

## Minutes of the October 8, 2012 meeting of the Walden Board

Meeting convened at 7PM at the home of Secretary, Larry McEwen. Present, besides Larry were President Jeffrey Peckham, Patty Purvis-Thielman and guest Peter Duncan

1. As there was no meeting in September, the minutes of the August 2012 meeting were approved.
2. John Muir expansion: Work has commenced on this project with no noticeable effect on the traffic in the area to date. We anticipate an update on their progress by the end of the year. If we don't hear from them by then we will request a report from them. We have also inquired about the possibility of removing the large sign near the corner of Cherry and Treat which blocks the vision of cars traveling North-bound on Cherry.
3. Application for a large Day Care facility on Mayhew Drive. Residents have objected to the size of the project and its impact on traffic along Mayhew. Currently awaiting the completion of a traffic study along Mayhew.
4. Proposed location of a homeless shelter by Pleasant Hill adjacent to the Iron Horse Trail North of the Walden area. No new developments to date. Walden has not taken a position on this proposal as it is outside of our area.
5. Trees. The status of an estimated \$25,000 of maintenance funds for Walden I has not been decided. The funds, previously allocated by the County Redevelopment Agency, are being reviewed by the State Auditor to determine if they are to be allocated to the Successor Agency. Peter brought a display showing evidence of the lack of maintenance to date. As Walden's representative to the Walden II design review committee, the Board authorized Peter to present this evidence to support the need for sufficient funds for this purpose. The concern is that, lacking sufficient maintenance funding, the money spent on Walden II may not achieve the desired results.

The Board also asked Peter to raise the following issues at the next meeting of the Walden II Review Committee on Wednesday, October 10.

1. Are there any more trees to be destroyed on this project in addition to the original 7 and if so, why and will there be the required 3 to 1 mitigation replacement for native species?
2. How will bikes be discouraged from using the pedestrian trail to the West of the main trail?
3. What plantings on Walden I will be part of the Walden II project?
4. How do we prevent a re-occurrence of the maintenance break-down on Walden I?
5. Who will be responsible for maintenance of Walden II and what is the continuing role of the Review Committee following the completion of construction?
6. There should be a Chairman designated for the Committee from among its members. The role of that Chairman should be the scheduling of meetings and assembling of meeting agendas from among the interested parties.

6. BART Noise problem at the old crossover to the East of the Pleasant Hill station. BART claims that the noise levels are within allowable tolerances after regrinding of the rails was accomplished. Walden's position is that the primary source of aggravation is from the degrading of the connections of the old frogger rails. One Walden member has indicated that he has taken noise readings that refute BART's assertions on noise levels. Jeffrey will ask that member to produce the tapes, after which Walden will present the evidence to BART and solicit BART's ideas on how to address this problem.

Board members recall that BART was going to employ rubber wheels, like those employed on the Paris subway system, when it first purchased equipment. This would certainly have improved the noise problem. Walden discussed approaching BART with the request that, when BART goes out for another equipment purchase, it specify rubber wheels. It occurs that many other BART customers and neighbors would probably join in with Walden in this effort.

7. New Board members. Given Elmer's recent resignation and the impending move by Jim Hunt, it is essential that Walden make every effort to recruit new Board members. Several names were floated as prospective Board members and we will approach them in the near future.

8. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM. The next meeting should occur on November 12.

Respectfully submitted.

Larry McEwen, Secretary