

Fairfax Town Council Minutes
Special Meeting
Fairfax Women's Club
Wednesday, January 30, 2008, at 7:30 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Bragman
Susan Brandborg
Mary Ann Maggiore
Lew Tremaine
David Weinsoff

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Rock, Town Manager
Ann Welsh, Planning Director
Judy Anderson, Town Clerk

Mayor Maggiore called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Open Time for Public Expression

Bill Madsen, Porteous Ave., thanked the Council for taking up the draft Floor Area Ratio Ordinance.

Patrick Lee, Olema Rd., thanked the Council for doing such a good job and for helping with the environment. He described how the Town could go forward to become more sustainable.

Interview and appointment of candidates to serve on the Planning Commission; one for a full four year term to January 31, 2012 and two for unexpired terms to January 31, 2011

The candidates for appointment to the Planning Commission described their reasons for wanting to serve on the Commission, their opinions on the priorities of the Commission, on proposed development at the former Albertsons site, on the General Plan update, the value of the General Plan, the draft Floor Area Ratio (FAR) ordinance, and green building. The candidates interviewed by the Council were: Terry Goyan, Fred Lakosky, Shelby LaMotte, Pam Meigs and Peter Ramsay.

Mayor Maggiore opened the discussion to the audience.

Bill Madsen, Porteous Ave., stated that he had served almost seven years on the Planning Commission; that he had served a year of his last term; that the Council had some fantastic applicants to choose from; that the more in-depth interview in the informal setting was much better than the previous process used to select Planning Commissioners; and he recommended that Commissioner Meigs not be re-appointed.

David Johansen, stated that the General Plan had been talked about for the six years he had lived in Fairfax, suggested that sustainability should be a goal of the Planning Commission; and suggested fresh faces and fresh voices to get the General Plan Update completed.

Mimi Newton, Mono Ave., Open Space Committee Chair, stated that Pam Meigs was a tireless advocate for the town, that she gave a lot to her role as Chair of the Planning Commission, that she appreciated the work that Pam had done, that the Planning Commission needed continuity and new blood, and that Pam would provide the continuity.

Barbara Petty, Town Treasurer and former Planning Commissioner, stated that she had been on the Commission for two years; that she appreciated the experience of her fellow commissioners; that Planning Commission Chair Meigs had started having meetings with the Planning Director; that she would like the Town Council to select Pam Meigs to serve another term; and that, with three openings, the Commission could end up with five new commissioners.

John Owens, Frustuck Ave., stated that he had attended Planning Commission meetings for years; that new people were needed and that there were qualified candidates available to be appointed; that he didn't want Commissioner Meigs to be reappointed; and that he thought he was treated badly when he went before the Commission for approval of his 2100 square foot house with lots of green building aspects.

Helen Fauss, spoke on behalf of Pam Meigs and stated that she had a balanced approach to issues and that both Pam Meigs and Terry Goyan would do a good job on the Commission. She agreed that a combination of new and experienced commissioners made sense.

Gordy Hall, Frustuck Ave., stated that the remarks from former Commissioner Madsen were from a failed Council candidate who was trying to push his ideas on the Town and urged the Council not to be influenced by someone with a personal motive.

Shane Deal, Belle Ave., thanked the Town Council for using the new process for the selection of Planning Commissioners. He further stated that he had worked with Shelby on the Design Review Board and recommended her for appointment for her plan reading skills, her knowledge of the Town ordinances, and her background as a Design Review Board member.

Niccolo Caldararo, Frustuck Ave., spoke in support of Pam Meigs for appointment to the Planning Commission. He stated that she was hard working, had integrity, loved the Town, gave generously of her time, showed respect for the citizens who went before the Planning Commission, and that she had served on the original General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC).

Alec Hoffmann, Planning Commissioner, stated that continuity was important and that change would be a step back; and that planning related experience was important.

Peter Lacques, Planning Commissioner, stated that Pam Meigs had provided great leadership to the Commission, especially regarding the General Plan and the proposed overlay zone, and that she was very dedicated and had a strong institutional memory. He stated that former Commissioner Madsen's remarks were out of order.

Ryan O'Neil, Open Space Committee and Tree Committee member and a Fairfax resident for five years, stated that he saw the strength of differences of opinion; that a campaign to oust a certain Council member had gotten him involved in the Town; that it

was important to have experience on the Commission, but that it was also important to have different opinions; and that negative campaigns were counterproductive.

Mayor Maggiore adjourned the meeting for a break from 9:05 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

M/S, Tremaine/Bragman, Motion to appoint Pam Meigs to a full four-year term to January 31, 2012.

AYES: Bragman, Maggiore, Tremaine, Weinsoff
NOES: Brandborg

M/S, Tremaine/Brandborg, Motion to appoint Shelby LaMotte to serve on the Planning Commission to complete an unexpired term to January 31, 2011.

AYES: Bragman, Brandborg, Maggiore, Tremaine, Weinsoff
NOES: None

M/S, Bragman/Tremaine, Motion to appoint Terry Goyan to the Planning Commission to complete an unexpired term to January 31, 2011.

AYES: Bragman, Maggiore, Tremaine
NOES: Weinsoff
ABSTAIN: Brandborg

Council Reports and Comments

Ross Valley Sanitary

Town Manager Rock reported on issues at Ross Valley Sanitary that he anticipated would appear in the newspaper soon. The problems included that Ross Valley Sanitary was under a court order to replace two miles of main sewer lines per year; and that they had been given a year's notice on their lease and asked to move.

Mayor Maggiore stated that she had asked the Town Manager to report to the Council on the insolvency issue, the collapse of the system itself, and the projects done in Town without proper notice, so that they would be ready to represent the Town's interests.

Councilmember Bragman expressed dissatisfaction with the sewer project the Sanitary District did on Canyon Road and with the project done on Meadow Way without notice to the Town. He suggested that a letter be sent to the Sanitary District signed by Mayor Maggiore, with a copy to the Board, requesting that the Town Manager as well as the Public Works Director be notified whenever the District planned to do a project on Town property.

Councilmember Brandborg stated that the broader implications were that if the Sanitary District went broke, the Town would have to figure out how to provide sewer services to the Town residents. She suggested that the Council needed to know what was happening and how it would impact the Town.

Town Manager Rock agreed to provide a report to the Town Council for the February 6th meeting, and noted that the Court could appoint someone to run the service and that the lease issue was being used to force Ross Valley Sanitary into consolidation efforts.

Councilmember Bragman offered to draft a letter to Ross Valley Sanitary.

Shared Services Committee

Councilmembers Tremaine and Brandborg reported on the Shared Services Committee. They reported that the Committee had agreed to explore the idea of sharing an engineer with San Anselmo and to seek approval from both Councils to hire a firm to report on the possible savings of a shared police dispatch service with the plan to take the idea to the voters if substantial savings could be the result. The question they put to the Council was whether or not the Council wanted to spend the money on the study. It was noted that Town Manager Rock would be on the panel to select San Anselmo's engineer.

Councilmember Bragman expressed concern about paying the cost of benefits for an additional engineer and noted that the costs for the current contract Town Engineer were mostly passed through.

Vice Mayor Weinsoff announced that the Goldman School of Public Policy would be preparing a report at no cost to the Town on possible revenue enhancements for the Town.

M/S, Tremaine/Bragman, Motion to adjourn at 10:08 p.m.

AYES: All

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Anderson, Town Clerk