

November 1, 2021

Public Comments - City Council Study Session Agenda Item 1 – November 2, 2021

Dear City Council and staff:

Upon review of staff materials I see room for improvement. Here are a few ideas for your consideration.

1. Why not negotiate organize and make available a franchise to delivery recycled water to residents and/or business owners?
2. Why not give a tax break to homeowners to add plumbing to allow use of washing machine water for outside landscape watering and eliminate any permit fees is they are needed?
3. Why not reverse your decision to allow Hewlett Packard to remove 27 mature trees for a larger parking lot that is neither justified by their own facts or good for Los Altos? Unless you undo the damage caused by the majority three members of the city council the loss of this canopy will be a major setback. The idea to replace these trees with 25 gallon trees is a joke because it will take a generation to grow to mature trees. Moreover, the downtown urban locations are not specified nor are HP asked to contribute the full cost to replace these trees nor are any date certain spelled out. At the very least we need 4 ft box tree replacements that I reckon will cost at least \$5K each to buy and plant using special equipment that is hard to find. I ask the council to undo the damage by designating where these trees will be planted and where the huge amount of money will come from. This horrible decision contradicts your goal to increase the urban tree canopy.
4. Why not consider converting Main or State Street into green space for walking only and plant trees to increase the urban canopy? Mountain View is heading in this direction. And look what Central Park and Golden Gate Park means for these cities.
5. Why not offer a property tax rebate for owners and businesses to add solar panels to their roofs or property?
6. Why not convert some of our parks that are in reality nothing more than soccer fields into real parks by adding more shade trees?
7. Why not convert some of our downtown parking lots into small urban parks by adding trees and grass and allow off-leash hours for dogs? This seems a much better idea than a downtown theatre.
8. Why not add outdoor pavilion roofs to places for more shade like the Hillview or Grant Community Centers with or without solar panels or green roofs?
9. There is a new white roofing or building paint under development that actually provides 10 degree natural cooling we should be the first to implement when it becomes available?

**If I were a council member I would focus on actions that bring the biggest bang for the buck and essentially do no harm to residences and businesses. I hope these ideas will stimulate a good conversation at your meeting.**

**Frank Martin**