

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT SUCCESSOR AGENCY/  
PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY/HOUSING AUTHORITY  
OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA  
CONVENED THIS 26<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2013 8:35 A.M.  
SOUTH PASADENA SENIOR CENTER  
1102 OXLEY STREET**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Schneider convened the special meeting of the South Pasadena City Council, the Redevelopment Successor Agency (Agency), the Public Financing Authority (PFA), and the Housing Authority (Authority) at 8:35 a.m., scheduled as a Strategic Planning Session. City Councilmembers/Agency/PFA/Authority Members present: Cacciotti, Joe and Putnam; Mayor Pro Tem/Agency, PFA, and Authority Vice Chair Khubesrian; and Mayor/Agency, PFA and Authority Chair Schneider. Absent: None. Other Officials present: City Treasurer Pia; City Manager/Agency, PFA and Authority Executive Director Gonzalez; City Attorney/Agency, PFA and Authority Counsel; Assistant City Manager Straus; Police Chief Payne; Fire Chief Wallace; Finance Director Thai; City Librarian Fjeldsted; Community Services Director Pautsch; Public Works Director Toor; Planning and Building Director Watkins; Transportation Manager Woods; Grants Analyst Perkosky; Water Conservation Analyst Figoni; Executive Assistant to the City Manager Kbjian; Professional Intern Igawa; and City Clerk Kilby.

Mayor Schneider led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING  
SESSION: WELCOME AND  
OVERVIEW OF MEETING**

Mayor Schneider and Councilmember Cacciotti provided introductory remarks about the purpose of the strategic planning session. Mayor Schneider introduced Laura Mason-Smith, Facilitator, who outlined the agenda for the day. Mayor Schneider opened the first public comment period.

**PUBLIC COMMENT  
Teen Center**

Liz Smith, no address stated, accompanied by Natasha Prime, spoke about "The Place," a two-year-old teen center located at the City Orange Grove Recreation Building. She asked for continued City support.

**Zoning requirements**

Walter Okitsu, 1208 Marengo Avenue, commented on the goals submitted by the Cultural Heritage Commission for the strategic planning session. In regard to residential improvements at his property, he expressed opposition to restrictions related to historic garages and setback requirements.

**Hanscom Drive street improvements**

Elizabeth Emirhanian, 1815 Hanscom Drive, accompanied by other neighbors from Hanscom Drive, emphasized the importance of infrastructure repair, particularly road repair on Hanscom Drive. She said that when it rains, water seeps into the pavement cracks. She said if the City does not put money into the street now, it will cost ten times more much later.

**INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITION OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Facilitator Mason-Smith explained her role and introduced the participants, who each spoke about their role in the City, what they value about the City, and key accomplishments of the City.

**MISSION AND CORE VALUES  
KEY THEMES THAT SERVE AS A FOUNDATION FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Facilitator Mason-Smith reviewed the City's accomplishments, strengths, and internal and external challenges, which she said were listed in the packet. She referred to a poster board containing the City's mission statement and values. She reviewed a list of the City's five existing three-year goals. She asked participants to sit at five pre-assigned tables to discuss potential goals for the next three years.

City Manager Gonzalez and Councilmember Cacciotti announced that before any goals are decided upon, public comment will be taken.

Participants moved to the tables, and after discussion, a representative of each team listed its top four to five goals on five large posters attached to the wall and then reported on the goals.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Schneider opened the second public comment period and limited speakers to one and one-half minutes each.

Odom Stamps, Board Chair, Chamber of Commerce (Chamber), said the Chamber has endorsed and embraced the concept of forming a Downtown Development Advisory Committee to replace some of the oversight and outreach functions of the former

Community Redevelopment Commission. He said the Chamber supports the appointment of a panel that would focus exclusively on the fully entitled redevelopment project awarded to Genton Property Group. He read from a written statement. He responded to questions posed by Mayor Schneider.

Gretchen Robinette, 921 Indiana Avenue, who said she was speaking as Chair, South Pasadena Community Garden Ad Hoc Committee, reported on efforts to establish a community garden. When the SR-710 Caltrans properties become available, she said, some should be turned into open space or pocket parks.

Walter Okitsu, 1208 Marengo Avenue, said that if self-driving vehicles become common, less space will be needed for driving, parking and storing vehicles.

Jack Renken, Craig Parker, and Timothy Okitsu, youth members of the community, suggested the following: make better use of the empty lot at Fremont Avenue and Mission Street; turn the Rialto Theatre into a working movie theater; repair the stands at Orange Grove Park and the Arroyo baseball fields, fix the Arroyo fields; and present the United States flag in Garfield Park properly, i.e., lighted at night.

Kim Hughes, 1956 Huntington Drive, Chair, Natural Resources and Environmental Commission, said an important aspect of infrastructure is the urban forest. She said it is important to make sure that there is proper funding to maintain City trees. She talked about resources that are needed and that could be developed for this purpose.

Don Jones, 1636 Fair Park Avenue, Los Angeles, spoke about the social contract the City has with its citizens. In regard to the SR-710-related Caltrans properties, he said that there are millions of dollars in revenue shortfalls to the City, due in part to a 17% vacancy rate. He urged the City to contact other similarly impacted cities, particularly Los Angeles.

Edward Pearson, 1719 Wayne Avenue, Member,

Library Board of Trustees, presented an updated set of goals and asked that it be included in the official record. He said there were no major changes from the original submission. He said his primary focus is increasing the space that is available for the Library.

Paul Yrisarri, 1817 Hanscom Drive, spoke about infrastructure, specifically the scheduled Hanscom Drive road repair, which he said has been ignored by the City. He described the planned repair and ended by saying, "Save our Street."

Carrie Adrian, no address stated, said the goal to maintain and manage the City's strong financial position should be the basis of the strategic plan.

Walter Cervantes, 1921 Mill Road, Chair, Senior Citizen Commission, said he was speaking as a private citizen. He emphasized the importance of transparency regarding funds available for senior services and urged the City to maintain the privacy of those using the Senior Center.

Gina Phelps, accompanied by Matty Hurtado, Members, Senior Citizen Commission, emphasized the importance of making sure that "all are safe at the South Pasadena Convalescent Hospital." She said there is insufficient affordable senior housing in the City. She said the population is outgrowing the Senior Center.

Diana Mahmud, no address stated, recommended that the concept of sustainability be included in a description of the goal of "preservation and protection of the environment." In the end, she said, this will prove beneficial both fiscally and for the environment.

Ellen Daigle, no address stated, Vice Chair, Public Safety Commission, requested that the City Council review the Commission's goals. She urged the City to recruit businesses that can bring in additional sales tax.

Facilitator Mason-Smith asked the participants to review and consolidate goals listed on the posters. All agreed on the following five goals: eliminate the

710 surface route; continue to improve City infrastructure and facilities; maintain a strong financial position, including reserves; strengthen organizational efficiency, effectiveness, and service levels; and preserve, protect, and create a healthy natural and built environment.

**WORKING GROUPS:  
SETTING GOALS AND  
OBJECTIVES**

Facilitator Mason-Smith asked the participants to rejoin the working groups at the tables to develop objectives for the goals. She asked the City Councilmembers to select one of the five goals, and she directed participants to develop objectives, due dates and staff assignments for the goals. The team representatives read their teams' proposed objectives. Following this process, objectives were agreed upon for each of the goals.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Schneider invited public comment.

Odom Stamps, no address stated, who said he was representing the No 710 Action Committee, raised the issue of the expansion of the I-710 south. He said it would be cost effective to make common cause with the cities of the South Bay who are facing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process that is much further along. The City needs to make public comment to oppose widening of the 710 to allow for more truck traffic, he said. He said goods movement could be managed in a smarter way. He urged the City to weigh in on the issue of segmentation. In response to a question posed by Mayor Schneider, he said comments will be taken on this in a month.

Joanne Nuckols, no address stated, said that a disproportionate percentage of City resources is being dedicated to business development when more time and attention should be spent on quality-of-life issues in the neighborhoods.

Carrie Adrian, no address stated, Chair, Finance Committee, commented that too many objectives with tight timeframes may overwhelm City staff; she suggested that the deadlines be re-examined. In regard to foundations and gifts mentioned by a previous speaker, she clarified that these restricted funds exist in cash within the City. She recommended that the City increase awareness of the

foundation operated through the Pasadena Community Foundation and to expand its operations. She said the Finance Committee intends to take steps to make it more cohesive and effective.

Don Justin Jones, who said he was representing the No on 710 Coalition, concurred with an earlier speaker's comments on making common cause with the Gateway Cities on the I-710 south. He suggested meeting with the City of Los Angeles on the issue of lost revenues from Caltrans-owned properties. In regard to the greening proposal, he said the City needs to have an agreement with Southern California Edison to implement solar energy and to recover funds.

Beverly Biber, 1250 Oak Hill Avenue, Vice Chair, Animal Commission, said she was speaking as a Commissioner as well as a resident. She indicated support for sustainable projects. She urged the City to continue to support the ongoing Arroyo Seco Restoration Watershed Project. She said that increasing habitat and the quality and quantity of species can only be achieved by protecting a healthy, natural environment from development, even if what is built are bike routes.

Alan Ehrlich, 1221 Lyndon Street, urged City leaders to communicate its goals more widely to the community and to take credit for its successes.

Facilitator Mason-Smith assisted the participants in narrowing down the objectives for each goal. Those not selected were included in a "parking lot" to be reconsidered at a later time. It was determined that City Manager Gonzalez will assign lead staff for each objective and confirm or adjust target dates.

## **NEXT STEPS**

It was decided that the finalized goals and objectives would be brought to the City Council for approval no later than the regular City Council meeting of March 20, 2013. A variety of methods would be used to communicate the goals to the community once they are approved, it was decided, including the City website and social media. Public budget outreach meetings would be held in March that will further communicate the City's goals. Today's meeting will

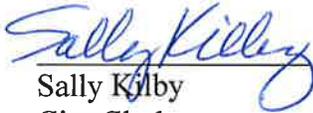
be streamed online and replayed on cable TV in the next few days. Quarterly reports will be presented to the City Council. Input provided by the City Commissions would be acknowledged in the final document. Staff will ensure that the established goals and objectives will be reflected in the proposed budget.

#### **WRAP UP, PARTICIPANT COMMENTS**

Participants provided comments related to what they are taking away from the session and related topics. It was decided that the City Manager and staff would refine the wording of each goal. Mayor Schneider expressed appreciation to all who worked on organizing the session.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

By consensus, the City Council adjourned the special meeting of the City Council/Redevelopment Successor Agency/Public Financing Authority/Housing Authority at 1:24 p.m.

  
Sally Kilby  
City Clerk

  
Richard D. Schneider, M.D.  
Mayor