



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION

CITY HALL
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May 28, 2010

Dear Resident,

You are invited to attend a neighborhood meeting regarding Scenic Circle Access to Stevens Creek Trail and Blackberry Farm Park. The environmental review process is starting. We wish to go over your views and concerns before the work proceeds.

Meeting Information:

Tuesday, June 8, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Monta Vista High School Library
21840 McClellan Road
Cupertino, CA 95014

The environmental clearance consultant and staff will attend the meeting and discuss issues and ideas that were raised by neighbors on May 20. Enclosed for your convenience is a summary of the discussion from that evening prepared by David Powers & Associates. If you have any questions, you may contact Mark Linder with the Parks and Recreation Department at 408-777-3268. We look forward to seeing you on June 8 at Monta Vista High School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Linder", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Linder
Director of Parks and Recreation

Enclosure

cc: File 9136

SCENIC CIRCLE PARK ACCESS PROJECT
SUMMARY OF NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING
MAY 20, 2010 – 7 P.M. - 9:20 P.M.

Purpose: The purpose of the meeting was to solicit input from the residents of the Scenic Circle Neighborhood regarding the following aspects of a proposed access to Blackberry Farm Park and Stevens Creek Trail via a new gate/trail:

- Solicit input as to where to locate the access point/gate
- Solicit input as to the issues and concerns that could occur with the new access
- Solicit ideas and suggestions to avoid/minimize problems/impacts

Meeting Format: The meeting was held in the Monta Vista High School Library. It was conducted by the following consultants who were retained by the City to work on the access project for the purposes of: 1) undertaking studies to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and 2) undertaking community outreach:

- John Hesler & Jodi Starbird (David J. Powers & Associates – DJP&A)
- Eileen Goodwin (Apex Strategies)

The meeting was attended by eight members of the Scenic Circle Neighborhood and one member of the wider neighborhood. Two City staff members (Gail Seeds and Mark Linder) also attended. Mayor Kris Wang was present for the first portion of the meeting.

Meeting Summary: The meeting began with opening remarks by John, a summary of which is as follows:

1. John acknowledged that the history of this project is controversial and that various parties have different opinions as to what was done, the process that was followed, what commitments were or were not made, etc.

2. John stated that, regardless of the past, the fact is that the current City Council has voted that this access point will be implemented. He indicated that the current City Council is not bound by decisions of previous Councils.
3. John explained that the meeting would be focused on moving forward in a positive manner, with a goal of having the access designed and implemented in a manner that will avoid impacts to the Scenic Circle Neighborhood to the greatest extent practical.
4. John indicated the consultant team would be listening to the neighbors' concerns and ideas for addressing such concerns. He indicated that, following the meeting, ideas and suggestions would be evaluated. A second meeting will be held on June 8th, the purpose of which will be to present the results of the evaluations and to engage in further conversations with the residents as to which solutions they are in favor of being adopted with respect to the access project.
5. John stated that the City has contracted with DJP&A to assist them in preparing an environmental clearance document for the project and addressing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). DJP&A currently expects that the document is most likely to be an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). The document will be made available for review by the public and comments received on the contents of the document will be responded to by the City. Mitigation measures identified by the CEQA process will be included in the project when it is approved. John explained that residents would be provided a copy of the document and there would be time to review and comment on the draft document.

Following the opening remarks, the bulk of the meeting consisted of having the residents identify their concerns and their ideas for solving/addressing such concerns. The discussion was moderated by Eileen. All input was written down on flip charts and is summarized below. The potential solutions listed below will be evaluated and further discussed at the June 8th meeting.

Important Note: The identification of these potential solutions, below, by the residents is for the purpose of having the consultants and City staff evaluate their feasibility, with further discussion to occur on June 8th. This listing should NOT be construed as representing the consensus of the residents and/or an endorsement by the City. The attendees recognized that the consultant team was seeking input under the assumption that the gate would be opened and that the gate would be located in the Scenic Circle neighborhood. Debate regarding the opening of the gate and/or alternative access through the Simms property was not the focus of the meeting.

GATE/ACCESS LOCATIONS

ISSUE:

- Alternative gate/access points should be considered:
 - Between the two houses on Scenic Circle in the northeast corner of the neighborhood
 - Off of Riviera Road, northwest of the Scenic Circle neighborhood
 - Near the southeast corner of the Scenic Circle neighborhood near the “party place” (this would require a new bridge over the creek to access the Stevens Creek Trail and Blackberry Farm Park)

PARKING

ISSUES:

- Want to protect this neighborhood from parking problems in other neighborhoods
- Amount of parking provided in Blackberry Farm Park is not enough
- Young adults park on streets and conduct illicit activities in the wooded areas
- Excessive parking may affect access for emergency vehicles

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:

- New Signage:
 - No Park Parking Beyond this Point (like Rancho San Antonio)
 - Tow-Away Zone (with phone number to call)
 - Residential Parking Only
 - No Outlet
- Permanent Permit Parking for Neighborhood
- No parking on park/creek side and/or homeowners' side of streets – red curb
- Lock gate/no access on holidays or large event days (e.g., large company picnics)
- Lock gate/no access on weekends
- Make sure there is overflow parking for the Park at Monta Vista High School

TRAFFIC/CONGESTION/SAFETY

ISSUES:

- Drivers may drop off park visitors at gate and then drive back to top of hill to park
- Congestion may affect emergency vehicle access
- Top of Scenic Circle is steep and turns are sharp – excessive speeds (cars and bikes) and poor visibility are safety hazards
- There is a sidewalk missing at the top of Scenic Circle (south side of street)

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:

- No Drop-off or No Loading Signs
- No Stopping Signs
- Construct missing sidewalk on Scenic Circle
- Place additional traffic mirrors near where Scenic Circle meets Scenic Blvd.—and any other logical location
- Research City's available traffic calming measures (barriers, speed bumps, etc.)
- Install residential access gate (with clicker or keypad) near intersection of Palm Ave. and Scenic

SAFETY

ISSUES:

- Want to keep neighborhood serene, especially at night
- Acts of vandalism have occurred
- Floodplain issues
- Young adult use of creek area is not safe
- Bike/pedestrians should be safe within and beyond neighborhood (e.g., driveway on east side of creek)

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:

- Remove or relocate existing maintenance gate in fence
- Design project so that flooding is not induced
- Limit gate access hours to sunrise to sunset/same hours as park
- Consider a different gate location (near southeast corner of neighborhood) to shorten route into neighborhood to the access gate
- Extend existing fence beyond potential southeast corner gate location (past the “party place”)

TRASH/WILDLIFE

ISSUES:

- When the park was closed, there was less trash in the neighborhood
- Trash attracts unwanted wildlife including skunks and raccoons
- Trash is also generated by young adults partying in wooded areas

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:

- Install raccoon-proof trash receptacles near gate inside park
- Install recycling receptacles near gate inside park
- Increase garbage patrols by rangers/City workers
- Daily trash pick-up in the Scenic Drive neighborhood by rangers when they lock the gates at closing time
- Encourage trash pick-up events by service organizations (“Helping Hands” service organization at Monta Vista High School)