

**CITY OF ALISO VIEJO MINUTES  
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 28, 2006**

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

A meeting of the Development Review Committee of the City of Aliso Viejo was called to order by Chair Garcia at 6:40 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2006, at the Aliso Viejo City Hall Council Chamber, 12 Journey, Aliso Viejo, California.

A complete copy of the Agenda for the meeting containing all items as shown herein was posted by 5:30 p.m. on February 23, 2006, on the outdoor bulletin board at City Hall. Copies were also posted at the Aliso Viejo Library, 1 Journey; and the Aliso Viejo Sheriff's Substation, 11 Journey.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Committee Members: Margo Beauchamp, Mark Hiller, Lori Trottier, John Whitman, and Chair Eugenia Garcia.

Absent: Committee Member: Joseph Koszarek, Lynne Pivaroff, and Stewart Winkler

**ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 14, 2006 MINUTES**

**A MOTION** was made by Committee Member Hiller and seconded by Committee Member Whitman that the Committee continue the Minutes of February 14, 2006 to allow for further review. The motion passed, 5-0.

**ITEM 2: CITY OF ALISO VIEJO DRAFT MASTER STREETS, TRAILS AND AMENITIES PLAN**

Committee Member Whitman gave a brief background on the draft Master Plan and explained the goals and directions from the City Council. He introduced Bob Meuting of RJM Design Group who is the consultant for the project.

Consultant Meuting further summarized the process leading up to the drafting of the Plan, including a synopsis of how the project was studied, descriptions of small group meetings, design charrette, public tour and workshops. He gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the draft Plan and highlighted unique elements detailed in the document. A copy of the presentation was added to the Agenda packet.

Consultant Meuting stated that some of the requested amenities expressed at the community workshop included trail linkages to Town Center, signage for the trails, restroom facilities, and bike racks.

Committee Member Trottier commended Consultant Meuting for the clear and descriptive details of the Plan, but stated that she was not in favor of street calming

methods in general. She stated there needed to be an outer loop of arterials to maintain the automotive pattern, and that with the increase in the City's population there would be a lot more cars, and the street calming measures may cause traffic congestion.

Consultant Meuting responded that the idea behind the street calming measures was to reduce speed and thereby accidents in certain areas of the City. He explained that reference to street calming measures was included in the Appendix of the Plan in response to a paragraph on page 36, and as a response to a Council Member's concern and request to address these measures.

Committee Member Whitman mentioned that if speed was a major problem, Staff should look at it from a Traffic Engineering standpoint on methods to resolve it, and the street calming measures aimed to solve the problem. He stated that the City wanted to encourage pedestrian activities, but that pedestrian routes must be made safe. He mentioned that per Orange County Transportation Authority's criteria for Master Plan funding, the City must prove that the Plan will not decrease intersection capacity. He stated that the street calming measures would decrease the City's intersection capacities.

Committee Member Trottier stated she liked the idea of designing "fingers" of pathways for pedestrians that encompassed some of the concepts of the Plan and directly connect the activity areas rather than modifying the major arterial backbones of the City.

Consultant Meuting explained that the Plan was not designed to decrease City traffic volumes, and that the goal of the Plan was to increase pedestrian and bike connectivity, not to reduce the amount of space in the City for automotive traffic.

Further discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of street calming measures.

Committee Member Beauchamp mentioned that the City still needs to provide separation between the automotive and pedestrian traffic and this was the focus of the Plan.

Chair Garcia stated that in many places, the Plan referenced the National Institute of Health. She stated that City Council wanted to make Aliso Viejo more walkable, and that currently, there were not a lot of people out walking. She stated the City wanted to give people an enjoyable experience and encourage walking to their destinations in the City. She stated she recognized the concerns expressed regarding street calming measures, and that the intent was not to slow traffic to 5 mph. She stated the City wanted to get people out to safely allow them to enjoy the health benefits the Plan would provide.

Committee Member Hiller asked Consultant Meuting how he planned on connecting or coordinating the AVCA trail and park plan with the City Plan, as he is the consultant for both entities.

Consultant Meuting answered stating there were a lot of opportunities for AVCA and the

City to connect. He mentioned a lot of the parks are linked along the Thematic Loops, and that there was opportunity for collaborative efforts to implement both Plans. He stated that the City's draft Plan being presented was compatible with other projects in the City.

Committee Member Hiller stated that some of the areas specified in the Plan for improvement were on AVCA's property and that they would require approval from AVCA. He agreed that there was opportunity within the parks and trails for cooperative efforts.

Donna Ogilvie, an Aliso Viejo resident, stated that many of the residents in attendance at the meeting were there to address the parking areas proposed for implementation in the Plan, specifically the area to be located off of Canyon Vistas. She stated that the opening at the end of that street, leading into Aliso and Wood Canyons Regional Park, was an unofficial entrance to the park, and that the street was a 25 mph street. She expressed that routing people through that community and allowing them to park adjacent to that opening would negatively impact the traffic problem in that community and could potentially destroy it.

Consultant Meuting responded that people who use the opening to the Regional Park, park their cars on Canyon Vistas, and that the parking lot was planned to alleviate the parking problem on the street.

Mona Robinson, an Aliso Viejo resident, stated that the parking lot would be located directly behind her home and that they were opposed. She stated that she understood the Plan was a guide, but that she was worried that the Plan would be approved and the parking lot would be implemented.

Barbara Grubb, an Aliso Viejo resident, stated that the entrance was a "backdoor entrance" to the regional park. She mentioned she bought her home with the understanding that the opening would not be a main access for the Aliso and Wood Canyons Parks.

Chair Garcia stated she had been to the park and recognized the problems in that area, and that concerned residents should come into City Hall to discuss the issues and possibilities in that area.

Theresa Vinciguerra, an Aliso Viejo resident, mentioned that she did walk in the area and that she used Aliso Creek Road often. She stated it was very intimidating walking with cars speeding past, and that she would like to have something separating the pedestrian path from the cars.

Sharon Murray, an Aliso Viejo resident, asked if there were parameters on when the projects must be constructed to receive the grant for the Town Center Loop Trail.

Committee Member Whitman answered the project must be started by June of 2008 to

receive the grant.

Ms. Murray asked if the Plan allowed for pet owner amenities such as dog bowls, dog bag dispensers for cleaning up waste, or other amenities to make the trails appropriate for dog walkers.

Consultant Meuting stated there were areas of the Plan that allowed for some of those amenities.

Committee Member Trottier asked how the list of projects in the plan was prioritized.

Consultant Meuting explained the process completed by RJM Design Group, the Council, and City Staff on ranking the projects. He also explained that comments from the community workshop and charrette were included in the prioritization.

Committee Member Hiller asked if a criterion was given to participants on the ranking system defining "benefit to the community."

Consultant Meuting answered that everyone ranked the amenities with their own definition of benefit to the community, so the definition was subjective.

Committee Member Trottier asked if the list could be non-prioritized and serve as a simple list of projects.

Committee Member Whitman stated the list needed to be prioritized for implementation purposes and for funding. He suggested the Committee follow the process used in the workshop and in the small group meetings to rank the priority of the projects themselves in order to understand better the reasoning behind why the projects were prioritized as listed. He stated the priorities could be adjusted for each CIP project and addressed in a separate staff report.

Committee Member Hiller asked if the public had seen the document.

Chair Garcia stated that the public notices sent for agenda items stated that the documents were available for review by the public, but that no one had received a physical copy of the document.

Committee Member Hiller asked if the document could be marked "Draft" and put into PDF format so it could be displayed on the City website. Committee Member Whitman answered affirmatively.

Committee Member Hiller stated that he thought the idea of "Branding the City" was a great idea. He commented on the view-sheds for the Vista Trails on page 16. He stated the trail was in support of the protection of Aliso Viejo's views and that the Stone Pine tree, which was specified for the trail, was a large tree species that may block the views. He suggested a Cypress Tree or a tree species that would be shorter at maturity.

Committee Member Beauchamp commented that the Plan was very clearly written, and that the pictures were great. She mentioned that she preferred the one-way designated bike lane with the arrow indicating direction. She stated that from a Police Services view, bikes are considered vehicles, and they need to travel in the right direction. The one-way bike lanes would help educate people on which way they need to travel. She stated she liked the bollard lights and the street lighting. She suggested the pavers for the Town Center Loop trail areas be made of smoother material. She also suggested that the benches for the bus shelters and trails have a divider in the center to prevent transients and others from lying across them. Lastly, she stated the monuments for community branding could also be an appropriate place to display seals or logos of active community groups such as the Rotary Club and others.

Committee Member Trottier suggested that pictures of each landscape species be provided to accompany the list in the Appendix of the Plan. She also stated she was concerned that some of the landscape buffers were not wide enough to support the plants and trees in them on a long term basis. She explained that some of the buffers are only four feet wide, and trunks of the larger tree species may grow wider than that. She stated that some of the portions of the Plan may be difficult to implement in the long-term, and therefore may not reflect the original intent of the Plan. She stated she would also like to see minimum standards for sidewalk widths, buffer widths, and minimum distances between street and trail amenities such as benches, trash cans, etc. She suggested meandering sidewalks be located between landscaping buffer areas. Lastly, she suggested consideration of a long-term implementation plan for the Trails Master Plan to ensure the proper upkeep of proposed projects.

Committee Member Whitman stated a maintenance plan was developed for the Median Master Plan and that AVCA was planning an Urban Forestry Maintenance Plan for their trees. He mentioned that most of the trees within the City belong to AVCA, and that their Plan may help address the issue, and that the City may be able to “piggyback” on AVCA’s efforts.

Committee Member Hiller asked for more information on the concept of a bioswale and how the City would prevent them from turning into a miniature bog or swamp area.

Committee Member Whitman stated that there was currently a bioswale at the Chevron station located at Glenwood and Aliso Creek Road and that there were several more proposed for the Vantis project.

Committee Member Hiller suggested the concept be clarified within the Plan. He also asked if the park restrooms denoted on page 52 of the Plan included permanent and portable restroom facilities. He suggested if they included both, that the description be changed to specify both types of facilities.

Consultant Meuting answered that the exhibit depicted both permanent and portable facilities and that he would note the change.

Committee Member Whitman asked for feedback from the Committee on what should be recommended to Council.

Committee Member Hiller stated that the Committee did not all have the same information concerning the Plan and that he did not agree 100% with every aspect of the Plan. He suggested the committee recommend approval of the basis concept of the Plan and include the DRC's comments.

Committee Member Trottier agreed, stating there may be more localized issues within the Plan and that she did not want to negatively impact those areas by approving the current draft Plan.

Committee Member Whitman agreed with pushing the concept of the Plan forward, and specifically deleting the parking lot designation addressed by the residents, and addressing the restroom amenities.

Committee Member Beauchamp stated the draft Plan should be put on the City website.

**A MOTION** was made by Committee Member Whitman, and seconded by Committee Member Trottier, that the Committee support the basic concept of the draft Master Trails Amenities Plan, with:

- Deletion of the two identified issues at Canyon Vistas Park; and
- Additional consideration of distance standards for amenities; and
- Recognition that there are some localized issues that may still need to be addressed; and
- That the DRC review the list of priorities for the specified projects and provide additional feedback regarding the prioritization; and
- That the final draft Master Trails and Amenities Plan be made available on the City website for review by the public.

Motion Carried, 5-0.

## **COMMUNITY INPUT**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT** at 9:02 p.m.

Submitted By:

Approved By:

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Serenity N. Ajawara  
Assistant Planner

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Eugenia Garcia, AICP  
Chair