CITY OF SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

BUILDING STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

Executive Summary
October 18, 2004

Meeting was convened at 1:35 p.m.

a. **School/City Agreements as Nexus to the Parkland Dedication Ordinance and Park Impact Ordinance (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)**

Upon motion by Councilmember Chirco, seconded by Councilmember Yeager the Committee deferred action on this report and requested staff to return on November 15 with the direction to provide updates on:

- Report out of Mayor's meeting
- Framework for going back to Council
  - approach
  - elements
- One year extension - on any agreement
- HUB concept-focus on newly closed facility
- School closure and strategy
- Recreational facility on hold

b. **Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Partnerships with Higher Education (City Manager's Office/San Jose Redevelopment Agency)**

Upon motion by Councilmember Yeager, seconded by Councilmember Chirco the Committee accepted the report with the direction to be included in the next workplan schedule report back

- Solid steps taken with outside partners
- Quantify what is be done
- Provide goals

c. **Oral Petitions**

None.

d. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Cindy Chavez, Chair
Building Strong Neighborhoods Committee

CITY OF SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

BUILDING STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

Meeting Report
October 18, 2004

PRESENT: Chair Cindy Chavez, Councilmember Ken Yeager, Councilmember Judy Chirco,

STAFF: Ed Shikata, City Manager's Office; Paul Pereira, San Jose Redevelopment Agency; Scott Reese, Dave Mitchell, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services; Avo Makdessian, Mayor's Office; Norm Sato, City Attorney's Office

The meeting convened at 1:35 p.m.

a. School/City Agreements as Nexus to the Parkland Dedication Ordinance and Park Impact Ordinance (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)

Scott Reese addressed the Committee with a powerpoint presentation as framework for discussion on the current and potential use of school grounds as a means to further address the increasing demand for park and recreational resources:

- Concept for facilitating community case of school grounds
- Current community recreational use of school grounds
- Community recreational use of school grounds
- Facility standards
- Recreation use strategies
- Future strategies
- Future concepts
- Current action
- PDO/PIO concepts

Councilmember Yeager asked if the school closures fit in the current or future plans. Mr. Reese stated what they would like is a definitive strategy on how that school could be maintained as a community resource. Staff believes the PDO/PIO funds could work with the nexus agreement and co-mingle with other funds to make sure the site could be preserved.

Councilmember Yeager stated that in his discussions with the superintendent of San Jose Unified School District, school closures might be announced soon. We need to think about our strategy.

Chairperson Chavez stated that her big concern is that the City overall does not have a strategy for dealing with schools and school districts and for what is expected. Currently

there is no strategy with schools. There are a lot of recommendations being presented for shared use and City use. In the past, shared use was not always shared and it has been a struggle. An internal framework has not been agreed upon for what is trying to be accomplished. In the long term, the City is much better at land use and planning. This strategy is premature and her expectation on what should come back to the Committee is a framework of what the outcomes would be by the categories that were presented and should include discussions with superintendents. Mr. Reese responded that Staff is working on that. The PDO/PIO presentation reflects the development side. Staff is looking carefully at each one of the agreements as the dates come due to be terminated to see what changes need to be made.

Chair Chavez asked what Staff is using as guidelines. There is no framework to reference. She believes the agreements should be voted on by Council and not completed without Council review and responsibility. Avo Makdessian added that the first step of starting over has begun. On Thursday, November 18th, the Mayor is hosting a meeting with thirteen of the nineteen San Jose superintendents. One of the issues under discussion is joint-use agreements and figuring out what a shared goal is going to be for both the superintendents and the City. Chair Chavez asked who the Council liaisons are for the schools. Mr. Makdessian said Councilmember Chirco and Councilmember Gregory are going to be participating in the School/City Collaborative on Thursday. Councilmember Yeager added that he had been working on joint use agreements for years before leaving the collaborative.

Councilmember Chirco stated the PDO/PIO presentation is a very comprehensive plan and asked if the schools had been consulted on any part of the planning of this; or if there's been any dialog with superintendents on the use of their land. Staff needs to sit down at the same table with a common goal that is clear and consistent. This is a very complex plan. Chair Chavez added that there are multiple sides to the issues. As a City we have not been up front and consistent on what is expected. Mr. Reese said there has been dialogue with the schools and Staff has been successful in entering into different types of agreements with school districts. Coming to this type of forum to hear the various ideas can be of assistance in tuning the common goal. This is just the capital part that is related back to the PDO/PIO and it needs to be determined how this is used in terms of flexibility to incentives for the other types of agreements. Staff is looking for a way to have some type of framework.

Councilmember Chirco added there needs to be a discussion on how to preserve the integrity of the principal use of the classroom. Staff needs to be very sensitive on both sides. Staff has fallen short by making assumptions without any dialogue with the principals or the school boards. There needs to be consistency to have equal access to resources. Chair Chavez stated that fundamentally the City does not have a framework. Agreements made one-on-one continue to provide no end to problems. Councilmember Yeager stated that at some point in time the Council needs to have a discussion so the direction can be defined on the best use of the funds. Chair Chavez added you need to be careful with open space versus recreation. Her original point is to have a framework that takes in all the policies, issues and goals so the City is being careful of raising expectations and is consistent.

Councilmember Chirco agreed and added the City is so big and has such diverse departments and directives. To have a framework for each of the departments would be appropriate so that there are common ground rules for all players. Mr. Makdessian said the meeting on

Thursday is a way to get some open dialogue and create a framework and report out to the BSN Committee and maybe take it Council to discuss substance on the framework. Staff needs to realize that neighborhood priorities change a lot and the school districts need to understand that the City priorities are ongoing throughout the year. The framework on how Staff approaches the school districts should be consistent. Chairperson Chavez added that, if in the future, part of our Greenprint strategy is the guiding document; the neighborhoods have said they want trails and expanded green space.

The presentation today is the beginning to think about the framework. Councilmember Yeager suggested that Staff consider the negative aspects of developing the framework. Maybe it will be a situation where the framework will work in only some schools and neighborhoods. Mr. Reese said the current plan is very conceptual and Staff is continuing to evolve the HUB concepts and the schools are an important part of that. The City cannot afford to lose the current school grounds. Dave Mitchell explained that under the current PDO/PIO, the City couldn't pay for any improvements on school property that the school owns.

Upon motion by Councilmember Chirco, seconded by Councilmember Yeager the Committee deferred action and directed Staff to return on November 15 and provide updates on:

- **Report out of Mayor's meeting**
- **Framework for going back to Council**
  - **approach**
  - **elements**
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b. Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Partnerships with Higher Education (San Jose Redevelopment Agency/City Managers Office) (Heard out of order.)

Paul Pereira, Neighborhood Team Manager, addressed the Committee representing the SNI downtown area. He introduced Professor Malu Redon, representing San Jose State University. An update was provided on what had been done to date with the service learning collaborative and the direction headed with the City, SJSU and the community. The Service Learning Collaborative is in direct response to the Mayor's 2004 State of the City address, where strengthened partnerships with SJSU and other centers for higher learning were a goal for 2004. The main outcomes for the service learning partnerships would focus on:

- Enhance the learning experience at San Jose State University
- Enhance the quality of life for residents in the City of San Jose
- Demonstrate the Service Learning is a powerful instrument for growth and a model for collaboration

The initial SNI area is Five Wounds/Brookwood Terrace. The university has committed to five years of projects at San Jose State and is reviewing how different professors can tie into the community. Currently five of the eight colleges are involved in service learning projects

in the community. The College of Business under the guidance of Professor Redon is partnering with the City and The Health Trust in administering health surveys.

Professor Redon stated the service learning partnership came at a great time for her project. They are in the second year of a HP grant to fund projects. Students work on prototype applications for community-based organizations and they also build grant proposals; or business plans. The students are building systems for the health fairs such as service, health screening and volunteer management applications. In a few weeks students will be walking the Five Wounds/Brookwood Terrance area collecting data using mobile technology. Professor Redon provided a demonstration on the HP table personal computer that works like a laptop. The survey data is saved directly to a database automatically. This tool provides the ability of instant feedback at the health fairs. There is a meeting scheduled in November with the different stakeholders and professors that will assist with the next steps. Councilmember Yeager stated this is very exciting and asked what the structure was and if it is driven by the university. Mr. Pereira said the discussion in November would involve the structure. Professors have been in discussions in what was a loosely formed group that was looking at what would be the wins; the strengths and what can be learned. Before participants solidify the structure, they want to make sure that the community and students can support and be passionate about the project. The last thing Staff wants to do is to make the students feels like they have to do this and make the residents feel like experiments.

Councilmember Yeager suggested bringing in some of the community colleges around the area. Mr. Pereira stated they are looking not just San Jose State and immediate areas but how other colleges (i.e. National Hispanic University, Evergreen Community College) can be part of this type of activity by modeling what happens. The hope is within the next year Staff can reference what was done in the downtown area and provide ideas. Councilmember Chirco suggested an end product be resolved referencing a concrete project and outcomes that make a difference. Mr. Pereira stated that is part of the scope and structure for the future. Staff absolutely agrees that some real products should come out of this collaboration.

Chair Chavez referenced a conversation with Allen Casey from City Year and suggested Staff makes contact for background. One item was an idea of building out, physically, a service learning center somewhere in downtown San Jose. She stated there is no collection point for service learning. Chair Chavez stated it is so important to assist students with how to interact with the real world and wants to make sure everyone is thinking about:

- The big, big, big picture
- City of San Jose, San Jose State, and all community colleges collaborative
- Housing the service in a central location for everyone to own
- Reference the digital divide masterplan and connect this activity to the plan as it relates to young people
- Practical outcomes merge by possibly putting down goals and working backwards to see how this looks
- Connection to the Youth Services masterplan
- Connection to Aging Seniors masterplan
- SNI plans

Councilmember Yeager suggested the Healthy Neighborhoods Venture Funds (HNVF) may be able to assist with some grant funding. The service learning area may want to apply for the grant monies in a future funding cycle.

Upon motion by Councilmember Yeager, seconded by Councilmember Chirco the Committee accepted the report and directed information to be provided in the next report:

- **Concrete steps working with outside partners**
- **Quantify what we are doing**
- **Big dream worked back to the goal**

Chairperson Chavez requested Avo Makdessian to review and suggest items to be referenced in the new workplan schedule for January or February 2005.

f. Oral Petitions
None.

g. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Cindy Chavez, Chair
Building Strong Neighborhoods Committee