

CVRA Newsletter

Winter 2011



Capitola's General Plan Update

By Darcy Horton



You may have heard the buzz. Capitola is updating its General Plan, and residents are encouraged to get involved. In a communication to CVRA from Derek Johnson, Capitola's Community Development Director, he explained the purpose and goals.

"The General Plan is the principal policy and planning document for guiding conservation, enhancement, and development in Capitola over the next 10 to 20 years. Its goals, policies, and implementation measures will help shape our community and quality of life for many generations. Some of the key issues to address in the General Plan Update will be:

- Enhancement of 41st Avenue as a more viable and pedestrian-friendly economic commercial corridor

- Improving parking and circulation in the Capitola Village in conjunction with the Esplanade
- Defining and promoting environmental and economic sustainability for our community

The General Plan Update process will also include the preparation of a Climate Action Plan, a Green Jobs Analysis, an updated Local Coastal Program, and an updated Zoning Code."

Residents can participate in the process in a number of ways, including:

- Serving on the General Plan Advisory Council (GPAC)—the application period has closed and newly appointed members to this council have already been selected, including CVRA members Linda Hanson, Ed Bottonoff, Gary Wetsel, Bruce Arthur, and Jacques Bertrand.
- Attending community workshops that will be held throughout the process and begin in March of this year
- Attending study sessions and public hearings that will be held by the Planning Commission and the City Council
- Checking out the project website at www.plancapitola.com or Facebook at "Plan Capitola"
- Getting on the email list for updates by contacting Derek Johnson at djohnson@ci.capitola.ca.us

Traffic and Parking Commission

By Molly Ording



The Capitola Traffic and Parking Commission started its 2nd year of work in January of 2011. This hardworking group of 11 commissioners (4 of which are CVRA Board members: Margaret Kinstler, Molly Ording, Linda Hanson and Nels Westman), plus Steve Jesberg, Capitola Public Works Director, devoted the 1st year of their work to identifying the parking space deficit within the village, researching pay and park systems for the village, discussing the effects and options on village parking and circulation of the proposed village hotel, and intensely studying the design, capacity, and financing options of a possible Pacific Cove parking structure.

At the January meeting, Linda Hanson was selected to represent the Traffic and Parking Commission on the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC). The "Tiki Taxi," the much enjoyed village pedi-cab operation that began in the summer of 2010, was reviewed. The Commissioners unanimously instructed Steve Jesberg to convey to the City Council their support for this business and their encouragement to the Council to further accommodate, in any way possible, the on-going operation and success of this business.

Additionally, the Commission received the long-awaited Capitola Village Parking Structure Planning Project Report prepared by Watrey Design, Inc. This report details the possible construction of a multi-level parking structure in the upper portion of the Pacific Cove parking lot, with a possible future expansion of an adjoining City Hall and/or commercial

development. The report outlines two options for a future parking structure based on the Village parking space shortfall of between 325 to 799 spaces. The first option would include a three story structure with 554 new spaces, while the second option would include a four story structure with 664 new spaces. The report recognizes the importance of keeping the proposed parking structure below the level of the railroad tracks and takes into account the effect upon future costs of this site constraint.

The report will be further discussed at the February 3, 2011 joint meeting of the Planning Commission and Traffic and Parking Commission. The meeting starts at 7:00pm. All interested community members are encouraged to attend.

The next Traffic and Parking Commission meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2011. Interested members of the community are **always** welcome to attend meetings which convene at 6:30pm in the Community Room at City Hall. Check the City's monthly calendar for dates.

Who is Responsible for Fixing Sidewalks in Capitola?

According to Steve Jesberg, Capitola Public Works Director, homeowners are responsible for the repair and replacement of sidewalks surrounding/adjoining their property.

These repairs must be done by a licensed and insured contractor. The contractor is required to get an encroachment permit from Public Works.

Public Works checks the sidewalks and when possible levels them to make them safe.

CVRA 2011 Annual Membership Survey Part I

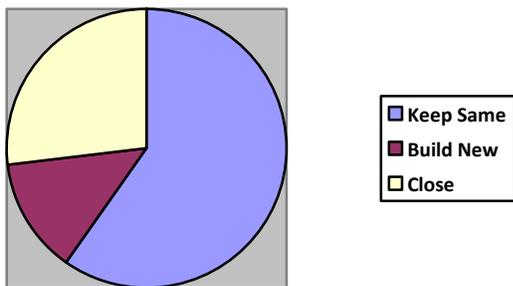
By Darcy Horton

CVRA just completed the first part of their annual membership survey. Two hundred and sixty eight surveys were emailed to CVRA members. Seventy six people completed the survey.

CVRA members were given three options regarding the future of the public library:

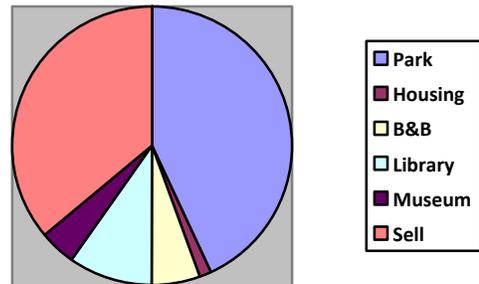
- Keep the Library in the same building and staffed at the maximum level which the Library System's budget permits. Have the City seek release from County requirements to build a new building.
- Build a new Library building as required by the County at a cost of several million dollars with unknown future staffing levels by Library System.
- Accept the County Library System's shift to a regional branch system with the closure of the Capitola branch as a cost saving measure.

Sixty percent want to keep the library the same, 13 percent want to build a new library, and 27 percent are willing to accept closure.



Most CVRA members are happy with the parks in Capitola. Sixty four percent said they are just fine the way they are, while 36 percent would like the City to build a new park.

CVRA members were also asked what the City should do with the Rispin mansion. Forty three percent want to turn it into a park, 1 percent want to turn it into low income housing, 6 percent want to turn it into a B&B, 10 percent want to turn it into a library, 4 percent want to turn it into a museum, and 36 percent want to sell it.



Part II of the survey will be emailed to members soon. Watch for it in your inbox. Each survey takes less than 5 minutes to complete and gives you the chance to have your voice heard, so please take the time to complete it.

I Believe in Ghosts

By Molly Ording



On busy weekends, you may have noticed a black and white police "ghost car" parked at the bottom of

Monterey Avenue, close to the intersection of Monterey and Capitola Avenues.

Police Chief Mike Card noted that Capitola has a significant number of seasonal traffic issues. One effective method the Police Department uses is the placement of uncommitted, marked police cars in congested areas to encourage motorists, bicyclists and motorcyclists to slow down, fully stop at stop signs, and watch for pedestrians. In the case of lower Monterey, there has been a history of speeding and noise abuses by motorcyclists racing up Monterey Avenue, as well as problems with drivers not stopping at stop signs and endangering the many pedestrians using those busy crosswalks.

The ghost car has been a welcome sight for a number of residents, merchants, and visitors. As Monterey Avenue residents, my neighbors and I have gratefully and enthusiastically thanked Chief Card and the Capitola PD for their efforts in bringing the ghost car to our neighborhood and forging this creative and cost-effective solution.

Let This Be a Lesson to Us All

By Rich Didday



JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE A LOT OF
fonts available doesn't mean you
have to use them all.

(See more Capitola Signs in the Photos section of www.CapitolaCVRA.org)

Central Village Reps

- Margaret Kinstler (mmkinstler@aol.com)
- Linda Hanson (llhsf@sbcglobal.net)
- George Bergna (agbergna@charter.net)
- Laura Macleod (laura@familiamacleod.com)
- Alt: Heidi Kellison (heidy@cwo.com)

Upper Village Reps

- Gina Will (gina@bestan.com)
- Vacant
- Vacant

Riverview Terrace Reps

- Nels Westman (wnwestman@aol.com)
- Lewis Feinman (lewisfeinman@sbcglobal.net)
- Janet Russell (janet@capitolayoga.com)

Depot Hill Reps

- Molly Ording (mollyording1@yahoo.com)
- Darcy Horton (darcyhorton@aol.com)

Jewel Box Reps

- Linda Smith (vlrsmith@sbcglobal.net)
- Vacant

Capitola Village Residents Association

Website: www.capitolaCVRA.org

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President: Margaret Kinstler

Vice President: Linda Hanson

Secretary: Molly Ording and Rich Didday

Treasurer: Linda Hanson

Membership Coordinator: Rich Didday

Newsletter Editor: Darcy Horton