

MINUTES OF THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE LOS ALTOS CITY HALL-COMMUNITY CHAMBERS, ONE NORTH SAN ANTONIO ROAD, LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA

PRESENT: Wes Brinsfield (Chair), Suzanne Ambiel, Chris Hlavka, Bill Sheppard, Bill Crook, Richard Baer, Cedric Novenario (Staff Liaison)

ABSENT: Jim Fenton (Vice-Chair)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Player, a resident of Mountain View, provided public comment requesting the BPAC look into improvements relating to crosswalks at the intersection of El Monte/E. Edith and installing a new crosswalk on the south side of the intersection of Springer/Camelia.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. Minutes

On a motion by Bill Crook, seconded by Suzanne Ambiel, the item is approved. Passed 4-0.
2 abstain (Richard Baer, Bill Crook)

2. VTA Pedestrian Access to Transit Plan

Lauren Ledbetter of VTA provided a presentation of the VTA's efforts in developing a Pedestrian Access to Transit Plan. The plan is still in its developing stages and will identify needs and framework for improvements. The Commission provided comments relating to improving "Feeder" routes, pedestrian infrastructure to VTA Bus Stops. VTA will return to the BPAC once a draft is ready for comment.

3. Commercial Design Review Application for 897 N. San Antonio Road

Planning staff and the applicant provided a presentation and overview of the proposed two-story, 12,834-square-foot, mixed-use building with residential units.

The BPAC provided comments for consideration which include:

- Replace bike racks with bike rooms or cages
- Make crosswalk more visible
- Concern for westbound Sherwood vehicle-pedestrian interaction
- Suggest widening the sidewalk on Sherwood

There was one public comment for this item. Jim Wing submitted public comment through email and addressed these issues to the BPAC. See attached.

4. Bike to Work Day

Chair Wes Brinsfield provided an update on the logistics and plan for the Energizer Station for Bike to Work Day staffed by the BPAC.

5. Project Inventory Database Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

Staff requested three new volunteers to continue the review of the Project Inventory Database. Nominations were received and confirmed for Commissioners Richard Baer, Bill Sheppard and Suzanne Ambiel.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. Monthly Staff Reports

Staff liaison updated Commission on related Capital Improvement Projects.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wes Brinsfield adjourned the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Public Comment for Item#3

BPAC Chairman Brinsfield,

Subject: BPAC 4-23-14 Meeting Agenda Item 3, Mixed-Use Building at 897 N. San Antonio

I would like for you to consider the following pedestrian safety items for your recommendation to Council and PTC.

- A. Bulb-out at Sherwood / San Antonio corner to provide pedestrian visibility before entering crosswalk and shorten length of crosswalk
- B. Raised pedestrian crosswalk in westbound Sherwood travel lane at San Antonio intersection that clearly reminds cars to stop before crosswalk
- C. No street parking zone within 50 feet of pedestrian crosswalk at Sherwood / San Antonio intersection to provide pedestrian visibility
- D. Sherwood sidewalk to be a minimum of 6 feet wide to encourage pedestrians to safely walk along Sherwood
- E. All new street trees to be 3 feet box size and “lollypop” shaped, straight trunk with branches starting above 6 feet from sidewalk to enhance pedestrian visibility at driveways.

This development is difficult to review because you have to ignore the current undeveloped condition of Sherwood and visualize approved, but yet to be developed Sherwood Gateway Specific Plan. Essence of plan is to have retail / office on ground floor with residential / office on second and third floors. This mixed-use building is the first to be developed and care must be taken to insure pedestrian safety improvements will be compatible with future developments on Sherwood. Developers will only build what is in demand and residential is in high demand now. We can expect pedestrian traffic to increase dramatically because of high number of residential units. Due to extreme traffic congestion in this area, walking is the fastest way to get around.

Drivers traveling west on Sherwood have trouble seeing pedestrians entering crosswalk at San Antonio due to 50 degree angle of intersection. Good design practice recommends using intersection bulb-outs for pedestrians to stand on. Intersection bulb-outs are used for our downtown Streetscape and they really work well. Major pedestrian safety vulnerability is time spent walking in crosswalk and bulb-out will shorten walk time of this 63 feet long crosswalk.

Most cars traveling west on Sherwood do not stop at San Antonio stop sign and just roll through stop sign, roll across crosswalk, stop and look for gap in San Antonio traffic then aggressively jump in. Different types of materials marking crosswalk will not stop cars from rolling through. Raising the crosswalk is the only thing that will get driver’s attention. Recent changes to raise school crosswalks have gotten drivers attention.

Once Sherwood is developed street parking will be in high demand. Even this building will not have dedicated on-site visitor parking. Drivers traveling west on Sherwood and looking for street parking

will always try to park near intersection and block visibility of pedestrians entering crosswalk. No parking within 50 feet of crosswalk will insure good pedestrian visibility.

Corner location of this development means it is a “gateway building” that should send a message of welcome to Sherwood. One important element of Sherwood Gateway Specific Plan is pedestrian friendly sidewalks. Sidewalk of at least 6 feet wide is friendly and sends a welcome message. Wide sidewalks also can safely accommodate families with young children and high pedestrian volumes. Los Altos is already are seeing more children living along Sherwood. The recently completed “Sherwood of Los Altos” [37 townhouse development] that fronts on Sherwood has 25 units with children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Wing

Milverton Road

Los Altos, CA