

# **UNAPPROVED**

## **PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES November 14, 2012**

- I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**      **Chair Mandal** called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. ROLL CALL/SEATING OF ALTERNATE**      Present:      Sudhir Mandal, Larry Ciardella, John Luk, Rajeev Madnawat, Zeya Mohsin, Gurdev Sandhu and Steve Tao  
Absent:      Garry Barbadillo  
Staff:      McHarris, Otake, Ah Sing, DeHerrera
- III. PUBLIC FORUM**      **Chair Mandal** invited members of the audience to address the Commission on any topic not on the agenda, noting that no response is required from the staff or Commission, but that the Commission may choose to agendize the matter for a future meeting.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**      **Chair Mandal** called for approval of the minutes of the Planning Commission meeting of October 24, 2012  
  
There were no changes to the minutes.  
**Motion** to approve the Planning Commission minutes of October 24, 2012 as submitted.  
M/S:      Madnawat/Tao  
AYES:      6  
NOES:      0  
ABSENT:   1 (Barbadillo)  
ABSTAIN: 1 (Sandhu)
- V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**      Staff announced that there will be a special meeting of the Planning Commission on November 28, 2012.  
  
Vice-Chair Ciardella – Would like to close tonight’s meeting in memory of Battalion Chief Rob Van Warmer who worked with Cal Fire and recently passed away.  
  
Chair Mandal – Announced that he will not be present at the November 28, 2012 meeting and the meeting in the summer.
- VI. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**      None
- VII. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**      **Chair Mandal** asked whether staff or the Commission has any changes to the 11/14/12 agenda.

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Motion** to approve the agenda as submitted.

M/S: Sandhu / Mohsin

AYES: 7

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 1 (Barbadillo)

ABSTAIN: 0

### XIII. PRESENTATION

#### 1. GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT PRESENTATION

**Sheldon Ah Sing, Sr. Planner** – Presented to the Planning Commission the City’s General Plan Amendment (GPA). The proposed GPA is to amend the Land Use and Circulation Elements. A moratorium was enacted early this year to provide time to develop an analysis on infrastructure and create a strategy to deal with future growth. Last August staff did provide a status report to Council, as well as a work plan on preparing text amendments to the General Plan, an update to maintenance fees and certain capital improvement programs for the future.

This purpose of the presentation is to solicit feedback from the Planning Commission, the public and interested local and regional stakeholders. Notices were sent out to the builder’s industry, environmental groups, apartment operators and the Chamber of Commerce. Planning staff plans to bring this item back to the Planning Commission in December with a recommendation to City Council for their meeting in January.

There are two components to the GPA: 1) Text amendments proposed to the Land Use Element 2) Amendments proposed to the Circulation Element. It is essential to think of what is important to the City – focusing on growth, employment centers and to look for opportunities to upgrade infrastructure given the loss of redevelopment.

The Land Use Element policies in the packet emphasize mixed use, consider the community benefit, promote long-term fiscal sustainability, focus development on Transit Area and Midtown areas, maintain inventories of job/housing balance and consider land use compatibility.

The Circulation Element would implement primarily “The Complete Streets Act” and introduce street policies for all users. Through the One Bay Area Grant Program, we could become eligible for grant money that could be used for various City projects. However, the amendment needs to be adopted by January 1, 2013.

*Staff’s recommendation is to close the public hearing following public testimony and note receipt and file of the presentation.*

**Commissioner Tao:** Asked staff if there are any geographic areas that VTA will focus on and for staff to address some of the highlight items that may fiscally impact the City or property owners. When there is a conflict of interest regarding land use compatibility, how is that judgment made?

**Sheldon Ah Sing, Sr. Planner** – Staff is looking into where it would be more

applicable to implement the Complete Streets Act. Also, we do not see any significant fiscal impact to property owners. For land use compatibility issues, staff will review and make recommendations based on facts and evidence.

**Commissioner Mohsin** – Would want the streets to be made friendly to all users.

**Commissioner Madnawat:** Asked if there is anything in particular that may be required in the “Complete Streets Act” in order to receive grant money; such as, do we need to apply specific requirements to certain type of streets?

**Sheldon Ah Sing, Sr. Planner** – Stated the General Plan should provide the framework and policies that lead to implementation. We are trying to keep it flexible as much as possible in order not to preclude any future development. The General Plan Circulation Element already had a lot of “Complete Streets” policies, but some changes were needed to make it more enforceable.

**Vice-Chair Ciardella** – Asked if there may be any widening of the Calaveras Railroad over crossing?

**Commissioner Sandhu** – Inquired if VTA can provide bus routes at some of the new housing developments and if something can be added in the Circulation Plan to impose a street toll tax on certain trucking businesses that regularly come down from the hills?

**Sheldon Ah Sing, Sr. Planner** – Widening of the Calaveras Railroad over crossing is not in this particular document and is being worked on through another plan. Staff can look into the possibility of a street toll tax.

**Carol Kassab, CEO with the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce** – The Chamber of Commerce represents various business groups in Milpitas.

**Chair Mandal** – Asked if there is a way that the various trail systems can be connected together?

**Commissioner Tao** – Our streets are more vehicle-oriented. How then are the trail systems being dealt with from a public works/engineering stand point? Additionally, how will the item under Bikeway policy (page 3-25 of Attachment C) which discourages speed bumps that hinder bicycling on public streets, work in conjunction with “traffic calming” measures requirements?

**Sheldon Ah Sing, Sr. Planner.** Connecting the trails is something that is being worked on. The Traffic Engineer has taken into consideration the safety of bicyclists. We need to look at what measure works best for new bicycle traffic projects and ensure that there are safe pedestrian connections.

**Commissioner Madnawat** – There are two questions he wants staff to address: When VTA decides to change bus routes, do they obtain public feedback? People don’t ride bikes because it can be very dangerous. Is there any focus in this amendment to educate drivers to be more aware of bicyclists or extra signage?

**Chair Mandal** – Asked staff to find out from VTA if they solicit public feedback when they plan to change bus routes and report back to the Commission.

Staff briefly reviewed why there was a moratorium placed on the conversion of industrial land indicating sufficient time was needed to create a good work program for decision makers and Council.

**Rob Means, Milpitas Resident, 1421 Yellowstone** – Presented a document from Sierra Club Milpitas Cool Cities Team which states that the draft Circulation Element is weak in two areas: bicycle infrastructure and advanced transit options. The Sierra Club feels that the City needs to be much more aggressive towards impacts of global warming. Mr. Means highlighted several bike/pedestrian connections that are being overlooked, specifically; the Yosemite/Curtis crossing which he feels should be part of the Circulation Element. He feels that this Circulation Element document has a road bias and that advanced-transit options are not referenced anywhere in this document.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Vice-chair Ciardella** – Asked for a moment of silence in memory of Battalion Chief Rob Van Warmer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm to the next meeting of November 28, 2012.

### **Motion to adjourn**

M/S: Tao / Ciardella

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven McHarris  
Planning & Neighborhood Services Director

Joann DeHerrera  
Recording Secretary