



Callander Associates
Landscape Architecture, Inc.

Via E-mail Only

November 19, 2007

Meeting Summary
Community Meeting
RE: PROSPECT ROAD MEDIAN IMPROVEMENTS
November 13, 2007, 6:00 p.m.
4 pages

Attendees: *City of Saratoga:*
John M. Cherbone (JC), jcherbone@saratoga.ca.us
Iveta Harvancik (IH), iharvancik@saratoga.ca.us
Ann Waltonsmith (AW), Vice Mayor
Kristen Borel (KB), kborel@saratoga.ca.us

Members of the public:
Refer to sign in sheets, attached

Consultants:
Marie Mai, Callander Associates (CA), mmai@callanderassociates.com
Julie Russotti, Callander Associates (CA), jussotti@callanderassociates.com

The purpose of this meeting was to receive community input on project components. John Cherbone opened the meeting by welcoming the community, describing the positive impacts of this project to the surrounding neighborhood and reviewing the project background. The rest of the project team then introduced themselves. Next, Marie Mai presented images of other existing medians as an idea stimulus and reference point from which the community could provide their likes and dislikes. The meeting was then opened up for comments and questions from the public.

The following information was discussed and/or decided upon at our meeting:

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Park and Recreation Planning
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Peter E. Callander, ASLA, Principal
A. Mark Slichter, ASLA, Principal
Brian G. Fletcher, ASLA, Principal
Erik Smith, ASLA, Principal
Benjamin W. Woodside, ASLA, Principal

Public Comment / Concern

Plant and Paving Materials

- Some members of the community expressed a desire for evergreens, noting that evergreens were low maintenance since they did not have seasonal leaf drop.
- Some raised concerns about the lack of visibility with evergreens such as sequoias, which typically branch to the ground and which could obscure pedestrians from vehicles. Pruning up canopies was discussed as a possible solution.
- Some members liked the new gateways at Saratoga Sunnyvale Road and in Cupertino, because of plant material and design features such as the trellises.
- Some community members were concerned that the use of large trees such as sequoias would obscure views of the hills for residents in the neighborhood.
- Some members liked deciduous trees for their flowers, color, seasonal change, and variety, but noted the maintenance downsides of leaf litter.
- Palm trees are not something that neighbors would like to see in the proposed medians.
- Some members noted that environmental considerations should be addressed, including run off and reducing the carbon footprint. Use of low maintenance and drought tolerant plants were noted as a positive action.
- Proposed design strategies should be consistent with existing plant materials and character of the neighborhoods. Design should provide continuity between communities.
- Some felt that brick work and over use of paving stones may feel too commercial for the neighborhood and seems too expensive. Many community members voiced the desire for a simple naturalistic approach to design.
- Ideas of differentiating medians were discussed to keep line of sight “moving” and aesthetically pleasing. Trees along the Highway 85 overpass were also proposed. Structural engineer will have to assess overpass opportunities.

Traffic Patterns and Safety concerns

- Intersection safety for children crossing at Miller Avenue. and other locations was a concern due to the high traffic volumes along Prospect Road. Some residents would like to see a crosswalk at Miller Avenue and Blaney Avenue. A push button or other user activated signal is desired at Titus Avenue near Christy McAuliffe Elementary School.

Public Comment / Concern

- Some members would like existing right of way and bike lane widths to be preserved.
- Some members were supportive of narrowing drive lane widths as a traffic calming measure to encourage lower traveling speeds. An additional benefit would be the resulting increase in median widths.
- Some residents are concerned with the intersection of Scully Avenue and Prospect Road and other areas with suicide lanes. Left turns from Prospect Road onto Brookglen Drive are another point of concern for neighbors.
- Some community members were concerned that raised medians would block or otherwise change existing traffic patterns, specifically at the intersection of Clarkspur Lane. There is an overall desire to improve traffic patterns and access patterns. Some members were concerned that changing points of ingress and egress would increase traffic volumes. Other residents were supportive of new median openings to allow for a shorter path of travel.
- The intersections of Ardenwood Drive, Kristy Lane, and Saraglen Avenue at Prospect Road have high volumes of traffic and should provide a refuge for vehicles as well as pedestrians.
- Some community members also expressed the need for easier access to the parking lot located between Scully Avenue and Miller Avenue.

Design Implementation

- The majority of neighbors supported phased implementation to accommodate budgetary constraints while still “getting the ball rolling”.
- City will hold funds for the project until it comes to fruition. Neighbors discussed the possibility of collecting donations from willing neighbors to help fund project. Including the use of local scout troops to lead efforts.

Schedule

Next steps:

- Plans are to reflect the received community input.
- Conceptual images and master plans will be brought back to the community for review at second community meeting.
- Look at sources for funding.

Public Comment / Concern

Written comments

- Written comments received from community agenda sheets reiterate documented comments above.

-END-

The information above is Callander Associates' understanding of items discussed and decisions reached at the meeting. Callander Associates is proceeding with the project based on this understanding. If you have any questions, additions, or corrections to this memo, please contact this office in writing within three days.

Submitted by:

Julie Russotti

cc: All attendees file