



PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

City Council Chamber
200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566

APPROVED

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

(Staff has reviewed the proposed changes against the recorded proceedings and confirms that these Minutes are accurate.)

CALL TO ORDER

The Planning Commission Meeting of September 11, 2013, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Pearce.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Commission.

1. ROLL CALL

Staff Members Present: Brian Dolan, Director of Community Development; Janice Stern, Planning Manager; Julie Harryman, Assistant City Attorney; Steve Otto, Senior Planner; Marion Pavan, Associate Planner; Jenny Soo, Associate Planner; and Maria L. Hoey, Recording Secretary

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Nancy Allen, Greg O'Connor, Arne Olson, Jennifer Pearce, Mark Posson, and Herb Ritter

Commissioners Absent: None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. August 28, 2013

Commissioner Allen requested that in the first full paragraph on page 11, the word "and" at the end of the fourth line be deleted, and the word "it" be added after the phrase "keep Hacienda competitive" on the fifth line.

Commissioner Allen moved to approve the Minutes of August 28, 2013 as amended.

Commissioner Olson seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Allen, O'Connor, Olson, Pearce, and Ritter.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

RECUSED: None.

ABSENT: None.

The Minutes of the August 28, 2013 Meeting were approved as amended.

3. MEETING OPEN FOR ANY MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS THE PLANNING COMMISSION ON ANY ITEM WHICH IS NOT ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

There were no members of the audience wishing to address the Commission.

4. REVISIONS AND OMISSIONS TO THE AGENDA

Janice Stern advised that there were no revisions or omissions to the Agenda. She noted that, as indicated on the Agenda, Item 6.b., P12-1734, Jimmy Chang, RSS Architecture/Las Ventanas Apartments, has been dropped from consideration.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map 8147, Pleasanton Gateway, L.L.C. (Scott Trobbe)

Application for a Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map approval to subdivide an approximately 26.7-acre property into 98 residential lots and 19 common area and private street parcels. The property is located at 1600 Valley Avenue (south side of the Pleasanton Gateway Shopping Center) and is zoned PUD-HDR and MDR (Planned Unit Development-High Density Residential and Medium Density Residential) District.

Commissioner Olson moved to: (1) make the finding that the physical environment has not significantly changed since the time that the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Housing Element Update and Climate Action Plan General Plan Amendment and Rezoning and the Addendum to the SEIR for The Commons at Gateway were approved and that there are no newer information or changed circumstances which require additional CEQA review; (2) make the finding that the Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map 8147 is consistent with the Pleasanton General Plan and the Bernal Property Specific Plan; (3) make the Subdivision Map findings as stated in the staff report; and

(4) approve Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map 8147, subject to the Conditions of Approval stated in Exhibit A of the staff report. Commissioner O'Connor seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

**AYES: Commissioners Allen, O'Connor, Olson, Pearce, and Ritter.
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
RECUSED: None.
ABSENT: None.**

Resolution No. PC-2013-46 approving Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map 8147 was entered and adopted as motioned.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OTHER MATTERS

- a. P13-2078, Summerhill Apartment Communities
Work Session to review and receive comments on a Preliminary Review application to demolish the existing office building and construct 177 apartment units and related site improvements on a 5.9-acre site located at 5850 West Las Positas Boulevard in Hacienda Business Park. Zoning for the property is PUD-MU (Planned Unit Development – Mixed Use) District.**

Jenny Soo presented the staff report and described the scope, layout, and key elements of the proposal. She noted that staff has received emails from Chamberlin Associates, the adjacent property owner to the west, expressing concern about the first exception requested to locate the carports eight feet rather than 50 feet from the western property line; and from the commercial tenants of the property expressing concern about residents throwing trash onto the commercial site during move-out time, and overflow parking in the sense that even if the project meets the parking requirements, there could be extra vehicles for each unit. She added that the commercial tenants questioned how management would handle both concerns and proposed that a fencing and landscaping barrier be installed to separate the development from the adjacent commercial property.

Ms. Soo stated that staff also received a considerable number of email and phone calls from the neighbors on the south side, the Parkside community, expressing concerns about density and its link to crime; low-income housing and the income level of the tenants; construction hours and the management of the construction; noise, dust, and traffic; impact on existing services and schools; and impact on the environment and wildlife. She added that some proposed that the project be moved closer to the BART station and that the residential project be replaced with commercial buildings as the City is losing commercial building stock.

Ms. Soo stated that the developer held an Open House meeting on Wednesday, September 4th, which a few neighbors attended, including four couples from the Parkside neighborhood and two residents from another development. She noted that no specific questions, concerns, or objections were raised and that most of the inquiries were about the building height, density, construction time, the type of project and the need for it, and schools.

Commissioner Olson asked where the four-story buildings would be located.

Ms. Soo displayed that site plan, pointing to the sections colored the darkest as the four-story buildings.

Commissioner Olson inquired if the buildings across the open space are also four stories.

Ms. Soo said yes. She indicated that Sheet A1.2 of Exhibit B includes a color chart that shows the number of stories of the different buildings.

Commissioner Olson inquired if there were any four-story buildings along the Arroyo.

Ms. Soo said no.

Commissioner Ritter inquired how many outreach sessions the applicant had with the community.

Ms. Soo replied that there was one Open House meeting held on the previous Wednesday.

Ms. Stern added that as part of the Housing Element Update process and the rezoning of the sites, staff held several meetings related to this project.

Commissioner Ritter inquired if there is a trail from West Las Positas Boulevard to the Arroyo where a cut-through on this property is being proposed.

Ms. Soo replied that there is an existing trail along the south side of the Arroyo and a little segment between Hopyard Road and the Chabot Canal on the north side of the Arroyo.

Ms. Stern stated that there is a gravel area along that area that is used as a service road, and the applicant would need to work with Zone 7 to get permission to extend that. She added that the existing trail along the south side of the Arroyo runs all the way to Hopyard Road.

With respect to the required setback for the carports, Commissioner O'Connor inquired what a 50-foot setback would do to this development. He noted that there are quite a few parking spaces along the west side and inquired if there is another place on the site to locate those parking spaces.

Ms. Soo replied that the applicant would have to change the carport to uncovered surface parking spaces with no structure.

Commissioner O'Connor inquired if all the parking spaces would be accommodated with the 50-foot setback if the spaces were uncovered.

Ms. Soo said yes. She added that it is the covered parking structure that would encroach within the 50-foot setback.

Commissioner O'Connor inquired if staff has had any preliminary discussions with the applicant about trying to take some of the lower units in the front on West Las Positas Boulevard and changing those to put lower structures on the back. He noted that there is a mix of unit heights up front and that Buildings A and B are not all four-story.

Ms. Stern replied that was correct; Building A has some three stories.

Commissioner O'Connor stated that if the developer took five units and made Building A all four-story, the developer could take those five units from the rear building which has seven units above two-stories tall.

Ms. Stern explained that there is a restriction related to the neighbor on the west side where the Design Guidelines talks about stepping back some of the stories on that side. She added that it is potentially possible to relocate some of those three stories to get more two stories in the back.

Brian Dolan stated that staff will look into that to address Commissioner O'Connor's concern to try and help the neighbors in the rear. He noted that staff has two concerns: (1) the reference made by Ms. Stern regarding the commercial neighbor next door, who was very pro-active during the rezoning and attended a lot of meetings and made sure that the restrictions be built into the standards for the specific site. (2) This is a more general concern that if the front is loaded with four stories, that has a certain presentation to the street that would be of concern if the entire frontage was four stories. He reiterated that staff will definitely look at this and see if there is a better balance.

Commissioner Allen inquired if there is a possibility of doing any underground-type parking to reduce the height of the buildings. She indicated that she is not sure if there are any creative things that have been done in other developments that might be possible here.

Ms. Stern replied that underground parking is usually an economic question in terms of being able to make that pencil out. She added that so far, there is no development that has gone into Pleasanton that has been able to achieve that.

THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS OPENED.

Kevin Ebrahimi, Vice-President of Development, Summerhill Apartment Communities, and Applicant, stated that Summerhill Apartment Communities is a privately-owned company headquartered out of San Ramon, under the Summerhill Housing Group that has been building apartments and for-sale housing in the Bay Area since 1976. He indicated that Summerhill is somewhat familiar with Pleasanton and its requirements, having built two for-sale communities in Pleasanton in the past ten years, the first being Nolan Farms off of Rose Avenue in 2001, and Sycamore Heights off of Sycamore Creek Way in 2005. He thanked staff, particularly Ms. Stern and Ms. Soo, who have been very helpful in coordinating and helping them put the application together to meet all the guidelines and to understand what the community is looking for.

Mr. Ebrahimi stated that staff has covered the project well in its presentation and that he just wanted to outline some of the reasoning why the site was developed in the way it is being presented to the Commission tonight. He indicated that the proposed community fronts West Las Positas Boulevard, with existing commercial buildings to the east and west, and existing residential communities to the south. He noted that due to the location of the Arroyo, the site layout allows only a minimum distance of 244 feet from the residential neighboring fence line on the south side of the Arroyo to the proposed buildings, although the distance actually goes much farther from some houses on the south side.

Mr. Ebrahimi then presented a slide showing the current view of the proposed apartment community taken from the closest neighbor in the existing residential development on the south side, with the proposed landscaping shown at a five-year maturity. He indicated that in reviewing the Design Guidelines and meeting with staff and the neighbors, they developed the site layout by adhering to the required setbacks and stepping the buildings for better interface with the surrounding uses. He noted that Buildings C and D were designed with two- and three-story elements, with all three-story components in Building D and the recreation building on Building C's two-story stepping up to a three-story on the three units to its left. He explained that the reason they did that was to try and reduce the height of the buildings on the south side, based on their meeting with staff and the neighborhood. He stated that they were asked to lower the units on the south side at one point so they could take it away from West Las Positas Boulevard, but the ultimate direction that they received was to step the site and have more two and three stories on the south side, which is what they have done, and then step it up to four stories. He noted that the center of the community is all four stories, including the four-story element turns on Buildings A and B going up the paseo area, which are all internal; and to try and do three stories with four-story elements as it gets to West Las Positas Boulevard. He noted that it was kind of a mixed decision as nobody wanted to see it be all four stories; however, as they ultimately had

to have the 177 units minimum/maximum required for this site, they had to see what the best positioning was, and this is what they came up with.

Mr. Ebrahimi stated that while the Design Guidelines required a minimum of 177 covered parking spaces, they have provided 75 additional carports. He stated that they believe both carports on the west side of the community will be well designed, will provide an added visual screen as opposed to looking at a row of cars, and will provide added value to the community. He indicated that he has been in contact with Doug Giffin of Chamberlin Associates, the owner of the commercial building to the west. He noted that Mr. Giffin wants to look at the ultimate design of the carports to determine if that is something Chamberlin can find acceptable, and he stated that they will continue working with Mr. Giffin towards that end. He added that there will be a row of six-foot tall shrubs installed on the west side behind the carports, in addition to the fencing to be located along that property line. He indicated that they will be providing more detail on this as the project moves forward.

Mr. Ebrahimi then showed a slide of the main entrance to the project being served at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Hacienda Drive. He pointed out Building B where the plaza with a fountain is located, as well as the leasing office located right behind the fountain area. He indicated that in addition to the main entrance, they have also provided an access route from West Las Positas Boulevard into the project at the westerly end. He indicated that they had originally proposed this as an emergency vehicle access (EVA), but staff had asked that this roadway be opened up and a sidewalk connection be provided all the way along West Las Positas Boulevard. He stated that they have looked into this and can accommodate the sidewalk for connectivity.

Mr. Ebrahimi stated that what is really difficult is trying to provide parallel parking. He indicated that with a very constrained site at 5.9 acres and the requirement to have 177 units, there is just no way of putting parallel parking without losing the required parking for the site. He noted that for marketing reasons, they are comfortable with having the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Hacienda Drive as the main entry; however, staff has indicated that the Design Guidelines require a secondary access that also needs to serve the community.

Mr. Ebrahimi stated that their goal is to keep all the existing trees along West Las Positas Boulevard. He noted that the existing grown, mature trees will be retained and would provide screening. He then presented a slide showing a perspective of how much of the buildings will actually be visible from the street with the trees in place.

Lastly, Mr. Ebrahimi stated that, as Ms. Soo pointed out, they held an outreach meeting with the community this past week, and five people showed up to that meeting. He noted that they were primarily interested in architecture, construction timing, and when the project would move forward. He indicated that they are committed to working with the neighbors and are looking forward to future dialogue with all the residents who have put in their comments. He added that he thinks there is a lot that they can do with

respect to landscaping, noting that all the way along the back property line, they will be adding trees that would grow up to 35 feet tall and will continuously provide more screening for the project.

Commissioner O'Connor asked Mr. Ebrahimi if he knows the species of the trees that would be planted in that area.

Mr. Ebrahimi deferred to the project's Landscape Architect to respond to that question.

Zachy Abed, Project Landscape Architect from Van Dorn Abed Landscape Architects, Inc., stated that along the Arroyo on the south side of the property are some mature *prunus*, purple leaf plum trees that are spaced apart about fifteen feet on center. He noted that a couple of them have died out, but they will replace those as well as plant trees in between the existing trees, either *prunus caroliniana*, a low water-use species hedge that can grow up to six or eight feet tall and provide good evergreen screening along that edge, or the *ligustrum*, a pretty and hearty evergreen privet that would provide adequate screening. He added that this would also be done on the other sides of the property.

Commissioner O'Connor inquired if the existing trees are evergreen or deciduous and how tall they will get.

Mr. Abed replied that the purple leaf plum tree is deciduous. He indicated that they are mature right now with about 15- to 25-foot canopies. He noted that what they have about 15 to 20 trees along that edge that are about 15 feet on center and have about a 12- to 15-foot canopy. He added that some of them are in average shape, and about 90 percent are pretty good. He reiterated that they plan to plant trees of the same species in between the existing trees and then infill with ground plants to provide screening for the residents across the way.

Commissioner O'Connor inquired if this would be looking directly across the four-story or three-story building.

Mr. Abed said yes and noted that the view will taper up. He added that they also have fingers in the parking, and they will have large evergreen canopy trees in those fingers.

O'Connor noted that if the trees are all deciduous, then six months out of the year, they would have no leaves.

Mr. Abed replied that that is absolutely correct as the current plum trees are deciduous. He noted that there will be a screen there, but it will not be fifteen feet tall in the wintertime.

Commissioner O'Connor suggested that if they have to replace some of the existing trees that are not in good shape, they plant evergreen trees rather than using the same deciduous trees.

Mr. Ebrahimi replied that they are would do that. He then referred the Commission to Sheet L1.0 of Exhibit B, which shows a row of six- to eight-feet tall shrubs at the bottom all the way to the fence line; infill trees right at the fence line all the way along the property line; and additional trees where the parking lot is located. He noted that there are seven trees at the end of the parking bay, and they can plant an additional line of trees about 15 feet in front of the trees that are on the property line.

Mr. Abed stated that Summerhill's original intent is to preserve as many trees as possible on-site. He noted, however, that if staff prefers to see evergreen trees along that edge, planting new evergreen trees would be definitely more advantageous as far as screening then dealing with and preserving the existing trees. He indicated that none of the existing trees are heritage trees so they are rather insignificant; they are in average to good shape and definitely could be replaced.

Commissioner O'Connor clarified that he is not advocating taking the trees out but only that if they are not in good shape or have died out, they be replaced with evergreen trees rather than the same deciduous trees.

Mr. Abed agreed.

Mr. Ebrahimi stated that what they can do is plant evergreen trees in the second layer of trees they are putting in to provide screening.

Commissioner Posson referred to the slide showing proposed heights versus existing heights and inquired what the relative heights are of the existing buildings and those proposed.

Mr. Ebrahimi replied that he believes the existing building is 22 feet high and the proposed buildings are from 24 to 53 feet high, 53 feet being the four-story in the center of the community and West Las Positas Boulevard.

Commissioner Posson commented that the difference would be from two feet to 28 feet.

Mr. Ebrahimi replied that was correct.

Commissioner Posson asked Mr. Ebrahimi what their plan was for community outreach and for having continued dialogue with the residents.

Mr. Ebrahimi stated that he received a lot of email from the residents since their neighborhood meeting, as well as those received by staff which Ms. Soo forwarded to him. He indicated that he will be contacting all of them to see if they want to meet with them for additional input, such as the type and location of trees to be installed. He added that they would be more than willing to listen to other suggestions the neighbors may have and would be more than happy to incorporate those suggestions into their

project if feasible. He noted that they will have other community meetings as they move forward into the project.

Robert Natsch stated that he lives in a two-story house behind the Arroyo and that they have an unobstructed view from their master bedroom of the Arroyo and the building behind them. He noted that the proposed Summerhill complex will be directly across their house and would be less than 100 yards away. He expressed numerous concerns about what might occur with the new development, not only about traffic and noise that they have heard from a lot of people, but also about trees, specifically the two existing 150-foot tall eucalyptus trees right at the corner that is a roosting area for raptors like hawks and falcons. He added that the other morning they saw from their bedroom window, a family of fox who live in the Arroyo, chasing one another on the parking lot of the existing building. He stated that the Arroyo is partially a wild area and they would like to do as much as they can to keep it that way.

Mr. Natsch expressed concern about the view, as presented on a slide, of the existing building versus what it will look like with a four-story building there. He noted that they were virtually the same size on the rendering but that he seriously doubts they will be the same size in reality when that building is constructed. He indicated that he is not trying to hold back public housing as he knows that is important, but he would like to limit how it is going to affect his property, his neighbors, and the wild nature of the Arroyo. He suggested that they seriously consider limiting the size of the apartments in the back to one story all the way across as anything above that would certainly change what they see. With respect to the existing trees, he stated that the purple plum trees there look pretty scrawny and do not get very high. He noted that he would like to see the eucalyptus trees saved, not only because they offer somewhat of a screen, but also because they are a habitat for some of the wildlife that is back there. He also expressed concern about the number of cars and traffic involved right behind his master bedroom, noting that in the summertime with the windows open, they can hear the cars driving in and a door slam, they can see the headlights shining up into their windows as the security guard drives through the parking lot. He questioned what would it be like if that is multiplied by several hundred. He stated that he is not looking forward to this development at all as far as how it will affect his quality of life.

Joan Natsch stated that just two or three years ago, they went to the Planning Commission and got permits to put in a sizable renovation, an addition to their property, and can't believe that the City is doing this to them now. She indicated that they are original residents of Parkside and bought their property before the Sports Park was even completed. She noted that they had no idea what the impact the Sports Park would have on their way of life: their kids have enjoyed it, and they have enjoyed the other parks and the wildlife right behind them. She stated that the City has changed that somewhat a few years ago when it made that an open thoroughfare, and now they have strangers right behind their fence. She indicated that not only do they have parking problems in front from tournaments and soccer games, they also have strangers right behind their fence. She added that if the Arroyo behind them is opened up to several hundred people, the people will be right behind their fence as well. She

noted that they have neighbors and relatives who have had things stolen out of their yard, and the drag marks go down to the Arroyo. She expressed concern that the crime in their area will increase because of that.

Ms. Natsch stated that the trees shown on the slide did not provide any kind of screening for the residents of Parkside. She indicated that they do not they do not care about an eight- to ten-foot hedge; they want tall trees. She added that the ones on the slide were sparse; they want a screen, one every five to ten feet, as they need to preserve their quality of life. She indicated that they have been really proud of the City's Planning Department with the way they have parks in every subdivision, and they would like to preserve that.

Ingrid Wetmore stated that she has lived in this neighborhood for 28 years and has enjoyed living there. She indicated that if she had to purchase her home again knowing what was going to happen to her in her backyard, she would not purchase it anymore. She stated that she realizes the need for low-cost housing but questioned why it has to be so many apartments right in her backyard. She noted that this will affect the value of her home. She stated that she was really proud of the Pleasanton Planning Department and how Pleasanton was laid out as a charming city. She noted how most of the buildings on West Las Positas Boulevard are now one or two stories, and there is not a single four-story building there. She indicated that she thinks this project will definitely change the character of their neighborhood and will make it look much more like Dublin than Pleasanton.

Ms. Wetmore stated that her main concern is the height of the apartments. She indicated her strong objection to four-story buildings there and thinks they should not be more than two stories as they presently have only one or two story buildings there. She stated that she is not too happy with the development and wishes it would not happen, but she realizes it is probably going to happen and that there will be more down that road on West Las Positas Boulevard because there are several other buildings that the Commission has already recently considered.

Karen Ellgas stated that she took some pictures of the area and would like to share it to bring a little more focus on the project. She indicated that she objects to the number of low-density, reduced-rate, low-income residential units that are being proposed, not just for this particular property but also along the entire West Las Positas Boulevard in the near future. She indicated that she understands that the State requires Pleasanton to rezone some properties and wants to put in on record that she was at all those meetings. She noted that many of her neighbors were also at all those meetings, and being Pleasanton residents, they all support Pleasanton and want to make it as easy or as painless as possible for the City to appease the State. She added that she understands from Ms. Stern and Ms. Soo that these properties have to have 30 units per acre, regardless of whether or not they are zoned for low-income residential. She stated, however, that they do not have to be low-income, and that the City probably has to give a developer a reason if it does not approve its application.

Ms. Ellgas noted that the 177 units include 88 one-bedroom, 72 two-bedroom, and 17 three-bedroom units, but she thinks a unit is a unit, and it does not matter if they are one-, two-, or three-bedroom units. She stated that it might not be that great for the developer but she believes that there is no need for three bedrooms and that they probably need to all be one bedrooms or two bedrooms. She indicated that she did some rough calculations, and eliminating the three bedrooms would save 13,000 square feet in the overall development, which might help get some of the units down from three and four stories to two stories. She noted on page 5 of the staff report that Building C would be two to four stories, but she is hearing that they are three stories. She added that because of the fast rate on that one street, which was originally a business park, she is reminded of what Dublin has done on its street near BART where there is a massive high-density housing. She stated that with respect to traffic circulation, she understands that it complies with the park as a whole, but questioned if this is the right thing to do. She indicated that she has been educated that a traffic flow could theoretically be all put on one street, and this one street passes a middle school. She noted that when the middle school was proposed, her way of life was changed. She further noted that she was sitting in her backyard and heard her son's name announced to go to the office. She indicated that she went over to the school and asked them to turn down their speakers so it does not project to her backyard. She noted, however, that this is different, and now they have businesses there, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and residential which is 24/7. She added that they have the sports park in their front yard, which is just wonderful and they love it, but the business park and the trail have changed the dynamics of their neighborhood. She strongly encouraged, if the project goes through, that they be kept down to two stories. She added that she is hoping the berm is part of it and that she is not happy with staff's suggestion to put another intersection there.

Chair Pearce informed Ms. Ellgas that there is no more time to go through all the pictures but that if there is a way to give them to staff, she would request staff to forward them to the Commissioners.

John Lange thanked the Commission for hearing from all the residents who live along the Arroyo. He stated that he is an original owner in Parkside, having bought their house in 1980 and living there ever since. He indicated that the Parkside development had been a real draw to them and that they originally bought that house because of the park on one side and the business park on the other. He noted that the business park is quiet and is a good neighbor, and usually when they are home, no one is there. He added that the problem he now sees is putting all that high-density housing in there, four-story buildings probably the equivalent of two tennis courts away from their home. He indicated that he does not know of anywhere else in Pleasanton that people would put up with having an apartment complex that close to a residential area. He stated that this has never happened and does not happen in Pleasanton, where apartment complexes are usually built away from residential areas. He indicated that if there were any way possible to move that facility into the business park, it would be a boon to all the residents. He noted that the problem he sees is that it is being treated as a business park redevelopment, but it really is partially in a neighborhood that backs their

homes; it is really close to them and will affect them quite a bit. He indicated that he agrees with a lot of the speakers who spoke before him, noting that the Arroyo is very nice because there is a nice trail there and they do see a lot of wild animals and birds that are there all the time. He stated that he would appreciate anything the Commission can do to change the proposal.

Jane Bowen stated that, like many of the residents, she is also an original owner, moving into the area in 1985. She indicated that she also back up to the Arroyo and is also bearing the brunt of the impact of what is being proposed here. She noted that as they have lived here, they knew the sports park was there, which has had a lot of impact on the residents in the neighborhood, as they get a lot of cars parking on their streets on the weekend and even during the week with the practices, and the lots of traffic and noise that come with that. She stated that as has been mentioned earlier by another resident, the trail behind them was opened not that long ago and has brought a lot of noise and who knows what. She noted that they find alcohol bottles behind their fence; they hear joggers back there at 1:00 in the morning, people walking and talking. She stated that another resident mentioned things being stolen out of their yards, and indicated that they did have someone jump their back fence and run through their yard one night, followed by the police, so there is already quite an impact on them and this neighborhood by what is happening in the Arroyo behind their houses with that trail being opened.

Ms. Bowen stated that when they purchased their homes, they were told that the trail would never be opened up to the public, that it was a Zone 7 service road, and that there was water in the canal which seemed obvious was a hazard to children. She added that then the whole trail thing came up, and suddenly that was not a consideration any more. She noted that the middle school and the business park have also had their impact on the residents. She stated that she also went over to the middle school and talked to the principal about the loud speaker. She then read a quote from the Hart Middle School website: *"Rush hour traffic in the city has nothing on the traffic around Hart before and after school. Wow, what a mess! But if we all follow the rules and treat each other nicely, we can make the situation much more bearable."* She stated that she often drives down those streets, and there is a lot of traffic there with carpools all lined up down West Las Positas Boulevard to pick up children, driving in and out, everybody in a hurry to get their child dropped off and get off to work. She noted that the school itself is acknowledging that. She added that there are just over a thousand students at that school, and with the faculty, administration, and parent volunteers, the number of people on that campus every day would probably be well over 1200.

Looking at the site plan, Ms. Bowen suggested that the proposed pool be moved farther forward and not close to the fence at the back of the project as that is a noise producer. She stated that she agrees with the suggestions of having lower-story buildings at the back if the project were to go forward and that she disagrees with the exception for setbacks, which are designed from experience to mitigate noise and congestion as well as for aesthetic reasons. She added that, as was mentioned earlier, there is already

low-income housing on West Las Positas Boulevard, and it seems that a concentration of this type of housing is being put in this one area. She noted that there are already some down the street and that this lot and the lot adjacent to it have been rezoned. She expressed concern that there may be an idea of putting two of these types of buildings right next to each other. She pointed out that as was already mentioned, they are a residential neighborhood right behind this project, and a better consideration would be a kind of unique scenario where these projects could be put farther into the business park or one of the other areas that had already been rezoned for this type of project in the City. She thanked Commission O'Connor for his suggestion of putting the lower stories in the back. She indicated that a six- to eight-foot tall hedge is not very tall, especially compared to the height of the buildings, and that bigger trees such as redwood trees would be a better idea. She added that they do appreciate the wildlife that is back there, the raptors, foxes, and coyotes; the geese, ducks, and red-winged black birds.

Anthony Ghio stated that if anyone asks residents in the Parkside neighborhood if they want this, the answer would be "no." He stated that he bought his house in 2006, and if this proposed project had been there then, he would not have bought his house. He noted that he does not think those pictures of what the view is from the neighborhood looking at those buildings is accurate, as those buildings are much closer. He added that the noise carries and recalled how a few years back, there was an accident on West Las Positas Boulevard and the power went out; then the generator for a storage building that stores data turned on, and he felt the vibration from that generator coming off of his son's window. He stated that he complained to the City about it and can only imagine what this is going to be like with noise traveling down from those upper levels.

Mr. Ghio stated that he thinks there should be strict guidelines on the number of people living per unit because otherwise, there could be three families living in one unit. He indicated that if his property value goes down, he will go to people in the same situation and they will testify that their property values went down. He noted that Parkside used to be much more expensive than the surrounding neighborhoods, and now it has come down this much. He added that if there is a class action lawsuit, the City is going to pay and this proposal affects Parkside mostly, but it also affects all of Pleasanton, all of the parents who have students at Hart Middle School and Donlon Elementary, which has the most students of any elementary school.

Mr. Ghio stated that he was in Hayward yesterday to serve for jury duty, and as he walked from BART over to the courthouse, he hit this kind of a complex that looks very nice from the outside but smelt of marijuana as soon as he got within its range. He stated that he used to work in San Francisco and now works in Oakland, and anywhere there is high-density population like that, there will be a lot of marijuana smoking. He noted that one does not smell that in Pleasanton right now and questioned if anyone has asked the police what they think of this proposal and if they think this is going to be a good thing. He added that he thinks it would be really interesting if someone went door to door or found some way to go to people in the Parkside neighborhood, and asked them what they think. He stated that he does not see how this is good for

Pleasanton or for anybody, with the height of these buildings being two and a half times taller than the existing building. He noted that when he goes to Lake Tahoe and watches the fireworks from the pier, there is a guy in a condo that must be twice as far as this proposed complex is from his house who cranks up the music before the fireworks start, and everybody on the pier can barely hear the fireworks because of that. He indicated that he cannot even imagine what this is going to be like with 177 people living in the complex.

Mr. Ghio stated that he is in law enforcement; he deals with the sheriff's office and works a lot of identity theft cases and things like that. He indicated that he knows a lot about low-income housing, and one time, they did a search warrant out in Brentwood on a house where two individuals were living; neither one had a job and they supported themselves off of welfare and identity theft and things like that. He stated that there is good that can come with low-income housing, there are a lot of good people out there who want to rise above their current environment, but there is also an element that comes with that. He noted that Dublin is a perfect example of what you get with that. He stated that he thinks this proposal could be placed in a much better place than where it is because there is a whole neighborhood that, if asked, probably would not have bought their houses if they knew that was going to be there.

James Paxson, General Manager of Hacienda Business Park, stated that he appreciated the opportunity to work with the applicant and his design team, the same team that worked on the St. Anton project right up the street. He indicated that he believes that for at least the preliminary design, they have done a good job of trying to address the many issues that were brought up tonight and other things that are part of the Design Guidelines that have to be realized with any site plan. He stated that Hacienda has not had a chance to formally review the project and that they are waiting to hear the comments that were brought forth this evening and the direction that the Commission provides, and they will then go back and do their full review.

Mr. Paxson stated that based on the receptivity that they have had, some of the initial issues that have been raised, they feel that the applicants have made a very good start. He indicated that they are very sensitive to one primary issue with all of this, and from what the Commission has heard this evening, it is the issue of adjacency and how a project like this fits in with the existing neighborhood and within the existing commercial/office context in the Park. He noted that simultaneously meeting all the different guidelines on this project is a very challenging thing to do, especially on a site of this size, and he thinks the applicants have done a good job in starting to address those things. He added that they would be very open to changes in direction in terms of where the density is feathered or how the buildings are arranged. He further added that they could certainly work on accommodating any desire to move more of the density up front to West Las Positas Boulevard.

With respect to the issue of the carports, Mr. Paxson stated that this is something they will want to work with the adjacent property owner, and if the property owner is in agreement to that, they certainly would have no objection to doing something along that

edge there. He indicated that they would also want to take a look at some of the other things that were brought up with regard to the circulation and traffic flow, especially with regard to the driveway along the west side of the project. He added that they also had some issues they wanted to make sure were addressed with regard to traffic circulation as well as pedestrian circulation on the site. He reiterated that he feels very confident that with the design expertise and with the work that has been done so far, these design issues can be addressed.

Mr. Paxson stated that one thing he really wanted to emphasize is that Hacienda's Design Guidelines actually changed with regard to the landscaping that gets installed along flood control channels, including the Arroyo back there. He indicated that he thinks everybody will be very relieved to hear that Hacienda has a much more robust program back there for both trees and shrubs. He added that between the desire for screening and the types of evergreen trees that they have in the palette, they will be able to establish a very nice screen, especially with some of the quick-growing shrubs that they are suggesting, such as the "*prunus*" and the "*ligustrum*."

Mr. Paxson stated that will help with some of the visual issues that were raised, he hopes that at some point, either staff or the applicant addresses the issue of affordability. He indicated that he thinks there is a misnomer that these units are going to be entirely for low-income, as these are primarily and predominantly for market-rate and very high-end units, with a portion for affordable housing. He noted that this is true for all the housing projects that have been brought into the Park recently. He stated that he recognizes the concerns about this issue but also wants to make sure there is a full discussion about what types of units are being built and what they are going to be able to accommodate.

Kevin Ebrahimi stated that to clarify some of the things that have come up and following Mr. Paxson's statements, this apartment community is a Type A community, which is a very high-end community design. He noted that everything is going to be market-rate with monthly rents anticipated to be anywhere from \$2,000 to \$3,000, depending on the type of unit. He added that the people who will be living in this residence will not be low-income.

With regard to another point that was talked about, Mr. Ebrahimi stated that there will be a continuous line of six to eight feet tall shrubs all the way along the property line, with an additional planting of evergreen trees along the same location. He pointed out that the trees that will be planted there will be 14 to 16 feet tall at maximum height at their five-year growth, and once fully mature, will grow up to 35 feet tall.

Mr. Ebrahimi stated that all the buildings at the back will be two story to three story. He noted that the pamphlet that was distributed stated that one of the buildings could be a four story, and that would be a tower element on the community building; however, that tower element will be a three-story, so nothing will be over three-story in that area.

Mr. Ebrahimi stated that there is a map on the Hacienda Business Park website that shows the community, and he pulled out one that said a little bit about the height of the buildings along the Arroyo. He noted that there is a varying height of commercial buildings in the area, some in the same range as the proposed buildings at 22 feet to 26 feet tall, and others that are much taller. He pointed out that the building right next to the project to the left on West Las Positas Boulevard, the Arroyo Center, is up to 40 feet in height, which is also the height seen in the back and backing up to the arroyo; the two buildings to the west of the project site, Simpson Manufacturing, are also up to 40 feet tall, and an existing commercial building across the street, Hacienda West, is up to 50 feet tall.

Commissioner Olson inquired what the distance is from the back of the existing building on the site to the edge of the Arroyo, and what the distance will be with the new building, and if it will be reduced, by how much.

Ms. Stern stated that staff looked into that and indicated that the current building is 60 feet back from the rear property line, and the closest proposed building would be between 54 and 55 feet, approximately five feet closer to the rear property line.

Commissioner Allen asked what the height of the three-story building on the backside would be, compared to a thirty-five foot tall tree.

Mr. Ebrahimi replied that it would be approximately 38 feet high at three stories. He added that the two-story component would be 24 feet high.

Commissioner Ritter inquired if the buildings along the Arroyo Mocho would have balconies that face out on the Arroyo or back towards the poolside.

Mr. Ebrahimi replied that they have not gotten to the actual design component and that they have not even designed that building yet.

Commissioner Ritter suggested that might be something to consider when they get there.

Commissioner Posson noted that they have talked a lot about the design standards for the external portions of the building and inquired how they would approach the inside for the tenants as it relates to energy efficiency and energy self-sufficiency for the project.

Mr. Ebrahimi replied that they have an internal task force that looks at what features can be incorporated into each community they build. He indicated that the task force starts its work once a site layout is designated. He added that hopefully, with the comments that they have receive from the Commission tonight, they will know the site plan that is going to work for this site, after which they will engage with that task force. He indicated that they can come back to the Commission with all the recommendations of the things they can provide for this community.

Commissioner Posson inquired if they have a sense of a kind of general philosophy as to how they approach energy efficiency.

Mr. Ebrahimi replied that as a rule for when it comes to the Build it Green requirements, they try to far exceed the requirements of the jurisdiction they are in. He noted that they are typically over 100 points and that a lot of jurisdictions they have worked in are about 50 to 75 points, with the highest being at 80 points. He indicated that they have gone over the maximum required in almost all the communities they have done, and the individual aspects of it really depend on the design of the project that they wind up with. He added that based on that, they look to see which features they can incorporate into the community. He indicated that they are really excited to look at that and will bring that before the Commission at their next hearing.

THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS CLOSED.

Chair Pearce reminded the public that this is a Work Session and that no decision would be made. She then advised that the Commission would now go through the Work Session Discussion Points.

Commissioner O'Connor stated that he had a question of staff before the Commission starts the Discussion Points. He noted that there were a lot of comments tonight about this affordability that nobody wants in their backyard. He indicated that Mr. Paxson started to explain it, and he thinks it would be helpful if staff could either re-explain or he could walk through his understanding and staff could correct him. He stated that with the lawsuit and asked what it meant, what the City had to rezone, and what that means. He asked what affordability means if the City has to build affordable, and if it will actually be low-cost housing.

Chair Pearce added that she would like staff to also address why there is a mix of apartments and why they cannot all be one-bedroom apartments.

Mr. Dolan stated that the City did get in trouble with the State for not providing the City's fair share of the regional need for affordable housing, in general. He explained that for cities the size of Pleasanton, the city gets this assignment every eight years or so, and the city will have to provide the zoning for it, although the State does not necessarily dictate exactly what the rents will be but it does say that it will assume the city is meeting its obligations if it provides zoning at 30 units per acre for the two categories of very-low income and low-income. He continued that the city's obligation is to zone for that, and two years ago, Pleasanton went through the two-year process of the Housing Element Update, and after many, many meetings and lots of discussions, the City selected the sites, and this site happened to be one of them.

With respect to how that affects this particular project, Mr. Dolan stated that the zoning is set at 30 units per acre, and the develop has an obligation to the City or the City will be talking to them about providing some affordable units, based on Pleasanton's own, self-created, Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance (IZO). He added that the City collectively

decided that when it does development, it wants to have a certain percentage offered at a lower rent, and that is something that every development has an obligation to do, including this one. He noted that this project has not yet begun the dialogue for it Housing Agreement, but the IZO, portions of which have been challenged in court, really becomes a negotiation. He indicated that the City's current goal is to have 15-percent affordable, and that can be at various levels of subsidy. He explained that there are really three levels: very-low-, low-, and moderate-income, and the 15 percent is split between those various levels. He then referred to Ms. Stern for information on the rent.

Ms. Stern stated that the median income for the area is around \$80,000, and the very-low income level would be about 50 percent of that or around \$40,000; the rental rates would be about 30 percent of the income level.

Mr. Dolan stated that staff will provide more data on that as the project comes forward. With respect to the terms of the unit sizes, he indicated that the other thing that the City has to do as part of the process is that when the City had the State review and certify its Housing Element, the City had to do a housing needs analysis and determine what is not being provided to the community. He noted that this is a fairly extensive analysis, and part of the conclusion was that Pleasanton does not have larger apartment units that would serve a family. He explained that this would be a family that is not in a position to purchase a home, but there are a couple of children and the family really needs a three-bedroom unit. He indicated that there is plenty of need for one-bedroom units, and if this project were entirely one-bedroom, it would rent quickly but it would not necessarily serve a need for the community that has been identified in the City's Housing Element.

Discussion Points:

A: Would the Planning Commission support the exceptions noted above if the project were to move forward as proposed?

Commissioner Allen stated that with respect to parking, if the adjacent property owner does support the plan, she is fine with the plan for the carports; however, if the adjacent property owner does not support it, then she would not be fine with it and the Commission would need to go over the parking issue.

Commissioner Allen stated that she is fine with the roadway without knowing much about what the traffic impact is and how busy it is. She indicated that on the surface, it seems okay to have a narrower alley.

Commissioner Olson indicated that he agreed with Commissioner Allen on both items.

Commissioner O'Connor stated that he also agrees with both items. He added that if the property owner to the west would agree, he really does think that the carports would take up the same space as open parking but would certainly enhance the project and

make it more desirable, which, in turn, would help or alleviate the concern of the neighbors regarding affordability, what the development is going to look like, and what kind of people are going to be attracted. He added that covered parking does enhance projects so he would like to see that.

With respect to the alleyway, Commissioner O'Connor stated that he does not really have a problem with that. He indicated that there is one lighted intersection to get in and out and a main drive in and out, and he is fine with it.

Commissioner Ritter stated that he agrees and is fine too.

Commissioner Posson stated that he would prefer carports to open parking but that he would want to see agreement by both the adjacent property owner and through Hacienda's approval process.

On the primary street design versus the alleyway, Commissioner Posson stated that his preference would be for the primary street design, but if there are some constraints on the development of the property that they can demonstrate as they get on the design, he would be fine with an alleyway.

Chair Pearce stated that she agrees with Commissioner Posson. She indicated that she could support carports but would like to get the westerly neighbors' agreement to that exception. She added that she would like to understand the constraints a little better if the roadway will be an alley.

B: Are the on-site circulation, parking layout, feathering of densities, stepping-back stories above the second story, and positioning of the buildings acceptable?

Commissioner Posson stated that the Commission has heard a lot tonight from residents about heights as well as about on-site circulation and density, and step-back stories. He indicated that he thinks the applicant will be looking at the overall building heights and at those reductions, and when they come back, he would like to see a lot more representation, in addition to the one simulated view from Parkside, of what the views and what the project was going to look like from the backyards of the Parkside residents.

Chair Pearce noted that was a good point.

Commissioner Ritter stated that he thinks it is important to have the flow so that if the residents are coming in, the headlights do not get in the other residents across the alleyway, across the Arroyo Mocho. He noted that he does not necessarily like the pool position and can empathize with the neighbors living 244 feet from the building complex if a group of children are playing in the pool and it is loud. He added that he is comfortable with two stories along the Arroyo Mocho as long as they are not higher than

24 feet. He noted that he likes the idea of stepping-back for the higher buildings towards the West Las Positas Boulevard side.

Commissioner O'Connor stated that he is fine with the circulation and was trying to figure out where the headlights would go, but he thinks that for the most part the layout of the buildings is fine. He indicated that he was also looking for a two-story area for the pool versus the tot lot in the common area. He added that in larger developments that he knows, the pool is usually more central. He also expressed concern about putting the pool in the middle of four-story buildings as he does not know where the sun is going to be and where the shade would be. He stated that when he first looked at this, he thought that it would be fine if the pool were properly screened from the Arroyo, but he just thought if that was where the pool remained, he would like to see the one apartment building next to the pool, not on the recreational facility side but on the other side, brought down to a two-story in order to give more sun to the pool area. He indicated that he would not have a problem with moving it up to be more central, except that it would get into a shady area.

As regards the tot lot, Commissioner O'Connor stated that there would be three-bedroom units but how many children will actually be living in the complex will not be known until they get there. He noted that the tot lot looked very large compared to the pool area and the open green area, and he believes more families will be using the open green and the barbecue area than just a tot lot. He added that tot lots are generally used only by younger children. He indicated that he would like to look a little bit more at the sizes of those three areas. He also noted that if the tot lot were moved to the back, then the noise the children will be making there could bother the neighbors.

Commissioner Olson stated he is fine on the circulation. He indicated that he is not really excited about four stories anywhere and that the buildings along the Arroyo should be limited to two stories. He noted that he was surprised when he drove over there about how wide the Arroyo is and is glad that there would be only a five-foot delta between the edge of the Arroyo and that of the new buildings versus the current building. He added that the pool should probably be moved to the middle or farther up and the open green to the back.

Commissioner Allen stated she is fine with the layout and agreed that the Arroyo side should be limited to two stories. With regard to the pool, she indicated that she would like the applicant to ideally look at an option with the pool more toward the middle, or alternatively keep it where it is but working with the neighborhood on the kind of screening as well as noise abatement through the right kind of wall. She agreed with Commissioner O'Connor that the tot lot could possibly be reduced in favor of more open space.

Chair Pearce agreed with what almost everyone has said. She stated that she is fine with the circulation and would prefer to see two stories along the Arroyo if at all possible. She indicated that densities absolutely need to be feathered. She added that she is not thrilled about four stories but does not know if there is any way to get the

units needed for the site without that. She stated that she agreed with what has been said regarding the position of the pool and its impact on the neighbors. She reiterated the need for screening and mitigating what the proposal looks like from the Arroyo.

C. *Should a pedestrian access be provided from West Las Positas Boulevard to the proposed Open Space area?*

Commissioner Posson stated that he thinks the pedestrian access can be accommodated and should be required from West Las Positas Boulevard. He suggested that if the applicants have any specific security concerns or are not in favor of the access or want some type of locking system, they should bring those forward and give a good explanation for them.

Commissioner Ritter stated that he knows the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Committee are trying to push very hard for inner connectivity. He noted that inner connectivity is important when laying out the plans as trails get people off the roads and on bikes and walking. He indicated that he does not know if it can be done through this property, but it is important for people to be able to walk along the Arroyo or somehow getting them to Hart Middle School across the street.

Commissioner O'Connor stated that he is not a big fan of having public access into what he considers a private area for the people who live here. He noted that there is a tot lot with little children playing, and he would not want strangers walking through the middle of the complex with the children out there. He added that there will also be children at the pool. He indicated that he does not have a problem with having an egress if it had an automatic closing gate as a way for the residents to come back through. He stated that if there were to be any kind of trail connectivity, he would prefer that it be at the property line or on some kind of easement or walkway that does not actually allow the public into the property where residents are living.

Commissioner Olson stated that he is on the Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Committee and that he is not in favor of providing this pedestrian access at all. He indicated that he sees a security problem here and, as has been mentioned tonight, there is already a security problem on the other side of the Arroyo. He added that if there were to be one, it ought to be limited.

Commissioner Allen stated that she supports doing a pedestrian access on the side of the building and that would really be about it. She noted that for beaches, people usually provide access to the public at the corner of a property.

Chair Pearce agreed. She stated that she was on the committee that put together the Housing Element Design Guidelines and remembers having some of these conversations. She indicated that this is a private open space and that she does not want to create a *de facto* public open space by making a pathway right to it. She added that if connectivity to West Las Positas Boulevard is needed, it must be done in a way that does not make it look like this is public open space.

D. Are the proposed on-site recreation facilities and amenities acceptable?

Commissioner Allen said yes.

Commissioner Olson indicated that he is fine with them.

Commissioner O'Connor stated that he is fine with the amount of space that has been provided but that it may need to be tweaked in terms of the sizes of the pool, the tot lot, and the open space.

Commissioner Ritter stated that he agreed with Commissioner O'Connor.

Commissioner Posson stated that he would like to see a little bit more detail on what the recreation facilities would include. He added that he is in favor of looking at moving the pool more toward the center of the complex.

Chair Pearce stated that the facilities and amenities as proposed look good to her.

E. Are the residential building designs, colors and materials, and heights acceptable?

Commissioner Posson said yes.

Commissioner Ritter stated that he just wants to make sure that they match the other buildings in that vicinity so it has that Hacienda feel and does not stand out. He noted that he talked to Mr. Paxson about it a little earlier today, and he agreed that it made good sense in this area.

Commissioner O'Connor stated that he is not a big fan of stark white as it does not seem as warm to him as the "Pleasanton look," but he is fine with it and does not like to impose his own feelings of color on someone else. He added that he does not have a problem with a mix of colors so white has a place.

Commissioner Olson stated that other than height, he is fine with this.

Commissioner Allen stated that she was fine with it and that she does fully support staff's recommendation on the four items on this discussion item. She indicated that the buildings look a little plain, especially for being in such a prominent location, and would like to see extra detail. She added that she would also like the applicant to look at what looks like a little two-story boxy area on the northwest corner where there are several garages. She noted that coming down West Las Positas Boulevard, it looked almost like a utility area because there was sort of white stucco with four plain garages. She stated that she did not think that was quite the right look for this building and would suggest possibly enhancing the garage doors, adding some additional trim, so it looks punched up right in that corner, at the northwest driveway into the complex.

Chair Pearce stated that she agreed with Commissioner Allen. She noted that she also agreed with the four suggestions from staff, as well as with Commissioner O'Connor about the colors. She indicated that what she would like to see come back to the Commission are actual color samples that the Commissioners can look at using their little white-light day lamps that they do not get to use a lot and get excited about when they do. She noted that this is a major thoroughfare and she wanted to ensure that the Commission gets not only the detail but also the color palette right.

Chair Pearce stated that she is taking her prerogative and adding a sixth question for the Commission's consideration.

F. *What additional information do you need the applicant to come back with?*

Chair Pearce noted that Commissioner Posson wanted a visual analysis and she asked for a color palette.

Commissioner O'Connor stated that he sees the challenge here is, if the Commission wants to get everything on the Arroyo down to two stories, there are seven units back there that have to go somewhere. He added that he is not sure the City wants to have all four stories up front, but even if that were done, there is room for only five in the current design, and he does not know if there is a way to shrink all seven of those that are back there and how much redesign would be required. He indicated that he would like to see whatever options the applicants can get in, maybe get a different roof design to bring the height down somewhat, or sink the back row a little bit.

Commissioner Ritter stated that he would like to see a little more outreach with the residents. He indicated that the City Council passed Ordinance 2030 that basically rezoned this for an apartment complex, and so this is going to happen somewhere along the line. He added that this is a process, and the Commission wants to make sure it makes sense. He noted that all this feedback is good, and how they get implemented needs to be figured out. He suggested that the applicant talk to each of the City Councilmembers because that is important.

Commissioner Posson echoed Commissioner Ritter's statements. He suggested that the applicants have multiple input meetings with the residents as the design matures to make sure to get their comments and their buy-in, so the applicants clearly understand what the residents are saying and they clearly understand what the impacts are.

Commissioner Allen stated that she would like to see mature trees added to the visual analysis to show what it would look like, fully developed. She indicated that she agreed with the multiple meetings. She stated that the vision she has for the applicant might be like that of the applicant who came to the Commission recently who, two years ago, had many people in the audience like today complaining about the project; and by the time, the project came forward to the Commission, there was only one resident present, and that resident wanted to compliment the developer on what a fabulous job the developer

did listening to the community and incorporating the feedback in a win-win design. She noted that it does involve negotiation and some good give-and-take, but it made it very easy for everyone.

Commissioner Olson echoed the requests that had been made and added that he would like to see the applicant specifically address the two areas of water and energy as the community enters a period where these are getting dear.

Chair Pearce stated that she would echo what everyone said. She indicated that she would like to see a tree report before she consents to knock down any trees. She noted that the conversation about the wildlife in the Arroyo was an interesting one and would like to figure out a way to mitigate the impact of construction on the wildlife out there as that is obviously so important to so many neighbors.

Commissioner O'Connor stated that he would like to add on to Commissioner Allen's desire to see some better photos with landscaping. He indicated that he would like the photos to show a realistic and accurate look with a time lapse of three, five, and ten years, rather than plan for 15 to 20 years.

Commissioner Posson noted that the Commission heard some comments tonight about some implied correlation between affordable housing and high-density housing and an increase in crime rate. He inquired if staff had any data about affordable housing or high-density residential areas and its impact on crime.

Mr. Dolan replied that the Police Department has compiled crime data and what it finds is that anywhere you put a collection of cars together in a parking lot, the percentage of break-ins into those cars increases and sort of skews the results. He noted that it has been focused on this one variable of parked car and is the pattern that has been observed. He added that staff will put together a report on this for the Commission.

Commissioner Posson stated that he is not just interested in what has happened in Pleasanton but also in other jurisdictions. He inquired if there have been any academic studies that looked at the impact of an increase in affordable or high-density housing. He indicated that this has not been the first hearing where the Commission has heard that discussion, and he thinks it would be helpful for both the Commission and the community to see any studies in this area.

Chair Pearce noted that this was a good idea.

Commissioner Ritter stated, for the record, that the Commission has talked about schools and that he knows staff has some data on how this project affects that schools and what it will do to them.

Ms. Stern stated that this is a timely question because of the discussion that went on with the Pleasanton Unified School District at a meeting last night. She indicated that they talked about how the City has been working with the District for many years and

has informed it of what is coming up so it can plan accordingly for its facilities. She noted that City staff has done that all through the Housing Element Update process and with those changes to the General Plan. She added that there is also a Liaison Committee where members of the School Board and the City Council meet regularly to discuss these types of developments.

Ms. Stern stated that at last night's meeting, the School Board accepted a demographer's report that actually has a couple of recommendations related to two new schools, one of which would be in the northwestern area, potentially in the Hacienda Business Park area, and the other one, potentially long-term out there ten years, in the East Pleasanton area. She noted that the District is definitely looking at a long-term need for schools rather than at an immediate need at this point.

Commissioner O'Connor asked Ms. Stern, for the benefit of the audience, if she can touch on how many children are expected in this type of development which is a rental as opposed to an ownership and a single-family.

Ms. Stern replied that it would be less than for a single-family. She stated that the demographer's report may have made assumptions and scenarios based on different assumptions because the City has not built anything parallel to this development built in the last ten years. She indicated that she thinks the District has been using data from Dublin, and there is some discussion about whether that will be reflected in the Pleasanton case or not. She added that she believes the data that the District has used is something around .4 school child per unit. She stated that she can get some more accurate information on that if the Commission wants to do the study.

Commissioner O'Connor commented that he thought it .7 child per unit.

Chair Pearce stated that she would be interested in seeing that report when this application comes back to the Commission.

Mr. Dolan stated the Archstone apartment complex has also been considered as a source of data and that staff has some decent data on that.

Commissioner O'Connor noted that some people sometimes think that these projects are loading up the schools but there are probably only somewhere between 50 and 75 students.

Mr. Dolan indicated that staff has what it needs and will work with the applicant on the Commission's recommendations. He noted that there will be some challenges in moving the pool, but staff will certainly explore different locations and ways to screen it. He added that one of the biggest issues seems to be moving the bulk around from the back row but that he has some ideas for that.

No action was taken.

- b. P12-1734, Jimmy Chang, RSS Architecture/Las Ventanas Apartments Application for Design Review approval for Las Ventanas Apartments located at 3819 Vineyard Avenue to: (1) demolish the existing recreation/laundry building; (2) construct a 12-unit, two-story apartment building with a laundry room and a fitness room; (3) modify and expand the parking lot to create additional parking stalls; and (4) remodel the existing leasing office for a new business center. Zoning for the property is RM-2,500 (Multiple-Family Residential) District.**

This item has been dropped from consideration.

7. MATTERS INITIATED BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

No discussion was held or action taken.

8. MATTERS FOR COMMISSION'S REVIEW/ACTION/INFORMATION

a. Future Planning Calendar

No discussion was held or action taken.

b. Actions of the City Council

No discussion was held or action taken.

c. Actions of the Zoning Administrator

No discussion was held or action taken.

d. Matters for Commission's Information

Chair Pearce advised that there would be an East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force meeting tomorrow night.

Mr. Dolan announced that the new Associate Planner, Eric Luchini, is in attendance tonight and that this is his day 3 on the job. He added that he would be getting Mr. Luchini up here in front of the Commission as soon as he can.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pearce adjourned the Planning Commission meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully,

JANICE STERN
Secretary