

FINAL MINUTES

**TOWN OF CORTE MADERA
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
APRIL 23, 2015
CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Commissioners Present: Tony Garza
Pati Stoliar
Thomas Young

Commissioners Absent: Chair Robert Czek

Staff Present: Dan Ring, Engineer
Kelly Crowe, Associate Engineer

1. Call Meeting to Order

Engineer Ring called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

2. Open Forum for Non Agenda Items

There were no comments.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes- March 19, 2015

M/s, Young/Stoliar and approve unanimously (Czek absent) to approve the AAC minutes of March 19, 2015 as submitted.

4. Election of Officers

Engineer Ring stated this item would be continued to the next meeting.

Chair Ring recommended the AAC rearrange the order of the agenda.

5. New Business

A. Walk Friendly Communities- application process

Ms. Cheryl Longinotti, member of the Age Friendly Task Force, stated this is a recognition program that is run by the University of North Carolina Center for Highway Safety. It is a way to galvanize and focus the Town into doing something proactive. She briefly discussed the traffic problems and congestion in the community and stated there were ways to encourage people to walk. Engineer Ring stated he went through the application with Ms. Longinotti and realized it was a way to gather information about that element of the transportation system. Pedestrian walkways tend to be overlooked because roads and bicycle pathways are given a priority. This process will give them an idea of ‘where they are and where they want to go’. Commissioner Stoliar asked if the BRIP addressed these items. Engineer Ring stated the BRIP basically identifies items that need to be remediated in terms of accessibility at specific locations. This process looks at the “big picture”. Ms. Longinotti stated there were sections that pertain to the Police, Planning, and Public Works Departments. The application asks about policies, programs, etc. It is pretty broad. Engineer Ring stated the downside was that the process does not include grants.

Commissioner Stoliar wondered if having the Walk Friendly Community designation would increase property values.

Commissioner Garza asked if the designation is reviewed every year, every two years, etc. Ms. Longinotti stated it would probably be up to the Town. There are different designations- Honorable Mention, Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. Engineer Ring wondered if the designation was “in perpetuity”.

Commissioner Young asked if the Town was asking for the AAC’s opinion. Engineer Ring stated he, along with Ms. Longinotti, would complete the application and bring it to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and the Town Council for comments. Commissioner Young stated there were a lot of sidewalks in town that need a lot of work. Engineer Ring agreed and added that sidewalks were the responsibility of property owners so they tend to get ignored. However, they are a major component of the town’s transportation system. Commissioner Stoliar noted that 53% of the respondents to the Age Friendly Survey listed safe sidewalks as an amenity that would make Corte Madera more accessible. There is a documented need for better sidewalks.

Commissioner Young wondered how the Center for Highway Safety would view Corte Madera. Engineer Ring stated he did not think there was this type of review. Ms. Longinotti stated they do ask about the ADA Transition Plan. She thought the BPAC should be more familiar with what the AAC is doing. She asked one of the Commissioners to attend the next BPAC meeting. Commissioner Stoliar stated they should talk about holding a joint meeting with the BPAC.

6. Old Business

A. Proposed BRIP/ADA projects for 2015-16 budget

Engineer Ring presented a staff report. He stated progress was being made on the BRIP. He briefly discussed the BRIP priority map and noted it was on the Town Website. The chosen projects for this budget year were indicated in red- along Paradise Drive, Tamalpais Drive, and Madera Avenue (towards the Town Center). Staff had the consultant look at the scope of work and come up with a budget for these repairs.

Ms. Longinotti asked if it would come under ADA purview to put something in mid-block going into something that currently exists, such as the EAH housing project. Engineer Ring stated the idea of a traffic signal or a crosswalk in that area was explored. A crosswalk would be problematic since there were four lanes of traffic to cross. A median would need to be built but this was costly. This would not be part of the BRIP. However, the AAC or BPAC could make a recommendation.

Engineer Ring stated there were several Town projects that would clean up pedestrian crossings along Tamalpais Drive.

Commissioner Stoliar stated the Age Friendly Task Force was glad to see the change in the signal by Macy’s to lengthen the time and put in a countdown timer. She would like to see countdown timers installed on all traffic signals.

Ms. Longinotti had a question about the “dots” on the maps. Engineer Ring stated the “dots” represent repairs to curb ramps. The Sanford/Casa Buena area consists of a lot of disruption on the sidewalks, issues with ramps, etc. Commissioner Stoliar stated the consultant noted this was not a high priority and she wondered why this work was being done first. Engineer Ring stated this is a high profile location in terms of visibility. Commissioner Young stated these are busy intersections. Engineer Ring stated they could concentrate on the intersection of Tamalpais and Madera and not head up into the Casa Buena area.

Engineer Ring noted other BRIP sites get done when paving projects are scheduled.

B. Mission/role of AAC

Engineer Ring presented a staff report. He stated if someone has an ADA complaint or concern it would be reviewed by the AAC. The AAC is meant to be a sounding board. He noted there were few complaints and staff is usually able to handle them. Now that the BRIP is being implemented they should discuss where they want to go as a Commission. Boards or Commissions are often disbanded after accomplishing its task. However, this Commission did not have an “expiration date” and it does not have to be disbanded- but it does need to change. Commissioner Young stated they certainly do not have to meet once a month.

Engineer Ring agreed. There could be some type of coordination with the BPAC, the Age Friendly Task Force, the Parks and Recreation Commission, etc.

Engineer Ring stated the AAC should start working on the November ballot measure that would fund the BRIP per a condition of the lawsuit. He stated the BRIP improvements are currently funded through Gas Tax Revenue at an amount of approximately \$60,000 per year. The Town would hire a consultant to work on the measure.

Commissioner Garza stated he came on the Commission with the expectation that they would evaluate ADA deficiencies, priorities, and the BRIP. Engineer Ring asked Commissioner Garza if he would have a problem with expanding the role of the AAC beyond the BRIP. Commissioner Garza stated “no”. He has a lot of experience with ADA architecture.

Commissioner Stoliar stated she was concerned about combining the terms “accessibility” with “seniors” because it would muddy the divider between the Age Friendly initiative and accessibility. She loves the idea of everybody working together but she was not sure about changing the focus of accessibility to be for seniors. Commissioner Young stated senior access would become relevant when it becomes ability access. Ms. Longinotti stated she shared Commissioner Stoliar’s concerns- accessibility was a low priority to begin with and could be diluted. She would like to see a pedestrian group that could create maps, do more education, etc. Commissioner Garza stated accessibility is implied when referring to a pedestrian group. Commissioner Stoliar stated improvements would benefit everyone.

Engineer Ring asked how the Age Friendly group would fit in with the AAC or other existing groups. Commissioner Stoliar stated they would continue to send a representative to other meetings.

7. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Stoliar discussed the request for a blue curb on Oakdale. Engineer Ring stated he could place this item on the next agenda.

8. Future Agenda Items

Engineer Ring stated the following items would be on the next agenda: 1) BRIP- status of projects; 2) Blue curb request on Oakdale.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.