Community Workshop #3  
Final Meeting Summary (2-13-09)

Time and Location:  
February 10, 2009, 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm  
Gunderson High School Library  
622 Gaundabert Lane  
San José, CA 95136

Attendance:  
Attendees included fourteen members of the Task Force, two members of the TAC, and nine members of the Project Team and many community members. Although 165 participants signed in, it is estimated that 180 people attended.

Meeting Summary:  
SCCPRD held the third Community Workshop for the development of the Martial Cottle Park Master Plan on February 10, 2009 at Gunderson High School. The intent of this workshop was to receive community feedback on the Preliminary Draft Preferred Alternative. The workshop is summarized below according to the following agenda items:

♦ Welcome and Introductions

♦ Project Background and Review of Workshop #2 Outcomes

♦ Presentation of Preliminary Draft Preferred Alternative

♦ Presentation of Preliminary Traffic Analysis Findings

♦ Update on City of San Jose’s Road Widening Projects

♦ Options Being Considered

♦ Small Group Discussions

♦ Conclusions and Next Steps

A. Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Killough, Director of Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, thanked Project Team members, Task Force members, Technical Advisory Committee members and community members for attending the third community workshop. She also reminded the audience of the extreme generosity of the donor, Walter Lester Cottle.

B. Project Background and Review of Workshop #2 Outcomes

Patrick Miller, Principal of 2M Associates and subconsultant to the Prime Consultant, DC&E, provided a brief overview of the planning process. We are currently in Phase 4: Design Development, or roughly midway through the planning process. Miller emphasized that the planning team is still exploring ideas, that the Preliminary Draft Preferred Alternative is not a final plan, and there will be many more opportunities for public input.

Miller then reviewed the three alternatives discussed at Community Workshop #2 and highlighted the following outcomes of input received:
General excitement and support for park, for the intent of the Donor’s Vision, and for balancing agriculture with public use.

No overwhelming support for any one entrance location.

Support for concepts emphasizing an inviting entrance, meandering road and extended user experience.

Support for all agricultural programs and elements.

Emphasis on visibility of agriculture and agricultural character.

Concern regarding impacts to surrounding neighborhoods, a dog park, and equestrian uses.

C. Presentation of Preliminary Draft Preferred Alternative

Sarah Sutton, Principal at DC&E, described the Preliminary Draft Preferred Alternative that was developed following Workshop #2. This alternative had already been seen by the Project Team, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Task Force. Sutton described the agricultural experience provided by this alternative, including the iconic agriculture at the corner of Branham Lane and Snell Avenue, orchard style parking and the entrance road through agricultural land. Other features noted by Sutton include:

- Entrance location on Branham Lane
- Agricultural marketing area including produce stand, farmers market and farm café
- Canoas Creek channel removal and revegetation
- Cooperatives partners areas including Youth Agriculture, Research and Demonstration Gardens
- 75-foot perimeter buffer, including multi-use trail
- On-leash dog access

Input from the Project Team, TAC and Task Force review of the Preliminary Draft Preferred Alternative focused on the entrance location and traffic analysis, perimeter trail/access and buffers, and agricultural efficiency and fit with public uses. Options for these areas are being considered based on input received as well as new analysis, including traffic analysis.

D. Presentation of Preliminary Traffic Analysis Findings

Mike Waller, Hexagon Transportation Consultants, explained the methodology and findings of the Preliminary Traffic Analysis. Waller highlighted the following findings:

- No impacts to any of the 38 studied intersections as a result of the proposed project.
- No significant impacts from any of the three potential entrances, although the Branham Lane entrance had slightly greater intersection delay. (Very slight from traffic consultant perspective).
- It is estimated that 9.1 acres of parking would be necessary to accommodate all cars on site during a large event. The Preliminary Draft Preferred Alternative has adequate parking to accommodate peak use and large events.
- Each entrance location has unique design considerations to take into account, but could all be made to work.

A community member questioned the potential impact of walk-in visitors on traffic. This was not addressed in the study. Miller also noted that VEP letters regarding traffic and entrance location concerns have been received, and that the planning team is very aware of these concerns.

E. Update on City of San Jose Road Widening Projects
Timm Borden, Deputy Director, City of San Jose Public Works Department, said that the City has worked with VEP regarding road projects in the past and will continue to do so. However, Snell Avenue and Branham Lane road widening projects are being deferred for now due to the current economic situation. The transportation budget for the City of San Jose is funded through developer taxes. The budget adopted by the City today cut the transportation budget in half. Borden was available for further discussion following the workshop.

F. Options Being Considered

Based on input received to this point on the Preliminary Draft Preferred Alternative and additional data and analysis, the planning team is considering several changes to this alternative. Miller showed a graphic illustrating these options and described them as follows.

♦ **Buffer Options along the West Side.** Considerations for the perimeter area include aesthetics, security and safety, user experience, neighbor privacy and agriculture and parkland balance. The County standard for buffers is 25-feet, while the Preliminary Draft Preferred Alternative shows a 75-foot buffer, both including trail routes. VEP has requested a 150-foot buffer, not including a 12' trail with shoulders. The acreage required by these buffers along the west side alone are 1.86 acres for the County standard, 5.6 acres for the Preliminary Draft Preferred Alternative, and 12.4 acres for buffer proposed by VEP. The ability of the County to maintain the buffer and the balance of agricultural land with parkland are key factors in this discussion.

♦ **Entrance Location.** A Snell Avenue entrance location is being considered based on input received and based on the Preliminary Traffic Analysis.

♦ **Community Gardens.** As the County is now in possession of the parcel located to the southwest corner of the Life Estate along Chynoweth Avenue, the Community Gardens can be moved south to utilize this area.

♦ **Efficient Land Use.** Relocation of Youth Agriculture and Research south in order to connect Cooperative Partner uses is being considered. In addition, the planning team is considering relocating parkland immediately east of the seasonal wetland in order to create more continuous agricultural land.

Miller explained that the Preliminary Draft Preferred Alternative would be revised based on these considerations and feedback received tonight for the Task Force meeting on February 17, 2009.

G. Small Group Discussions

Following an explanation of group discussion topics by Miller, workshop participants broke into six smaller groups. The small groups were facilitated by consultants and County staff. The purpose of the small group discussions was to provide workshop participants an opportunity to comment on specific park use areas and facilities, to discuss priorities for the first phase of development, and to identify neighborhood partnership opportunities. Participants were also provided a comment form upon which to provide additional comments. A volunteer or the facilitator from each group summarized highlights of the small group discussion for the larger group. Comments made during the reports emphasized/identified:

♦ Concern regarding traffic, parking and entrance location
♦ Interest in sustainability
♦ Varying input on west side buffers and the perimeter trail
♦ General support for a main entrance on Snell Avenue entrance and the relocation of Youth Agriculture and Research areas.
♦ Priorities: walking trails, staging area, community gardens, picnic areas and entrance.
♦ Neighborhood Partnership Opportunities:
  ○ Serve as docents
○ Improve park safety (Eyes on the park)
○ Assist with tree planting (work with “Our City Forest”)
○ Maintain trails
○ Lead clean-up/ work days
○ Establish partnerships with schools

All comments recorded on large flip-charts during small group discussions are attached.

H. Conclusions and Next Steps

Miller restated that the Preliminary Draft Preferred Alternative would be revised for the Task Force meeting on Tuesday, February 17. Other upcoming meetings include:

- Spring, 2009: Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, Present Conclusions of the Alternatives Study and Preferred Alternative
- Spring, 2009: Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation Committee (HLUET), Consider Draft Preferred Alternative
- Spring, 2009: Begin Master Plan and EIR Document preparation
- Late 2009: Completion of Master Plan and EIR

Jane Mark, Project Manager, SCCPRD, thanked community members, Task Force members, TAC members, California State Parks representatives and Santa Clara Open Space Authority representatives for participating in the workshop.
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ATTACHMENT
to
Draft Meeting Summary
for
Martial Cottle Park Master Plan Community Workshop #3
February 10, 2009

Group #1

Comments on Main Park Areas and Facilities
- Entry fee
- Parking overflow – walk-ins avoiding entry fee
- Neighborhood parking impacts
- Residential parking zones/ stickers
- Residential park entry permits
- Public transportation
- Light rail/ bike connections at Chynoweth
- South end of property – provide free parking
- Fruit stand – traffic congestion
- Fruit stand near main entrance?
- Prefer existing location (fruit stand) and operation
- Fruit stand/ farmer’s market - conflict with main entrance location
- Traffic study
- Farmer’s market is competition
- West Buffer – 58 feet too close
- Hours of operation/ gates
- Volunteers open/ close
- Drug users/ vandalism
- 100 yards of agriculture

Priorities
- Picnic areas
- Trails with benches
- Education
- Trees
- Children’s playground – agriculture theme
- Dog courtesy stations
- Community garden
- Develop agriculture to generate income
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- Entrance/ trails a concern (13 on Snell, 3 on Chynoweth, 0 on Branham)
- Adequate buffer – trail okay (west side)

Partnership opportunities
- Gate opening/ closing
- Lighting along streets (solar)
- Pipeline – reclaimed water
- Native meadow grass – not turf
- Horses – shared trails
- Agriculture space leasing plan
- Noise – farming equipment
- Tree buffer
- Statues/ fountains?
- Solar/ wind energy
- Native plants

Group #2

Comments on Main Park Areas and Facilities
- Comments on Park Entrance
- Concern with parking
- Concern with pollution and noise of cars within park
- Comment that trees will help with pollution and noise
- Good that plan has more on-site parking areas than previous plan
- Overflow parking off-site a concern
- Light rail station – parking there?
- Activities near life estate – beneficial
- Shuttles
- Separate parking areas for busses and motor homes/ RVs
- Security in Park
- Concern with foxes, birds, other wildlife
- Canoas Creek
- Farm stand – have own parking?
- Competition with Safeway
- Produce stand – should leave in current location
- Farmers market – location across Safeway a concern
- Concern with vendors at farmer’s market not being local
- Need to have produce grown on site for sale – not outside competition
- Need more diversity w/ more vendors
- Location of entrance key in determining location of farm stand
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- Competition between produce stands if there are two
- Parking for community gardens
- Would community gardens sell their own produce?
- Trails
- Parking fee versus entry on foot free
- Pedestrian access points
- Security fencing
- Dog park – still a need for one
- Handicapped parking – is there a fee charged?
- Parking capacity on site
- 150 feet too much of a buffer
- 20 feet to 30 feet not enough of a buffer
- Wire fencing – open fencing
- Tall trees blocking view along Branham - need to locate trees wider apart to have view
- Native plan nursery
- Parking on surface streets impact neighborhood
- Road improvements
- Blocking off trails along Canoas Creek area to protect kids from going in creek
- Need for bicycle parking
- Will there be equestrians/ horse trails?
- Picking up of horse manure – who is responsible?
- Horses used for mounted security patrol
- Type of fencing
- Branham side not having a view is a rumor – do have views
- City speed limits – will City change it b/c of Park?
- More traffic on Branham if park entrance there
- Suggestion for signal at Life Estate area near Chynoweth

Priorities
- Trails
- Perimeter trail
- Picnic areas
- Parking
- Plan trees now so they mature
- Pavilion
- Visible improvements for Mr. Lester
- Park Entrance

Neighborhood Partnerships
- Volunteer
- Docents
- “Friends of the Park”
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- Maintenance of Trails
- Trail watch

Group #3

Comments on Main Park Areas and Facilities
- Where is the lake?
- No development on State property
- Tram from VTA station
- Native Plan Nursery – next to seasonal wetlands? Doesn’t seem to make sense
- What happened to Our City Forest?
- Buffer Zone along 36 homes – why not 150 to 300 feet and have agriculture
- Entry to Life Estate
- How many cars enter/exit current fruit stand?
- Duplicative fruit stands (current and at park entrance)
- Gated access on Chynoweth (events, agriculture)
- Pump house – Chynoweth – will it handle increase?
- Traffic signal: right, in/out Snell (no left turn)
- Middle turn lane on Snell
- Parking on neighborhood streets
- Access along agricultural plots
- If fee required to park, how many would park at Safeway and walk in?

What should be prioritized?
- Walking trails
- Forestation plan for park (Mr. Lester) – no cost to the County
- Partnerships – community tree planting “Our City Forest”
- Basic staging facilities
- Community trail watch/first aid
- Trail access off hours – walking
- Free parking?

Group #4

Comments on Park Areas
- Ensure farm museum on site
- Generally like what seeing
- Community gardens too small; youth agriculture area too large
- Contiguous farm area more productive
- Work with Gunderson High School regarding agriculture
Don’t go overboard with farming
Branham produce stand – replace current stand? Like one on Snell (another liked location on Branham)
Safety concern with Branham
More designated orchard space
Looking forward to perimeter trail with pedestrian access points
Concern with settling on Branham entrance
Nice to have space for wildlife in seasonal wetland
Great idea on native plants, drought tolerant
Current water situations impact on farming
Security concerns - will park be closed at night?
On-site composting
More natural around seasonal wetlands

Features Prioritized
- Perimeter trails
- Community gardens
- Safety
- Master gardener program
- Organic
- Native garden nursery
- Interpretive programs (natural and cultural resources) - work with Mr. Lester

Help with Park
- Our City Forest to donate trees
- Sell relocated items on website

Park Entrance
- Not on Branham! Have entrance on Snell
- Place farmer’s market not at main entrance
Comments on Main Park Areas and Facilities

- Entrance – Branham too crowded. How could it work with no street widening? Wouldn’t traffic backup?
- With delay of 17.3 seconds, what about emergency vehicles?
- Hexagon study looked at existing conditions, with widening would there be less delay?
- For example on Los Gatos Creek Park, people would rather park outside and walk in park to avoid paying fee
- Already hard to find parking at Safeway.
- Animals – yes there will be cover, but buildings in the future
- Oaks – yes they will be preserved and more planted. Some may be lost in the widening.
- Agricultural issues – can’t we have agriculture right next to the fence on the Westside? (not feasible for agriculture)
- Walk-ins parking in the neighborhood – intensive park use will be near the entrance and parking will be a problem in neighborhood
- Build access points in phase 1 to disperse possible walk in parking
- Security – will there be on site security gates. Will there be gates – when closed? Would gates be locked? There will be a couple of layers of fences
- A lake = not water wise because would require ground water pumping, would also require maintenance.
- Reservation area uses? Picnic areas, trails, couple of access points, Frisbee fields.
- Don’t put too many gazebos, large picnic areas, etc.
- Park area – grass lawn and some native grasslands
- Agriculture – when does the agriculture marking area open? Who will be responsible? State area different from county area?
- Access – want enough picnic spaces sprinkled throughout park
- Agriculture = 4-H types of animals. Not limited to horses, other animals and some pasture.
- Horses = no 4-H boarding, but an arena for weekend riding
- Why would 4-H have horse shows? Could be a revenue generator, problem of shared bike-horse trails.
- Community gardens – would have it’s own access entrance? People would rent space. A partner project with City of San Jose. Still issue to be figured out. Master gardeners would be adjacent.
- Animals – issue of odors? Will place in center of park and the EIR will analyze this technically.
- Utilities – a higher priority for community gardens and master gardeners
- Shared trails – city has a multiuse trail section; some might be single use
- Buffer edge? Still in deliberation.
Community partnerships
- Volunteers
- Docents
- Friends groups
- Tree planting
- Clean up
- Our City Forest

Group #6

Comments on Main Park Areas and Facilities

Visitor Center/ Pavilion uses
- Security for senior citizens and site security
- Use of chemicals with agriculture
- Group thought plan was “very good.”

Farmer's Market/ Use of Agriculture
- Money from agriculture to support park?
- Is well water viable?
- Will restrooms be located along trail?
- How will land be leased out?
- Master grower – integrate organic farmers

Youth Agriculture
- Find non-profit to manage youth (high school) students “veggielution”
- What kind of machinery will be used?
- Relationship of bus parking to get school kids to their location?
- Do community gardens fall in this area?
- Want to be see at least 10 acres of community gardens
- How do you integrate community volunteers?
- How will parking work for this?

Trails
- Good!
- People are very excited about the trails
- Westside – low brush collects trash
- Will trails be loops? By wetlands?
- Westside buffer more – can it be more agriculture – maximize farm land
- Type of perimeter fencing
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- Westside residents like agriculture to fence with 100-yard setback for agriculture.
- Can width of buffer zone change along perimeter?

Seasonal Wetlands
- Like it! Better than lake!
- Relationship to Native Americans
- Concerns about vector control

Native Plant Nursery
- Bee keeping? Please!
- Use native plants in landscaping
- Would public be able to purchase them?

Other Areas
- Equestrian use and parking for them

Priorities
- Bee keeping!
- Trails
- Community gardens
- Native plant nursery
- Farming
- Water systems
- Tree planting

Neighborhood Partnerships
- Youth agriculture
- VEP – regular community work days (planting and clean up)
- Adopt-A-Trail and park
- Trail watch