

Pleasant Hill Library Task Force Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: **November 17, 2014**

Large Community Room, Pleasant Hill City Hall, 100 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Attendees:

- Michael Harris, Pleasant Hill City Council
- Jack Weir, Pleasant Hill City Council
- Lisa Chow, Supervisor Mitchoff's Office
- Sandra Bonato, PH Recreation & Park District Board
- Sherry Sterrett, PH Recreation & Park District Board
- Jessica Hudson, Contra Costa County Library
- Patrick Remer, Pleasant Hill Library
- Jack Prosek, Pleasant Hill Library Fund
- Katherine Bracken, CCC Library Commission
- Bill Bankert, Planning Commission
- Jennifer Andersen, Education Commission
- Lilian Remer, Friends of the Library
- Susan Weaver
- Richard Ingalls
- June Catalano, City Manager
- Danielle Habr, City staff
- Martin Nelis, City staff

Reports from Sub-committees

Funding Subcommittee

Jessica Hudson reported on the previous Funding subcommittee meeting. She presented two documents which were prepared by Kathy Middleton on her behalf – one outlining costs to build recent libraries in Contra Costa and the second with costs of libraries built in other areas in 2005-2007 time period including details on the cost per square foot for construction, furniture and equipment and land costs. She also provided information on preliminary costs for other recently constructed libraries in Contra Costa.

Nelis reported that the PH Recreation & Park District spent \$29,000 on the polling and feasibility survey report for Measure E in 2008. The City spent just under \$20,000 for the initial polling and feasibility survey for Measure T in 2010. Additional funds were spent by both agencies on the public information campaigns prior to the measures being placed on the ballot. The Recreation & Park District spent \$70,000 on its public information campaign prior to placing the Measure E on the ballot in 2008.

Chair Harris asked that additional information be obtained on the initial costs and where the funding would come from to cover these costs.

Jack Prosek mentioned that part of the initial costs for Measure E included a \$100,000 for renderings and architectural drawings for the Senior Center. Sherry Sterrett stated that this

\$100,000 was donated to the District by a local businessman. Jack Prosek suggested that the Funding committee should contact the various Community Foundations with a view to getting their financial support for the initial costs. Sandy Bonato suggested that at the same time the Task Force or Funding subcommittee should be exploring the types of bond measures that should be considered.

Councilmember Weir suggested that the Task Force layout an overall plan and timeline which would help guide the need for funding at various stages of the process.

Chair Harris stated that at the next Needs Assessment subcommittee meeting they would be discussing the various sites that were still under consideration and hopefully be in a position soon to recommend a preferred site and a second option to the Task Force, which would then go to the City Council for its review and approval. Subsequently, the County could then move forward with its Request for Proposals for development of the County owned properties.

As part of the Task Force report to the City Council there could be a request for initial funding to move the process forward. Councilmember Weir asked if there could also be a request to hire professional consultants to assist the work of the Task Force and subcommittees. He suggested that an account be setup to accept future donations from various sources. Sherry Sterrett suggested using the PH Community Foundation for this purpose. Chair Harris asked that the Funding subcommittee discuss this issue with the Foundation at their next meeting.

Chair Harris suggested that all three Task Force subcommittees develop their own proposed timelines for next year and bring those back to the Task Force to review and approve.

Needs Assessment

Chair Harris reported that there had no meeting of the Needs Assessment subcommittee recently. Sandy Bonato reported that she had met with Supervisor Mitchoff to discuss the possible use of Pleasant Hill Park as a site for the new library. She indicated that Supervisor Mitchoff needed to discuss with County staff to see if a land swap was feasible and would have information next month on this issue.

City Manager June Catalano stated that City and County staff had discussed the possible siting of the library on the athletic field at Pleasant Hill Middle School. This would be contingent on Mt. Diablo School District approval and a land swap with the school district which would replace the loss of the ball fields and track area at the school. The Flood Control District property between Beatrice Rd. and Cleveland would probably be the area used to replace the ball fields.

Chair Harris asked the City Manager if a meeting could be setup with the school district to discuss this proposal and determine if it was worth pursuing as a possible site.

Outreach Subcommittee

Patrick Remer reported that the FAQ's document was not complete and had been posted online on the Library Task Force page on the City's website. The committee is planning on reaching out

to various organizations and groups throughout the city to educate and inform about the need for a new library facility. The brief three question survey has also been posted on the Task Force webpage and this survey will be promoted over the next several months. Patrick stated that a number of promotional and educational videos would be produced using footage of ongoing programs and activities at the library.

Susan Weaver suggested that the Outlook carry updates on the work of the Task Force in a prominent place.

The Task Force agreed to meet again on Monday, December 15 at 11:00 a.m. Chair Harris asked that each of the subcommittees meet prior to this meeting and report back.