GRANITE BAY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, January 6, 2010

Eureka Union School District Office, 5455 Eureka Road, Granite Bay

- 1. Call to Order 7:01 p.m.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introduction of MAC Members

- A. MAC members present were Virgil Anderson (Chair), Eric Sanchez (Vice-Chair), Dr. Gloria Freeman, David Gravlin, Walt Pekarsky, Eric J. Teed-Bose, and John Thacker (Secretary).
- B. Also present were Supervisor Kirk Uhler, and District Representative Brian Jagger.

4. Approval of January 6, 2010, MAC Agenda

A motion was made (and seconded) to approve the January 6, 2009 Agenda. The motion passed (6-0).

5. Approval of Minutes: December 2, 2009

A motion was made (and seconded) to approve the December 2, 2009 Minutes. The motion passed (4-0), two members abstaining.

6. Public Safety Reports

Officer Mike Ketterer of the CHP, and Deputy David Clark of the Placer County Sheriff's Department both presented regarding Public Safety. Notably, Officer Ketterer mentioned in regard to a recent accident involving a wrong-way driver that they usually, when on the freeway, drive in the lane closest to the center. Thus he recommends avoiding the fast lane during darkness, especially in areas where hills may obscure visibility of oncoming traffic.

7. Public Comment

Several residents availed themselves of the opportunity to express concerns regarding the progress of the Community Plan Update process. Notably, certain residents expressed concern that the process should be more transparent, and that greater efforts should be made to develop public involvement. However, other long-time residents remarked that in their opinion, the efforts of Supervisor Uhler and the Planning Department in this regard have been commendable.

8. Supervisor Uhler's Report

Supervisor Uhler thanked Assemblyman Niello for his appearance and presentation, which preceded this item, to accommodate the Assemblyman's schedule. As he did following Senator Dave Cox's appearance in December, Supervisor Uhler followed up on Assemblyman Niello's remarks by emphasizing that the structural budget deficit the state faces is the single biggest concern of local government. This is because the single biggest unknown is what burdens the state is going to foist upon local governments in order to balance its budget.

9. MAC Committee Reports

No Committee Reports.

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10. Informational Non-Action Items:

A. State Budget and Legislative Update

State Assemblyman Roger Niello appeared to provide an update on the state budget as well as other important legislative issues. As noted above, this item was addressed out-of-order, prior to Supervisor Uhler's report, to accommodate the Assemblyman's schedule. Assemblyman Niello spoke at length regarding the major structural issues which are at the root of the state's budget woes. The two major impediments to maintaining a balanced budget are union contracts (due to their lack of flexibility, as well as their cost), and the tax system.

Assemblyman Niello advocated for a "flatter" tax structure, meaning one in which more adults pay something, and the highest rates are lowered. This type of reform would beneficially address two problems which have recently exacerbated the state's budget woes. First, it is believed that 42% of California adults pay no state income tax; therefore, these residents constitute an untapped revenue resource. Also, it is theorized that if these residents pay state income tax, they will have a stronger interest in budgetary discipline.

Second, Assemblyman Niello opined that over-reliance on high rates for high income earners exacerbates budget difficulties in recessions because these earners' incomes tend to decline dramatically in recessionary environments. Moreover, high tax rates tend to discourage necessary business (and therefore, employment) development, and even encourage emigration of high earners from the state, which has also been observed to have caused a significant decline in revenues from this group of payers.

11. Action Items

A. MAC Chairmanship and Vice-Chair Assignments

The MAC nominated and approved a new Chairman and Vice-Chair for the 2010 calendar year. Mr. Sanchez was nominated for the MAC Chairmanship, and Mr. Teed-Bose was nominated to the Vice-Chair post. These nominations were approved by a roll call vote (6-0).

B. Zoning Text Amendment (PZTA T20090403) – Fowl and Poultry

Senior Planner Jennifer Dzakowic presented on this item. It is before the MAC for input on proposed revisions to the Fowl and Poultry section of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the keeping of up to three chicken hens in the Residential Single-Family zone district. These proposed revisions are offered on the initiative of the Planning Department, based on perceived growing interest in harvesting of fresh chicken eggs for personal use in residential settings. Considerable discussion ensued involving the assembled residents, both pro and con. Additionally, a short presentation was offered by a representative of the humane society, who expressed concern about the health and safety of chickens kept in the residential setting.

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At the conclusion of the discussion, MAC members expressed interest in gathering further information regarding this item. A motion was made and seconded to table the item to the February, 2010 MAC meeting for further consideration. The motion passed a roll call vote (6-0).

C. Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA 20080448) - Emergency Shelters, Transitional and Supportive Housing

Senior Planner Jennifer Dzakowic presented on this item as well. It is before the MAC pursuant to a Planning Commission directive to obtain input regarding the manner and means by which the Placer County Zoning Ordinance can be brought into compliance with the State housing law relative to emergency shelters, transitional, and supportive housing. Primarily at issue are amendments establishing definitions of the terms "Emergency Shelters", "Transitional Housing", and "Supportive Housing". Considerable discussion centered on the preliminary question of just what input the MAC could realistically provide, given the State mandates on these matters which, in fact, provided the impetus for presenting this item. That is, separating actual policy making, which role the State has taken upon itself, from "mere" definition-writing, which role the State has delegated to local agencies, is tricky business in practice.

A long-time resident (who is a real estate professional) observed that perhaps the most realistic approach, and the opportunity, is to write very specific definitions in order to forestall inappropriate uses. For example, this resident suggested that if the different uses are not very carefully categorized, such that there is minimal ambiguity and overlap, inappropriate uses could be made, possibly in order to satisfy a state mandate.

Mr. Sanchez expressed concern that the language used not be overly solicitous of the needs of providers of these housing services. He also expressed interest in gaining input from public safety providers regarding service needs at such locations. Mr. Teed-Bose echoed these concerns, and expressed a desire to hear more testimony.

Mr. Sanchez moved that the item be tabled to the February, 2010 MAC meeting so that the MAC may gather further information from Health and Human Services and public safety providers, and further deliberate the definitions described in the item. The motion was duly seconded and passed a roll call vote (6-0).

- **11. Correspondence** Found on Table at the rear of the room.
- **12. Next Meeting:** GB MAC February 3, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.
- 13. Adjournment 10:10 p.m.