

City Council Questions

March 16, 2021 Special City Council Meeting

ITEM 3.1 Public Safety Advisory Board Applicant Interview

1. How late was Mr. Berman's application?

Mr. Berman submitted his application at 7:05 PM on February 26. The deadline was 5:00 PM on February 26.

2. Based upon one of the applications, it looks like MVPD is working with a resident to set up advisory bodies. Do any other departments within the city have advisory bodies?

MVPD "advisory councils" are informal groups that the Police Department has been/will be meeting with. One current example is a group of Mountain View faith leaders. Anyone interested is invited to participate as long as they have a nexus to Mountain View and the faith community. The intent is to provide an opportunity for groups to meet with the Police Chief, have dialogue, and hear ideas and concerns that are being raised in the community. The PD currently only meets with the faith leaders group, but in the future would like to have similar groups within the Hispanic/Latinx and Chinese communities.

No other department has similar informal advisory councils.

3. How were participants in MVPDx selected?

MVPDx has hosted two cohorts thus far and will soon host a third cohort. To select participants, the Police Department established an interest list. Participants are selected from the interest list based on the order in which they submitted their interest and their availability to participate.

To establish the first interest list, MVPD recruited community members who had expressed concerns about policing. People have added their names to the list as they have learned more about MVPDx.

4. Do we have a minimum age requirement for serving on advisory bodies?

There is no minimum age requirement for serving on advisory bodies. The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) includes members who are in grades 7 through 12; which is often ages 13- 18. YAC participation by minors requires parent/guardian approval.

5. Council has not reviewed and approved what the PSAB is charged with. Would we do that during strategic planning, goal setting and work planning or at some other time?

The City Council approved the scope and formation of the PSAB on December 1, 2020, with the following description of what the PSAB is charged with. Council also directed a check in after one-year:

The body acts solely in an advisory capacity and is tasked with holding public forums and providing input and recommendations to the Police Chief and City Council on public safety matters, including development of community policing concepts, increasing public awareness of

public safety matters, furthering MVPD engagement and transparency efforts, and identifying best practices.

Once formed, the PSAB will review topics discussed at the REI Subcommittee meetings and propose a work plan for City Council approval, with potential items including: review of MVPD contact data demographics currently being studied by a Research Fellow; exploration of alternative responses to mental health-related calls for service; reviewing community input from the Human Relations Commission's 2020 community listening forums on local policing, MVPDx Partnering for the Future participants, and other sources. Generally, the City Council reviews all advisory body work plans in the fall of each year. However, it is anticipated that the PSAB will develop and submit a work plan earlier after the initial PSAB meetings.

ITEM 7.1 Strategic Plan: Draft Vision, Strategic Priorities, and Potential Projects

1. What happened to the multifamily smoking prohibition? Shouldn't that still be on the work plan?

The multifamily smoking prohibition project was not an original project in the City Council Major Goals Work Plan. In response to community interest, Council held a Study Session on December 1, 2020 and gave direction for staff to develop an ordinance restricting smoking in multi-unit residential buildings. Staff anticipates bringing a first reading of the ordinance to Council in May 2021 and completing the project this fiscal year.

2. What is staff's recommendation for project 4.14, "Prepare an ordinance prohibiting the sale of e-vaping and flavored tobacco products Citywide?" What happens if we enact a local ordinance, and then voters uphold SB 793?

Staff recommends continuing to defer this item. If upheld, SB 793 will prohibit all of the items that the City would likely target in a local ordinance. In summary, the bill would prohibit all flavored tobacco, menthol cigarettes, pods for vape-pens, tank-based systems, chewing tobacco, etc. If the City passes a stricter ordinance and SB 793 is later upheld, the SB 793 regulations will be the minimum regulations and any stricter local regulations would still be effective. The City Council could consider whether to move forward with this project depending on whether they would like an ordinance to be adopted prior to the November 2022 decision, or if they desire regulations stricter than those included in SB 793.

3. Will staff bring a study session regarding a potential revenue-generating ballot measure as part of the acquisition/preservation program for project 1.1, "Hold a Study Session on a displacement response strategy and net loss; develop a work plan for any desired follow up actions," as we discussed in late 2020?

Yes, it is anticipated that a study session on an acquisition/preservation program, which would include information on potential revenue-generating ballot measure, would be held in Q3 2021.

4. What are the resource and staff capacity implications of project 2.2, "Work with MVLA to explore the possibility of the District acquiring the Shenandoah property and the opportunity for shared uses and affordable housing on the site?" If we advance this project, how much time and effort would it likely require?

This project includes staff from the City Manager's Office and Community Development Department (Planning). The workload estimate to explore options for to acquire the property is moderate. Much is dependent upon the Army's decision regarding the property, and financial resource requirements include

costs for a consultant to conduct a feasibility study, a property appraisal and legal review for an estimated total cost of \$75,000. These costs would likely be split evenly with MVLA.

5. What happened to this project: “Develop and implement a plan to prevent commercial parking from spilling into residential neighborhoods, including a review of the qualification requirements of the Residential Parking Permit Program to facilitate the establishment of RPP Zones?”

Staff plans to bring revisions for the Residential Parking Permit Program to the Council Transportation Committee for review and to City Council for approval by the end of this fiscal year. (More information about existing work plan projects that are complete or expected to be completed in the current fiscal year is available in the [Council Major Goals Work Plan Update that was on the Council’s February 23, 2021 agenda](#) (Item 4.4)

6. What happened to this project: “Revisit the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program to determine and implement measures to further calm traffic?”

Staff plans to bring revisions for the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program to the Council Transportation Committee for review and to City Council for approval by the end of this fiscal year. (More information about existing work plan projects that are complete or expected to be completed in the current fiscal year is available in the [Council Major Goals Work Plan Update that was on the Council’s February 23, 2021 agenda](#) (Item 4.4)

7. What happened to this project: “Create a Downtown Parking Strategy, including exploration of shared parking agreements and paid parking, to develop policies and implementation actions to ensure its continued vitality and achieve the City's goals for the Downtown?”

The City will hold a study session in May 2021 for Council input on the Downtown Parking Strategy. Any new projects resulting from Council direction will be brought forward as potential new projects for the new Major Goals/Strategic Priorities Work Plan.

8. Should the campaign finance ordinance update be included in the work plan as well?

This potential project was inadvertently left off the workplan as a new item as raised at the Council meeting on October 27, 2020. The City Attorney’s Office and City Clerk’s Office would work together on this project.

9. What is the “Create a Moffett Boulevard streetscape design strategy” project? How is this similar to or different from a Precise Plan?

The Moffett Boulevard streetscape design strategy would be limited to the public right-of way to improve the Moffett Boulevard streetscape, including a gateway feature that links the area to Downtown with new landscaping, lighting, median improvements, and signage. A Precise Plan would provide area-specific development standards and design guidelines for the development of private property and mobility enhancements within the right-of way. The Moffett area is relatively limited in terms of size and available opportunities for redevelopment and many of the parcels are very small. Because of these factors, there has never been an action item to create a new Precise Plan for the area.

10. What is the outcome of project 3.6, “Complete the Castro Pedestrian Mall Feasibility Study?”

The outcome for the original feasibility study was to present up to three concepts for creating a pedestrian mall/plaza for the 100 block of Castro Street for Council consideration and determination of

whether the City would like to pursue one of these concepts. Due to impacts of COVID-19 on the use of public space/public life, the project survey, which is the basis for developing concepts, was delayed. The current closure of Castro Street for outdoor dining and other businesses has generated some useful data for the study and work on concept development with public and business outreach to begin when the public health emergency has ended.

11. Is project 5.5, “Continue to work with the Visual Arts Committee to encourage public art,” the public art strategy that the VAC has been working on?

Yes. At the June 9, 2020 meeting, the Council approved deferring this project for reconsideration during the next goal setting cycle. At the time, staff did not believe they could undertake the necessary steps to carry out this project given shifted priorities resulting from COVID-19. Nevertheless, staff was able to continue work on some aspects of this project following the June 9, 2020 deferral decision. The City entered an agreement with a consultant to assist with development of a Public Art Strategy – to draft goals and vision, conduct comparative analysis of neighboring cities of requirements for art in private development, and to conduct outreach based upon the draft goals and vision.

Additional work and funding is necessary to continue this project. The City Council can consider whether the outstanding work for this project should continue as part of its discussion of projects to include in the Strategic Roadmap during the March 16 and April 27 City Council meetings. A funding request (anticipated to be \$10,000) for additional consultant support would accompany consideration of this project.

12. Why is opening our three Safe Parking Lots listed under Project 5.9—COVID-19 recovery? Council was planning these for some time prior to the pandemic. Might Equitable Community for All: Preserve Mountain View’s socioeconomic and cultural diversity. Engage and protect vulnerable populations through programs and services... be a more appropriate category?

Many of the current efforts related to COVID-19 recovery fit under other priorities as well. The safe parking lots would be appropriately considered in support of the strategic priority related to equitable community for all. As the safe parking lots are currently up and running 24x7, staff views this as an operational effort and is not putting it forward as a project in the Council Strategic Roadmap projects list. However, staff does propose developing a comprehensive strategy for homelessness response as noted in the staff report.

13. Isn’t there a project in SAP 4 regarding gas powered leaf blowers?

SAP-4 includes Action P3. “Reduce emissions from landscaping equipment. Sub-action P3.2 Evaluate options for a City rebate or trade-in program to encourage adoption of electric landscaping equipment and propose any recommended programs.” The proposed project in the staff memo for Council’s consideration tonight is broader in scope and would include restrictions on leaf blower use. This would require additional staff resources to conduct outreach, develop an ordinance and provide enforcement and ongoing communication. Funding for the incentive program would also be needed, as the item in SAP-4 was scoped to explore rebates and trade-ins but did not include a budget for once such a program was developed and implemented. This broader scope regarding leaf blower use was discussed by Council at a Study Session on December 1, 2020 in response to community interest. At that time, Council’s direction was to consider whether to pursue a project of this scope during the strategic planning process.

14. Is “Explore the feasibility of alternative mental health crisis response methods” one of the action items under the Race, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan or is it a project entirely separate from the REI Action Plan?

The REI Action Plan includes a project to assess alternative police service delivery models to determine ways that MVPD can respond to mental health-related calls for service with regional collaboration. This is the same project as proposed for the Strategic Roadmap due to its importance to the community and alignment with the Equitable Community for All strategic priority.

15. Develop an Economic Vitality Strategy – isn’t this a staff generated project? Shouldn’t Council be able to define it somewhat? When can that happen?

The Economic Vitality Strategy is intended to be a blueprint to continue supporting businesses and economic development efforts beyond the pandemic, and after implementation of the Small Business Action Plan. If the Council wants to move this forward, staff will bring back an item regarding the scope of work and receive Council direction to further refine the project.

16. “Develop a Citywide Active Transportation Plan (combining pedestrian and bicycle master plans).” Is this an entirely new project or is it just two former projects combined into one?

The City has a 2014 Pedestrian Master Plan and a 2015 Bicycle Transportation Plan. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes updates to both plans in different years. This project would combine the updates to both plans into a single active transportation plan.

17. How did staff determine which projects they added to the list? Are any of the projects not discretionary (e.g., Continue work on the Housing Element, Conduct a City Building Workspace Study)?

The 10 new potential projects that are included in the staff memo are either projects that Council has expressed interest in during recent Council meetings, or projects that staff has identified as essential and in support of the proposed strategic priorities. These projects are presented for Council consideration. Some projects are not discretionary, but have been proposed for inclusion in the Strategic Roadmap due to the significant staff resources they would require and their relevance to the strategic priorities.

18. Isn’t there a project that BAAQMD is working on regarding gas powered leaf blowers?

Staff is aware of research done by BAAQMD in 2013 regarding the impacts of leaf blowers and the practices of various jurisdictions. Staff is not aware of a BAAQMD initiative to establish leaf blower regulations.

19. What does the project around homelessness entail beyond what the city is already doing? Technically, doesn’t the County own addressing homelessness?

The proposed homelessness response strategy would provide a more comprehensive and forward-looking plan for the range of housing and service needs and response strategies that the City may wish to pursue, in partnership with our County and community-based partners. The strategy would also identify funding needs and sources, which are currently being determined on a short-term basis, rather than a proactive basis. The City does not currently have this type of long-term plan for homelessness programmatic priorities and funding sources.

20. Does the city have a list of acceptable trees, shrubs, and other plants that developers must use when landscaping new developments? And for city use on city-owned property?

Street tree plantings must follow the master street tree list and new and rehabilitated landscaping is subject to the Council-adopted *Water Conservation in Landscape Regulations*, which reduce water waste in landscaping by promoting the use of region-appropriate plants that require minimal supplemental irrigation and by establishing standards for irrigation efficiency. Region appropriate trees and plants can be found in the *Water Use Classification of Landscape Species* (WUCOLS) list. There is also a North Bayshore Area tree and plant palette list for landscaping in the North Bayshore Area that recommended trees and plants to support the unique Bayland ecology that are more tolerant of the salinity in recycled water.