

## Mid- Year City Council Retreat June 18, 2016

As a resident I would like to see a process and plan – long term and short term – for our Community Centers at Hillview and Grant Park, as well as for other City-owned facilities.

I applaud the steps that have already been taken, such as the facility audit for Hillview.

I would like to see the following next steps:

1. Facility audit for all city buildings and properties.
2. Report from Manny Hernandez showing use of all facilities, e.g., resident vs. out-of-town use, programs, rental space analysis, etc. Is current space sufficient to meet residents' needs?
3. Resources available in the city budget to refurbish or rebuild the Community Centers at Hillview and Grant Park, as well as potential use of other City-owned property and buildings.
4. Survey of alternate funding sources, as was done by the Financial Commission prior to Measure A.
5. Community outreach and surveys that provide demographic information for all residential groups and neighborhoods, e.g., age, children, resident status, ethnic background, etc.
6. Several options, based on 1 through 5 above, describing alternatives for improved community facilities and programs, including costs and timelines. Current zoning codes to be followed in all. Residents should decide which option(s) to pursue.
7. Plan to improve our Historic Orchards
8. Consultants and/or urban planners involved only when specific expertise is required. RFPs to go to 3 vendors.
9. Use of community volunteers and groups, who have offered their time and skills to move these plans forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Phillips

Los Altos CA.94022

Submitted @ Los Altos City Council Meeting  
June 18, 2016  
DATE

June 17, 2016

Madame Mayor and Council Members,

I would like to start by thanking you and your staff for coming out (early) this morning to discuss these important topics. I am here primarily to encourage you to put a real emphasis on moving the needle on both the downtown plan and the master civic center site.

I applaud you for your consensus at last week's City Council meeting to reject plans for re-habbing (new windows/roof etc) the Hillview Community Center. Clearly a smart move not to invest a million + dollars in a building that needs to be taken down to it's studs, at the very least. While I am tempted to agree with the premise of investing \$20 - \$30 million in a real renovation/rebuilding of the current community center. I would also like to suggest that we take a step back and look at the entire master civic site in a holistic way and how it could or should be tied to downtown. I am suggesting that we put a real and focused effort into understanding the entire site. I also suggest we go back and look at the 2009 master civic center plans and re-use what we can and build from there.

I fully support a new community center and senior center, but I would also like to see how these facilities fit into the entire City and the other recreational facilities which are in dire need of renovation or rebuilding as well including Grant Park and Redwood Grove/Halsey House. Before we commit to anything, we need to look at these facilities synergistically.

I also appreciate Councilmembers at the last council meeting who suggested alternate financing methods. Perhaps with a combination of a loan, a bond and possible private donations we can begin a phase by phase process of developing the master civic center, community facilities in both North and South Los Altos and a downtown plan which integrates with the Hillview master civic site, and at the same time, fits with our village character and aligns with the priorities of Los Altos residents.

I urge the council to build on its previous efforts and on the enthusiasm and momentum in the community by convening a study session to review the feasibility of developing an overarching vision for both downtown and the civic center. This shouldn't cost millions, or take years to do, and won't prevent things from being implemented incrementally. In fact, that would seem to be the only prudent and fiscally responsible way for things to proceed.

Los Altos deserves a real plan for the future, including a way forward to preserve and enhance our downtown while rebuilding or renovating our outdated and dilapidated city facilities (including City Hall and other resources that are coming to the end of their lifespan).

Thank you for your time.

Nancy Brebeau

Submitted @ Los Altos City Council Meeting  
June 18, 2016  
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From: FRANK MARTIN  
06.18.16

**I am willing to do the research for Age Friendly Community Center Solutions that will provide missing data for ages 5-54 that will define best practices and existing solutions. This data is missing from our current perspective.**

- (1) I am advocating neighborhood solutions that address North and South Los Altos equally**
- (2) I am advocating programs that will increase membership – especially for men**
- (3) I am advocating that funding starts with private donations plus use of public grants and free consultants**
- (4) I am advocating independent budget control and accountability for transparency**
- (5) I am advocating consideration of use of non-profit structure to focus exclusively on Los Altos-Los Altos Hills resident's services and avoid government politics**

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CCA Theoretical Framework	Community Center Alliance Methodological Framework			
	Category	Then	Now	Talking points
Current state: Despite four significant attempts over the past 20 years, the need for community center solutions persists.	Situation	Four significant attempts over the past 20 years to develop a plan for the Master Civic Center site and Hillview Community Center and Park.	Take what we've learned and develop a process that will build consensus around a majority-approved plan.	<b>Learn from history.</b>
Mission: Support Los Altos City Council, Staff, Commissions and residents...	People	Previous efforts lacked community-wide representation and a broad, organized base of support among Los Altos residents.	Ensure wide and deep community engagement and alliance building at all stages of the planning process.	<b>All rowing in same direction.</b> Work with other community groups. Individual outreach to include multiple forms, such as email, social media, neighborhood meetings, community events, canvassing, online surveys, etc.
...in developing an innovative, thorough visioning and planning process that leads to a successful plan to develop recreational and social community solutions in Los Altos.	Method	Starting point did not audit current facilities/programs or give a comprehensive view to future needs.	Need for a holistic plan based on current and future needs which integrates with planned changes in downtown and other business districts. Ensure solutions provide value to residents of all ages, span North and South Los Altos, embrace our diversity, consider impacts to nearby neighbors, and enhance the livability of our City.	<b>Innovative processes</b> for navigating change and gaining community-wide input and support, rather than a top-down implementation of minority-conceived solutions.
Ensure this process is supported by representative demographic data, residents' priorities, current and projected utilization reports,	Tools	Charettes, focus groups, and surveys engaged a subset of the community that did not represent the priorities of the majority.	Individual outreach to include multiple methods, such as deliberative polling, email, social media, neighborhood meetings, community events, canvassing, online surveys, etc.	<b>Crowd-sourced, yet verifiable data.</b> Use of creative survey tools which meet our community online. City-wide audit of city facilities and programs, to include park and open space usage, both scheduled and unscheduled, current and projected.
...and a realistic funding mechanism.	Funding	Proposed funding was based on general obligation bonds which impact residents unevenly and requires a high (67 percent) approval threshold.	Explore multiple funding mechanisms, including individual donations, grants, capital campaign, parcel tax, special tax district (e.g., North County Library Authority, including Los Altos and Los Altos Hills).	<b>Explore both creative and realistic funding mechanisms.</b> Envision new methods of raising capital for both planning, implementation and the long-term sustainability of solutions.
Vision: Community Center solutions that fit with our village character in scale, are fiscally prudent and sustainable, and align with the priorities of Los Altos residents	Design	Missed a thorough understanding of interdependencies of all city-owned buildings and sites. Missed un-programmed facilities like parks and open space. No representation of the orchard's legal protections, natural beauty and connection to local history. Did not adequately address the diversity, heritage, character, and expectations of Los Altans.	Community Center solutions that fit with our village character in scale, are fiscally prudent and sustainable, and align with the priorities of Los Altos residents.	<b>A tapestry of Los Altans' priorities,</b> that reflects a thorough understanding of impacts to nearby neighbors and traffic; uses existing land, buildings, resources; and aligns with known interdependencies.

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