

Alamo Municipal Advisory Council



Office of Supervisor
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District III

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*The Alamo Municipal Advisory Council serves as an advisory body to the
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and the County Planning Agency.*

Meeting Summary **Tuesday, August 17, 2010**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
Meeting called to order by Chair Bowlby at 7:00p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
Led by Member Dommès.
3. **ROLL CALL**
Members Present: David Bowlby, Janet Miller Evans, Ed Best, Steve Mick, David Barclay; Michael McDonald, Nancy Dommès
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT (3 Minutes/speaker)**
 - A. Alicia Watson spoke on weed abatement between Hemme Avenue and Camille Avenue.
 - B. Smitty Schmidt in support of stop signs along the Iron Horse Trail.
5. **ADOPTION OF MEETING SUMMARY FROM AUGUST 4, 2010**
Member Mick moved to adopt Meeting Summary from August 4, 2010, seconded by Member Dommès, item passed unanimously.
6. **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS**
 - A. Delta Nu Psi – To date over 17 tons of gourmet junk food has been sent over seas to troops.
 - B. P-2B – Bill Nelson reported that the P-2B committee is working on traffic/speeding issues through-out Alamo. P-2B supports “Character Counts” a classroom program designed to help adolescents understand the seriousness of bullying in schools. P-2B has authorized 2 additional officers to assist at the Alamo Music Festival.

Member Best moves to change the order of hearing items 7 and 8 on the agenda; seconded by Member Dommès, item passes unanimously.
7. **STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS**
 - A. District III staff update. Staff reported that that there are three options to pursue on improvements to the Livorna and Stone Valley Road on/off ramps. Short-term is adding some bark and other basic features to tidy it up. The second is to work with the Rotary to consider “adopting” the ramps via Caltrans and sponsor spring plantings. Finally public works has been asked to work with Caltrans to consider improvements for these ramps when they conduct the I-680 repaving project. Item to be reviewed at MAC meeting on September 7, 2010.
8. **PRESENTATIONS**
 - A. County Update - Chief Administrative Officer, David Twa provide an update on the Contra Costa County budget and other issues (see attached).

MAC Questions:

Member Mick - Q: Can you please comment on the County current accounting system? A: Yes, it’s old and needs to be replaced. County is interested in moving forward at the start of 2011 with a brand new system with new Auditor in 2011. Q: Knightsen is unincorporated and calls themselves a Town, can Alamo follow suit? A:

Knightsen requested the term town be used to avoid confusion with the Kensington MAC. Knightsen also had a historical designation using that term.

Member Barclay - Q: How will the budget issues the County is facing, how will that affect the level of services public receives? A: If we do not get a better handle on the on-going costs, i.e. benefits, pensions, it will be more difficult. There must be a systemic change in the County.

Member Bowlby – Q: Will there be an altering of supervisorial district boundaries and how does funding play into this possibility? A: There are certain districts you can't split. Ideally, there are federal and state districts that would be modified prior to local districts. There are 3 basic requirements; first, you can't gerrymander districts; second, should not split community Spheres of Influence. . Finally, populations must be balanced to recognize one person, one vote. Generally each district has to be the same in population within 5%.

Member McDonald – Q: Please comment on the state level budgets and how that has impacted the County? A: State has a 20 billion dollar deficit. The County tends to suffer more when the state suffers as they withhold money and do not fully reimburse the County for services that they mandate the County provide.. The state has not yet agreed to a budget.

B. Alamo Area of Benefit funds and Roads and Traffic/Signalization Update - Public Works Traffic and Engineering Division as presented by Mike Carlson and Jerry Fahy.

Mike Carlson reported on area/road planning items as it relates to Alamo. Roads and transportation is one arm of the County Public Works Dept. There are two groups within Traffic Engineering; Planning and Traffic.

Reviewed with the MAC the current Area of Benefit fund– AOB (a fund that accumulates money from developer fees). The AOB needs review and the project list updated with community input.

Jerry Fahy, County Traffic Engineer, reported on the Top 10 County traffic issues and the engineering that ensues to generate and begin projects. There is a county publication, “The Community Informer” that provides insight into County Traffic and Engineering issues.

MAC Discussion:

Member Mick – Q: Would like stats/data from Stone Valley Road and Danville Blvd intersection. There is also an issue with the signalization at Hemme and Danville Blvd. Provided photos for staff showing a confusing light set up. Would like to see speed limit signs placed on top of speed radar installs. Voiced concern about Hemme Avenue elementary school traffic.

Member Dommies – Q: Grants have been discussed and have the four major roads in Alamo been classified as linear parks; is this the case? If so, could we use Measure WW funds. A: PW to investigate this possibility. Q: Tell me more about the radar trailers that P-2B is looking to buy? They are speed feedback signs that would be installed in the ground permanently and flash the speed of the passing vehicle. Q: Has there been such a significant problem in the downtown area that would warrant these permanent installations? A: Two locations were identified by Lt. Brady, the two initially proposed were not ideal per County standards. Item #7 on current project list; discussions were had with the Fire District and in one of the talks, the Fire District, as one of their mitigations, was to place sidewalks in? Can that be added into #7? Member Dommies has been attending the P-2B meetings; a question that came up was the option of a “Keep Clear” Zone outside of Union Bank on Danville Blvd. PW staff will review the issue.

Member Best – Q: Are there current plans to change the “No Right on Red”? A: There are no current plans to alter that intersection right now. Q: Can the light be controlled on a traffic “peak” issue, meaning at commute times, but not on a 24/7 basis? A: Public works will confirm that new software will allow flexible signaling for time of day. Q: Can PW provide to the MAC some concrete data that identifies why certain measures were placed? A: Yes. Member Best asked about enforceability of the downtown 25 mph speed limit. What can PW do to make speed limits enforceable? Would like the MAC to consider a subcommittee to review road issues.

Member Bowlby – Q: Is there data that the County has to warrant the install of the “No Right on Red” at Stone Valley Road and Danville Blvd.? A: Yes, traffic and collision data was collected; however, this data is not always conclusive. Member Bowlby believes the downtown area of Alamo needs immediate review and consideration for

traffic congestion/control. Proposes a subcommittee to review the downtown congestion item and looks to full MAC for further consideration and review.

Member Barclay – Q: Is there a way to force the bicyclists to stop and walk their bikes across the street? A: There would have to be discussions with EBRPD as they control this aspect of the Iron Horse Trail/corridor.

Member Barclay believes the downtown area needs professional planning, not necessarily the MAC’s review. Would prefer to see money allocated to have professional propose solution.

Member Miller Evans – Q: , There has been some confusion at the Hemme location and the signal at that site. Signal is confusing and needs to be reviewed and improved accordingly. Another area of concern is the speeding along the mid-section of Livorna Road just before Trotter Avenue. Member Miller Evans would also like to see the traffic congestion reviewed outside of Monte Vista High School. Per PW, The Town of Danville controls the signal at that location.

Member McDonald would like to see the traffic study that was prepared for the downtown area. Q: Is it correct that you cannot give tickets enforced by radar in a commercial district? A: PW will research and provide MAC with answer. Member McDonald is also concerned about the current AOB and former Alamo Roads Advisory Committee’s list of projects dated September, 2008. This information is new to the MAC and he would like to have an opportunity to review and research further before combining these two lists. Member McDonald would like to see an independent meeting to solely discuss the downtown congestion, similar to what was done with the Parks review.

Member Bowlby requests that PW provide information to MAC as it relates to the downtown area of Alamo. MAC will review and then reconvene to discuss those findings and possible solutions to the area.

Member Dommies moves to advise Public Works to install flashing red lights both in the ground and on a pedestal seen from both trail and before, so visible to on-coming vehicles. Also recommends that the vegetation at the Iron Horse Trail at Lunada Lane and Stone Valley Road be cut back so line-of-site is not impaired. Seconded by Member Miller Evans, 6 yes and 1 abstention by Member Mick.

Public Comment Provided By:

Mike Gibson representing AIA reported on the “No Right Turn on Red”. He referenced a letter drafted by AIA on August 10, 2010. Also provided comment on the Alamo AOB. Any alteration will potentially impact the various vendors. A comprehensive study should be done and presented by the County.

David Holmgren, President of the Preservation of Danville Blvd., provided comment on the benefit of the No Right Turn on Red and does not consider this signal to be a nuisance.

John Lineweaver representing the Alamo Chamber of Commerce also provided comment that the Chamber supports the No Right Turn on Red. A clarification of the red arrow and signals would be beneficial. Also provided comment as an individual that perhaps speed bumps would help to slow the Iron Horse bike traffic. Also addressed the speeding issue along Livorna Road headed west. Also reported on the discontent of the No Turn on Red gap at Livorna Road.

Anita Geary provided comments on the traffic and speeding along the Iron Horse Trail at Lunada Lane. There is a lot of vegetation growing that impedes line-of-site. Variations of flashing lights along the trail would be helpful as well.

Bill Nelson representing P-2B also provided comment on speeding and suggested options for better control.

9. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION**

A. Recommend CSA M-30 (Alamo Springs) remain as-is in current LAFCO MSR.

Member Best recommends that M-30 remain as is, seconded by Member McDonald; item passes unanimously.

B. Re-affirm that Green Valley Park District not be consolidated into existing R-7.

Member Best motions to re-affirm that GRPD not be consolidated into R-7, seconded by Member McDonald, item passes unanimously.

10. **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

- A. Member Dommès acknowledged that Ms. Virgie Jones passed away Monday, August 16, 2010. Requests that MAC send their condolences.
- B. Member Dommès also reported on the last concert at Park at Livorna Park. Great turnout and provided update on the Deputy's idea to curb theft and/or vandalism. A 'Thank you' to Vicortia Skerritt who coordinated these concerts events would be a nice gesture of the MAC.
- C. Member Mick noted that there is a 9-11 remembrance at Oak Hill Park the morning of September 11th.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

A. General Correspondence:

- 1. Copy of article written by Member Dommès in August publication of Alamo Today.
- 2. Copy of AIA's letter as it relates to the No Right Turn on Red at Stone Valley Rd. and Danville Blv

B. **New Permit Applications Received:** None.

C. **Pending Permit Applications:**

- 1. **1206 Danville Blvd (Creekside Community Church)** – Land Use Permit Application #LP06-2078. Applicant requests to convert two (2) temporary structures to permanent structures along with installing a play structure. **(To be heard 9/7/10)**
- 2. **2100 Stone Valley Road** - Land Use Permit application #LP09-2026. Applicant, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District requests approval to construct new 9,255 square foot fire station on 1.1 acre SFR lot. Proposed site is .3 miles east of existing fire station #32.
- 3. **2615 Miranda Avenue (Livorna Park)** - Land Use Permit Application #LP10-2026 for the installation of new antennas on cellular tower. Applicant, AT&T hopes to collocate on a tower proposed by Clearwire at same location. AT&T submitted document with DCD to be lead on said tower.
- 4. **295 Las Quebradas** - Land Use Permit Application #LP10-2041. Applicant requests permit approval for an existing residence on-site which is 1811 square feet.
- 5. **Justin Morgan Drive** - Development Plan Application #DP10-3007. The Alamo Highlands HOA is requesting entry gate improvements.
- 6. **25 Francesca Way** - Variance Permit Application #VR10-1019. Applicant requests approval for a variance to construct a 168 sq. foot addition to a single family residence (SFR) and to allow for a 15' front setback where 25' is required by code. Subject property is a substandard size lot.
- 7. **137 Dean Road** - Minor Subdivision application #MS06-0036. Applicant requests approval of a tentative map to subdivide one parcel into two. **(To be heard 9/7/10)**
- 8. **102 Muir Lane** - Minor Subdivision #MS07-0003. Applicant requests approval to modify COA's for building height on a SFR. Applicant proposes to modify condition #21 to allow for a new residence higher than 25'. Proposed new height is 28' 6". **(To be heard 9/7/10)**
- 9. **142 Smith Road** - Minor Subdivision #MS09-0004. Applicant is requesting Lot 37 at Alamo Oaks development be subdivided into 2.
- 10. **1401 Danville Blvd.** - Review and consider Variance Permit Application, #VR10-0011 Variance is to construct a new sign structure with a 1' setback where a 25' setback is required. **(To be heard on 9/7/10)**

12. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

A. Scheduled:

- 1. MAC Communication Plan (September 7, 2010).
- 2. P-2B discussion/action (September 21, 2010).
- 3. AOB update – Continued discussion/action (September 21, 2010).
- 4. On/off ramps to Alamo; proposed maintenance agreements with CalTrans (September 21, 2010).
- 5. Parks and Recreation survey update (September 21, 2010).
- 6. Extend invitation to fire district board to join Alamo MAC to discuss fire house (TBD)
- 7. LL Zones 36, 45 & 54 review of budget for 2010/2011 year (October 19, 2010).
- 8. CSA R-7A review of budget for 2010/2011 year (November 16, 2010).
- 9. LL Zones 36, 45 & 54 review of proposed budget for 2011/2012 (February 2011).
- 10. CSA R-7A review of proposed budget for 2011/2012 year (March 2011).

B. Deferred items:

- 1. Introduction of new County Sheriff, D. Livingston.
- 2. CCTA Congestion Management Plan/CRIPP.
- 3. YMCA community and staff discussion on potential uses for YMCA property; discussion as it relates to the slide area.
- 4. MAC by-laws.

13. **ADJOURNED AT 10:02 P.M. UNTIL NEXT REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2010**