

AVCA Meeting Minutes
Location: Almaden Community Center, 6445 Camden Ave
Monday, July 10, 2006 – 7:00 PM

7:00 pm **Welcome & Introduce attendees as necessary:**

Eric Crane, Communications Aide for Nancy Pyle
Linda Taafe, Editor, Almaden Resident
Lorraine Gabbert, Staff Writer, Almaden Times
Total of 17 present.

Speaker: Speaker cancelled too late to schedule another

7:05 pm **Officer/Director Meeting – A Quorum was not present**

Officers

Lee Dimmitt, Present
Ray Strong, Absent
Gari Soulé, Absent
Lisa Wiseman, Absent

Directors

Kitty Monahan, Present
Pat McMahon, Present
Ron Blake, Absent
Art Boudreault, Present

Secretary's Report -- Lee Dimmitt: June minutes were approved with no change.

Treasurer's Report -- Gari Soulé Absent. No Report

Chair's Report: Lee Dimmitt signed a contract with the Almaden Community Center for six months at a cost of \$294. The breakdown is \$50.00 deposit, \$30.00 processing fee, and the remainder for overtime payments to staff to keep the Community Center open for an extra hour past the 8 PM closing time. Because the regular date for the October meeting falls on Columbus Day, the Center will be closed. Lee arranged for the meeting to be either Oct 2nd or 16th, but doesn't recall which one.

Communications:

Web Site impact report – Linda Spencer reported a slightly continuing increase in access to our Web site. Total Visits for May = 4487 and Average Visits Per Day = 149. The statistics show virtually no change from May. This may be because people are away on vacation, or not looking for information about possibly moving to the area at this time of year, or some unknown reason. The increase that we have been seeing for months would be unlikely to continue forever.

Web pages that need to be updated: Kitty Monahan presented Linda with a disk of changes to Parks (add City Parks and update County Parks). Linda received no other changes since last month. The following are needed. Art is supposed to review Traffic, Light Rail Plans, and pointer to a newer city page on Almaden Expressway future, Transit, Schools, Public Safety, and Rehearsal Exercise for an Airplane Crash Disaster.

It was not recorded in last month's meeting who volunteered for the following pages: Almaden Library (write AVCA page on grand opening + photos and then link to the city's page, set of pages about AVCA, Almaden Valley, Associations, Resources, Representatives (local, city, through federal).

Almaden E Loop -- Lee Dimmitt reported:

E-mail addresses: 410 TBA (est. 30% read) = estimated 123 read

Old Business:

Mayoral Forum -- We plan to have the forum on Thursday, September 28th at the Water District. Should that date be unavailable, the dates of September 21st or October 5th will be selected.

Coyote Valley -- Bob Boydston reported on the Coyote Valley meeting at the Almaden Community Center. There were 25 attendees, 8 of whom were residents of Almaden Valley. Bob doesn't believe the Coyote Valley plans are realistic. Triggers are now not met and will be upheld. To do otherwise is to force the remainder of the city to bear the cost of the project. There is an expectation that the EIR will be released in November, having been postponed twice so far. Art Boudreault reported that he arrived as the meeting broke up. He gave Nancy Pyle a copy of a report he wrote, called "Concerns about the Coyote Valley Plan." Lee Dimmitt requested that the report be added to the minutes. (See attachment)

AVCA Ethics Guidelines -- Art presented a revised copy of the AVCA Code of Ethical Conduct. He noted that he had misplaced the changes from last month. Several changes were made again. Lee requested that the newly revised copy of the document be e-mailed to the board members for final comments, and that the Board will accept or reject the Code with little discussion at the next meeting..

New Business:

Disburse excess funds -- Lee Dimmitt proposed four ideas for using excess funds in the treasury. Jeffrey LaPlante, an attendee, suggested a fifth alternative, that of partially funding an Eagle Scout Project. This project is to landscape the Post Office grounds on Crown Boulevard. LaPlante provided details on the costs for plants and piping for the installation of a sprinkler system. He noted that a landscape architect and several others have donated their time and talents. They will utilize free or discounted sources for materials, including trees from the City. LaPlante estimated a total cost of \$3,000 for this project and they have, in addition to the time of volunteers, have received \$500 in donations to date. The target for completing the project is the last week of July. Several Board members expressed a desire to assist the Eagle Scout with his project. Art made a motion as follows:

Motion 200607.1 Topic: Disburse Funds. To pay \$1,500 for the Eagle Scout Project at the Post Office on Crown Boulevard. The motion was deferred to a special meeting to be called by the president.

It was seconded by Kitty Monahan; but since there was no quorum, the Chair decided to request an e-mail vote from board members this week. The temporary rules for the e-mails are that members may ask for more information and, if any board member wants a discussion, the chair will cancel the e-mail vote and call a special meeting in sufficient time to allow the project to continue on schedule, assuming a favorable vote. Jeff LaPlante will provide the project diagram to our Web Site Editor, Linda Spencer, who will scan it and put it on the Web site for board members to study further.

Following this discussion, the board discussed the other ideas listed in the agenda.

Library – A general donation and Value Line were combined in the discussion. Linda noted that any person or organization that contributes \$1,000 or more to the library would be recognized on a permanent plaque in the library entrance. When she asked the librarians what they wanted, they recommended a Value Line subscription. Some members felt that AVCA should not target a donation, while others felt it was a way of assuring that the funds were well spent.

Scholarship to a student in Almaden Valley -- This was favorably considered by many in the room. Kitty Monahan was asked to present a proposal on how to select a student.

Teacher Recognition -- This was considered to be not a good idea, because: We are not professionals in education; we don't understand what criteria would be acceptable; teachers are already honored, and it would be presumptuous for us to select someone other than was selected by others. One person felt a selection would be opposed by the Teachers' Union. From this discussion another idea surfaced, that of honoring a school by

providing a lunch for teachers and staff. There are over ten schools in Almaden Valley, including Holy Spirit and Country School. If we donated lunch to one school each year, we could have a long-term project.

Further discussion will be held at the next meeting.

Announcements:

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, August 14th, 07:00 PM Almaden Library/Community Center
Speaker Confirmed: Child Exploitation Detail ICAC Task Force, Robert Dillon (408) 277-4102

Tuesday, July 11, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Almaden Branch Library, 6445 Camden Ave.
The City of San José is recruiting the next Planning Director, who will head the Department of Planning, Building & Code Enforcement. To help define the characteristics of the ideal candidate for this important City and community position. Flyer attached

A book signing will be held for the new book about New Almaden, co-authored by Art Boudreault and Mike Boulland at the New Almaden Quicksilver County Mining Museum on Wednesday July 12th from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM; and on July 27th from Noon to 1:30 PM at the Almaden Community Center, 6445 Camden Ave.

8:15 pm Adjourn

Attachment

CONCERNS ABOUT THE COYOTE VALLEY PLAN

To: Coyote Task Force

From: Art Boudreault
6426 Hidden Creek Drive
San Jose, CA 95120
June 21, 2006

As Transportation Chairman of the Almaden Valley Community Association (AVCA), I have been reading this plan and speaking with members of the AVCA and members of our community. I must state first that the AVCA has not taken a stand on this issue, but will consider this topic when appropriate. I have several questions and comments from my own perspective.

There are three north-south routes and only one east-west route to allow cars to travel through and around Coyote Valley. They are 101, Santa Teresa Boulevard, McKean Road and Bailey Avenue.

1. Intersection of Bailey Avenue and Santa Teresa Boulevard.

This is a major and the only intersection at the center of Coyote Valley. The plan replaces the intersection of Bailey Avenue and Santa Teresa Boulevard with a lake. At best this creates the need for a traffic circle. Traffic circles, first adopted in the 1930s in Massachusetts and New Jersey, have been abandoned throughout the country because they cause congestion, require constant crossing of traffic and are sources of major accidents. At worst, does the plan prevent driving through the Coyote Valley?

Either preventing through traffic or adding a traffic circle doesn't seem to address the needs of those Almaden Valley residents who travel on McKean and Bailey Avenues in order to get to Highway 101 South or the needs of Blossom Valley residents who are also traveling south on Santa Teresa Boulevard. As San Jose grows by 300,000 outside of Coyote Valley, there will be many more people in autos doing what I do when I go south.

As an alternative for most Almaden Valley Residents, it is inappropriate to travel north to Highway 85 and then south to 101, since that route adds up to 10 miles to the trip south. It also forces these residents to add to the congestion on Almaden Expressway. Almaden Expressway and Camden Avenue is already listed with a level of service (LOS) of E (because of a change in measurements, this F location was upgraded) while almost 50,000 autos cross the intersection each day. Adding 30% to that mix from projected growth as well as an additional percentage from the 50,000 new residents in Coyote Valley will bring Almaden Expressway to a standstill for many hours each day. The current 50,000 vehicles-per-day comes from a base of only 15,000 homes in Almaden Valley.

Suggestion: This Coyote Valley plan should widen Bailey from McKean to Santa Teresa Boulevard, eliminate the lake while it is on paper and consider a freeway-like interchange at this intersection so that North-South and East-West traffic don't interfere with each other. This will expedite traffic through the Coyote Valley.

2. The Lake.

I believe the lake can be moved a few hundred feet so that it is in one of the quadrants formed by Bailey Avenue and Santa Teresa Boulevard. It could be designed as an octopus or a snake, allowing several hundreds of homes and or businesses to have "lake-front" property, and designed to allow public access on its perimeter for runners, walkers, bicyclists and horsemen. Designing it this way now will be much less expensive than trying to build a bridge over the lake to eliminate a traffic circle later.

Suggestion: Move the lake.

3. Almaden Expressway Extension to Bailey Avenue.

This proposal does not consider the effects of moving traffic north and south. This task force should review its position and state clearly whether they intend on addressing traffic problems outside Coyote Valley caused by the addition of 55,000 vehicles in 50,000 homes and those of 25,000 jobs. It is unrealistic to believe that the entire increase of movement will be taken up by public transportation. Every study I've read concerning light rail, Amtrak and Cal train shows that they are minor players in absorbing any increase in travel. Public transportation will not have the capacity to take even 10% of the increase in traffic. In this case, the city must work with the county to provide a regional solution, and it needs to be supported by the revenues from the development of Coyote Valley.

Suggestion: Set up a subcommittee 1) to address these concerns, 2) work with the county and 3) to find ways to mitigate this expected traffic problem. I don't believe the Coyote Valley Task Force can in good conscience say that this is outside their scope of business.

Summary:

As important as this development is, we must as a city decide not only how people will move into this new community, but how people will move to and from the Coyote Valley in pursuit of jobs, medical needs, spiritual needs and vacation needs.

Sincerely,

Art Boudreault