Antonio Road in the history of Silicon Valley. Should this site be included into the San Antonio Center project, the City would encourage the developer to incorporate some means of recognizing the legacy of the site.

2. *Is the City looking into why there is a disproportional amount of high density housing being built or has been built in the western side of Mountain View, specifically from Latham westward. Why not consider other areas?*

Many years ago, the City designated much of the area around California Avenue for higher density housing. The City's new General Plan distributes high density housing evenly throughout the El Camino Real corridor. The projects towards the western side of Mountain View happen to be further along in the development process; however, there are also several projects located in the central and eastern sectors of the City.

3. *Regarding Prometheus apartments at Safeway site – just wondering if the school district has been involved in these plans to consider impact on schools.*

The redevelopment of the Safeway site has been on-hold for roughly six months. There is no active proposal for the site. Staff has previously briefed the Los Altos School District on all of the housing projects within District boundaries. The School District is also consulted during the development review process.

4. *What is the status of the enormous vacant lot at the corner of Phyllis Avenue and El Camino Real? Is it for sale? Has it been purchased? Has a development proposal been submitted?*

This property is owned by the El Camino Hospital District and is not currently for sale to the best of our knowledge. No development proposals have been submitted.

5. *Is the City going to relocate Barron Park Supply if the rumor is true that the property they lease has been sold?*

The City would encourage the developer to work with Barron Park Supply to assist them in finding another location, should the site be incorporated into the San Antonio Center Phase II project.

6. *Since the developer of the Mayfield Mall is reusing the building does that mean the pedestrian undercrossing will no longer be built?*

The City is not legally permitted to require the undercrossing unless the site is redeveloped.

7. *Does the City have any policies or plans in place (or under development) to mitigate the effects of rising housing costs on the many low-income families in Mountain View?*

There is a substantial need for additional affordable housing units in Mountain View and neighboring cities, especially with the recent increases in rents. Mountain View's City Councils have been proactive in adopting housing programs to address that need. In the past 12 years, City Councils have adopted two housing programs that generate funding for new affordable housing development and mitigate the impact of new market rate development. One program is the Below Market Rate Housing (BMR) Housing Program that requires developers of new market rate residential projects to either provide below market rate units or housing fees that are used to build affordable housing. The other program is Housing Impact Fees on new commercial and office development. These housing funds are also loaned to affordable housing developers to build more affordable apartments in Mountain View.

In the past, the City has used a combination of federal and local housing funds to preserve and build 10 affordable apartment developments that provide 1,070 apartments for very low income families, seniors, and low wage workers. In addition, there are currently 51 affordable family apartments being built downtown that are scheduled for occupancy in spring 2013. Two additional affordable projects are going through the development review process and if approved by the City Council, will provide another 78 affordable studio units. The Council has adopted a policy that gives Mountain View residents and those who work in Mountain View priority for the City's affordable, subsidized apartments.

8. San Antonio Center

- *I have seen preliminary drafts of the San Antonio Center, Phase 2 with 9-story office towers. I am concerned that we will lose our "view" of Black Mountain that is the namesake of our City. Isn't there a height limit in Mountain View? Palo Alto has a 50' height limit.*
- *Will the second phase of the San Antonio Center effect the small business along California Street and San Antonio Road?*
- *Are the five (5) small parcels near San Antonio Road and California Street included in the San Antonio Center and the San Antonio Precise Plan?*
- *Could you talk about progress towards a Precise Plan for the San Antonio Road area? Is there recognition of the need? Is there a timeline?*
- *What is the main goal for San Antonio Center - Prometheus? To build more apartments? Or to build a sport center for kids, for example?*
- *The San Antonio Center looks like an industrial area now. During the second stage, will the approach be the same?*

In Spring 2012, Merlone Geier submitted some preliminary development concepts for Phase II of their San Antonio Center projects. The plans proposed a mixture of office, retail, and hotel uses in buildings up to 12 stories in height. The Environmental Planning Commission (EPC) and City Council held public meetings on the concepts. In short, both the EPC and Council expressed strong concerns with the height and size of the buildings. The Council directed Merlone Geier to comply with the General Plan's 6-8 story height limitation for San Antonio Center. Council was generally comfortable with the mix of retail, office, and hotel uses, but wanted additional retail and less office to be included in the revised project.

In response to a request by residents of the San Antonio Area, Council asked staff to undertake a Visioning Process for the area and prepare a new San Antonio Precise Plan. The Visioning Workshops will be held in October and December of this year. City staff will begin preparation of the Precise Plan in early 2013.

It is expected that the outcome of the Visioning Process will guide Phase II of San Antonio Center. Merlone Geier will not submit revised plans for Phase II of the Center until after completion of the Visioning process. Until revised plans are submitted, no details of their Phase II plans are available, including which parcels will be included, types of uses, and size of buildings.

9. Parking for the Milk Pail

- *How will the construction of the hotel and other businesses taking over the BevMo/JoAnn's Fabric area, affect the Milk Pail? Will there still be parking available and accessible? As a resident of the The Crossing, I go to the Milk Pail almost daily and I know this is a beloved store not only for our neighborhood, but for the entire peninsula.*

See response to San Antonio Center question for additional information. Revised plans for Phase II of San Antonio Center have not been submitted yet. The Milk Pail property has limited parking on its property. The Milk Pail does have a temporary agreement to allow its customers to park in the parking lot along California Avenue adjacent to Ross. There is no permanent agreement.

- *At the San Antonio Center entry by the Ross store, there is a sign saying "No Parking for Milk Pail, Barron Park Plumbing, International market, and the corner restaurant. Is that accurate that Milk Pail customers cannot park there?"*

There is an agreement between the owners of the Milk Pail and Ross property that allows Milk Pail customers to park in the Ross parking lot. Barron Park Plumbing and the International Market do not have agreements. There was some discussion about placing a fence to block access for Barron Park and International Market customers, but the fence concept has been withdrawn.

10. Traffic in San Antonio Road Area

- *With all of the new residential development in the proximity of San Antonio and California Street, what plans are in place to mitigate increased traffic issues as the density changes?*

- *With the amount of proposed housing units being built around the El Camino Real, San Antonio Road and California Street area, what does the City plan to do to mitigate the potential traffic problem on San Antonio Road, California Street and the Rengstorff Avenue area?*

The City will be preparing a detailed, intersection-specific traffic study as part of the San Antonio Precise Plan process. This study will outline needed mitigation measures and/or modifications at impacted intersections.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT - (650) 903-6331

CustomerService@mountainview.gov

1. *People stay in Del Medio Park late since the day time is getting longer. Is it possible to post a sign showing park hours, so residents will be more aware of it, and hopefully will not play/talk loud after nine or ten o'clock and residents who live around the park can have a quiet time at night.*

Mountain View parks are open from 6:00 a.m. to one-half hour after sunset. There are signs at the entry points to all parks with the parks hours, rules and regulations. If you do experience a problem with individuals staying in the park after closing please call Mountain View Police at (650) 903-6395. They will dispatch an officer to the park to deal with the problem.

2. *How does the City go about creating a park in places where all available property is owned? This area is already short on public open space and with many more residents coming in, another park is necessary.*

All new residential growth contributes to the need to provide additional park and open space lands. Ideally, each new development project would provide parkland commensurate with the number of new housing units developed. However, this is not always the case, as many smaller developments pay a fee to the City in lieu of providing parkland. Those fees are used for parkland and open space acquisition, development, and improvements. When a neighborhood has been identified as deficient in open space and all available property is owned, the City will sometimes use in-lieu fees to acquire property and turn it into a neighborhood mini park, such as the new Del Medio and Mariposa Parks that were added in 2012.

3. *Should smoking be permitted in the small neighborhood parks or drinking, card playing and possibly gambling be allowed? Is it possible to detour this behavior since there are young infants and toddlers present at various hours?*

If residents observe gambling or alcohol consumption in a park (except for the group picnic areas at Rengstorff and Cuesta Park where alcohol is allowed with a special permit) the Police Department may be contacted on the non-emergency line at (650)903-6395. Per Mountain View City Code smoking is prohibited in picnic areas in all City Parks.

POLICE DEPARTMENT - (650) 903-6350

Police@mountainview.gov

1. *Neighborhood Watch - when will that program return? How can I find out what Police activities are happening? Often see many police cars but never hear anything. The map is not updated promptly - if ever.*

The Police Department does work with a neighborhood to create a Neighborhood Watch Program if one has not already been established in your area. If you have further questions about the Neighborhood Watch Program please call Jennifer Crist at 903-6186. You can find Police related criminal activity by logging onto www.crimereports.com and entering the specific area you are looking for. The crime information is updated on a daily basis.

2. *Do you think that when rapes or child abuse incidents happen - this needs to be reported in Spanish also?*

Generally, the Police Department does not publicize rape or child abuse cases if the community is not in any danger. When crimes occur that may have a direct impact on the community or the community is in danger, we communicate with local media and other outlets in both English and in Spanish to ensure all facets of the community are made aware of the circumstances and of the risk.

3. *What can the City do to curtail the number of campers that park along Latham Street and Fayette Drive etc.? I know they are allowed to park for 72 hours but really.*

The Police Department can only enforce the 72 hours rule unless other signs have been posted by the city prohibiting parking during certain periods. If you find a camper in violation of the 72 hour rule please call the traffic hotline and provide us with the location, vehicle type, and license number, and we will send out a Community Service Officer to investigate. You can always call the Police Department directly and ask to speak with a Community Services Officer about the issue.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - (650) 903-6311

Recycle@mountainview.gov; Traffic@mountainview.gov

1. *Are you looking at replacing street lights with LED lights?*

The City is replacing high pressure sodium street lighting with energy efficient florescent induction lighting downtown and on major arterial streets. Future phases will likely include similar light replacement on residential streets, though those phases are not yet funded or scheduled.

2. *San Antonio Circle needs improved signage. Even people with a GPS miss the portion of San Antonio Circle with San Antonio Place and Bruce Bauer Lumber. It happened twice with the Super Shuttle and also with my friends.*

Wayfinding directional signs will be installed on north bound and south bound San Antonio Road to reduce confusion. Improved signage will be installed within two weeks at this location.

3. *Pedestrian crossing signal is needed across Ortega Avenue at California Street. This intersection could use better lighting and/or pedestrian crossing signal. This is for safety of the pedestrians.*

The existing traffic signal at this intersection is relatively old and is scheduled to be replaced in summer 2013. The new signal will have pedestrian lights for crossing Ortega Avenue.

4. *Crosswalk signals should be added to Rengstorff Avenue crosswalk at railroad tracks.*

A new traffic signal is currently in the planning phase at this intersection which will include signaling Leland Avenue and Crisanto Avenue at the existing crosswalk. This project is funded by the Peninsula Joint Power Board (PJPB), the owner of Caltrain, as part of improving five railroad crossings in the area. This project should break ground late in 2013.

5. *What is the status of BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) for El Camino Real?*

In January 2012, VTA staff presented its proposed Preliminary Investment Strategy for the El Camino Real Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project to the Mountain View City Council to solicit feedback regarding the proposed dedicated lane configuration in Mountain View. The City Council did not take formal action at the meeting; however a majority of the Council expressed to VTA staff its preference for a mixed-flow configuration through Mountain View instead of dedicated lanes.

In April 2012, the Santa Clara City Council approved the proposed dedicated lane configuration for the segment of the BRT project running through its community.

In May, 2012, the Sunnyvale City Council voted not to support the VTA's recommended dedicated lane configuration for the Sunnyvale segment of the El Camino Real BRT project.

As a result of the Sunnyvale vote, VTA staff is currently evaluating how to proceed with the next steps for the BRT project. No date has been scheduled for the project to be presented to the Mountain View City Council for formal action.

6. *VTA El Camino Project – instead of reduced number of lanes can they use a traffic signal override to decide to keep buses moving?*

The "Mixed Flow" alternative for the VTA's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project (which does not reduce the number of lanes) does include a traffic signal preference for buses.

7. *Is there any safe route to school program being coordinated with LASD (Los Altos School District)? My kids and many others from The Crossings bike and scoot to Egan Junior High School, Bullis Charter School, Covington and Santa Rita Elementary School. We typically cross El Camino at San Antonio.*

The City of Mountain View is currently working with all K-12 public and private schools in the City of Mountain View on a program to make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative through a federally funded Vehicle Emissions Reductions Based at Schools (VERBS) grant. As the name implies, the grant also provides funding for activities aimed at reducing traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

For the activities at the public schools, the City is coordinating with the Mountain View Whisman Elementary School District and the Mountain View Los Altos High School District (which includes Los Altos High School). Los Altos School District schools (e.g., Egan, Covington, Santa Rita, etc.) are not part of the current VERBS grant/program.

You may want to consider contacting the Los Altos School District and/or the City of Los Altos regarding seeking Safe Routes to Schools or VERBS grant funding for programs at schools located in Los Altos.

8. *The City needs to enforce code violations for dumpsters at 2235 California Street (Palmetto). Lids are often left open and tenants and neighbors are awakened at 2:00 am and 3:00 am in the morning from people dumping garbage.*

It appears that Palmetto Apartment residents are responsible for the noise created by the early-morning use of the garbage dumpsters at the apartment complex. Contacting the property manager to find out what trash disposal rules are in place at the complex and asking for the manager's help in enforcing the rules may be a good first step in getting the issue resolved. The property manager is responsible for enforcing trash disposal rules at the complex, not City Code Enforcement staff. There is no City Code provision restricting the hours trash can be deposited in dumpsters, although the City Code does prohibit dumpster lids from remaining open after use.

GENERAL COMMENTS.

1. Thank you for holding this open meeting - I am impressed and grateful to know that the City wants to engage its citizens in civic affairs!
2. One piece of input: I would love to see a more user-friendly and attractive City website. It works but as we are in the heart of Silicon Valley and home to Google and so many other tech enterprises, we should be far above the cut technologically. Thanks for considering!
3. During the first stage at San Antonio Center the developer is placing a new building so close to the road - there would be no place for trees.
4. I would like to announce an online discussion group regarding the planned developments in the area. We will discuss topics such as the General Plan, specific developers, plans, revising precise plans and ways to give community input via petitions speaking at the meetings and press coverage. Please take a sheet from the side table.