

## **Dublin City Council Updates**

### **ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL**

(note – this is merely a summary, for more complete information go to the city's website at [www.ci.dublin.ca.us](http://www.ci.dublin.ca.us) and read the Council Minutes)

#### **MARCH 17<sup>th</sup>**

-The Dublin City Council unanimously voted to begin the first phase of construction at Fallon Sports Park, a 30-acre multi-use sports facility that includes lighted artificial turf soccer fields (with shade structures), baseball diamonds, softball diamonds, batting cages, basketball courts, tennis courts, a BMX track, and a pedestrian bridge. By going to construction now, the council will save nearly \$3 million due to the favorable bid climate. Proceeds to pay for the project will come from prior years' surpluses, public facility impact fees, Measure WW, and the General Fund reserve.

-Despite the opening of the Shannon Community Center, it was decided that Building A at Emerald Glen Park will be maintained as a modular recreation facility. This was done in order to sustain programming on the eastern side of the city, particularly the popular pre-school program. Building B will be taken down however after the summer due to its more limited use

-Requests from the Dublin Unified School District to hold three events at the Shannon Community Center in the month of May prior to the official opening to the community at large were approved. Those events include the Dublin High Senior Banquet, the Dublin High Senior Awards Night, and the DUSD Retirement Celebration

-The land zoned for public/semi-public at the corner of Kohnen Way and Brannigan Street was approved for a Springfield Montessori School. The site will host 180 students ages 2-6, providing educational services and extended day care.

-The City Council held a public hearing on the proposed Iroonet Boarding House for Korean students. The original proposal to hold 12 boarders was rejected, but a compromise was reached where they could house 6 boarders in the six bedroom house as long as they had two guardians and met other strict conditions. The approval was only granted for one year, at which time the Council will review the situation again.

-The City Council designated \$3.2 million from the 2007-2008 budget surplus to go into its Economic Uncertainty Reserve to help make up for anticipated shortfalls in the current fiscal year. It was also decided that \$1 million of the 2007-08 surplus should go toward the Emerald Glen Aquatic Center, and that the remaining \$450,000 surplus should be divided between the East Bay Communications System and our retirement fund obligations for our firefighters.

-A review of the city's mid-year financial forecast was given, and it was reported that there has been approximately a 21% reduction in sales tax revenue. Combined with

anticipated declines in property tax and other fees, it was also decided to defer moving forward on the Emerald Glen Aquatic Center for one year. The Council also decided to look at other ways to find revenues and cut costs in order to minimize or eliminate service reductions to residents caused by the budget shortfall.

-The City Council voted to submit three projects for Measure WW funding from the East Bay Regional Parks District. Those projects included the inclusion of turf fields at Fallon Sports Park and enhancements to the Dublin Sports Grounds Area 2.

-An urgency ordinance was approved related to the proper maintenance of abandoned properties

-The City Council heard a report on the proposed Pharmaceutical Collection Program with the Dublin San Ramon Services District. The purpose was to collect all medications through this program to avoid having them flushed down the drain and impacting the ground water. Although it appears that the current program as proposed would not meet federal guidelines, it was decided that we would work with our Congressional representatives as well as the FDA to develop some parameters that would be acceptable and that we might proceed in the future.

-The City's Mission, Vision, Values, and 10-Year Strategic Plan were approved

-A report was given on the Municipal Regional Permit for Stormwater for the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board. The complications and costs of the new permit was discussed, and the Council directed the Mayor to send a letter to protest the proposed requirement along with offering suggestions for an approved permit process.

-The Award of Excellence earned by the City of Dublin from the California Parks and Recreation Society for its' St. Patrick's Festival was presented

-Proclamations were given out to the winners of the city's 1<sup>st</sup> annual Limerick Contest

-A proclamation was given to Carl Zeiss Meditec for the excellent job it did partnering with the city on disaster preparedness exercises.

### **MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>**

-The City Council held a moment of silence for Sgt. Diamond. Sgt. Diamond was a Dublin resident who was killed in Iraq in mid-February while serving his third tour of duty. It was decided that all future City Council meetings will be closed in his memory, and that his name will be added to the Public Safety Memorial in the Dublin Civic Center Courtyard at a special ceremony later this year.

-Linda Maurer, the city's new Assistant to the City Manager, was introduced. Linda's job will be primarily to focus on Economic Development, working closely with City

Manager Joni Pattillo, Assistant City Manager Chris Foss, and the entire City Council. Linda will be working on attracting new business, business retention, and expanding the city's Economic Incentive Program. Linda will also serve as the City's Public Information Officer to help the Council meet its newest Strategic Initiative to enhance Communication.

-Dublin business SuperGen, Inc. was recognized for its "Outstanding Participation" in the "Great Race for Clean Air" during the month of October 2008. Over 17% of SuperGen's employees found alternatives to driving to work with an emphasis on bicycling and pedestrian activity. Supervisor Scott Haggerty was on hand to recognize them as well for being the Tri-Valley's top performer.

-A report was given noting that Tri-Valley Community Television can now be viewed on AT&T. On Comcast these channels can still be viewed on channels 28, 29, and 30, but on AT&T they can be viewed by going to Channel 99.

-The City Council approved a consulting agreement for design work associated with renovations at the Dublin Sports Grounds. Specifically, the project will consist of a complete remodel of the snack bar and restrooms

-The City Council continued its work on the Amador Valley Boulevard Corridor Project, which will connect the Iron Horse Trail, the Alamo Creek Bike path, and the Dougherty Road Bike Path. Specifically, the Council approved a bid for the construction of an in-pavement flashing lighted crosswalk across Amador Valley Boulevard at Wildwood Road.

-The City Council heard a report on Dublin's receipt of stimulus funds as part of the Obama Administration's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Dublin is guaranteed to receive between \$700,000-\$800,000 for road maintenance and repairs along Dougherty Road and Dublin Boulevard. Additionally, the city has submitted requests for funding of the Alamo Canal Trail to CalTrans. CalTrans has received a block of funding through the ARRA, but they need to devote some of their funding to improving trail networks and ours qualifies as "shovel-ready." We have also put in requests for park funding, and are working on grants for law enforcement and the arts. The Council voted to make securing stimulus funding as a High Priority Goal effective immediately, and City Manager Joni Pattillo will be coordinating our efforts.

-The City Council received a report from David Stark of the Bay East Association of Relators on the recent housing crisis. David Stark presented information on the state, East Bay, and the city of Dublin. It was interesting to note that although the housing crisis has definitely affected our city, Dublin has one of the lowest rates of foreclosure in the entire East Bay. In addition, Dublin's property values have held their value more than 13 of Alameda Counties' 14 cities.

-The City Council received a report on its compliance with the General Plan for 2008. In addition, an update was given on the progress being made on our Housing Element. The

Housing Element must be submitted to the state by July 1<sup>st</sup>. For the complete report, go to the city's website at [www.ci.dublin.ca.us](http://www.ci.dublin.ca.us).

### **FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

-The City Council recognized Citizen of the Year Nominees Fawn Holman, Ted Hoffman Jr., and John Zukoski; Young Citizen of the Year Nominees Brian Del Rosario and Joey Van Loon; and Organization of the Year Nominees Friends of the Dublin Library, Hope Hospice, and Dublin 4-H

-The City Council watched a special presentation on the Dublin Heritage Center's newest website [www.dublinheritage.org](http://www.dublinheritage.org). This new website will be an excellent way for the city to advertise programs at the Heritage Center and eventually for the Heritage Park. It also serves as a resource for educating the public on our city's history.

-The City Council received an update on Census 2010 activities

-The City Council received a report on expanded traffic safety measures within the city

-The City Council made a formal request to the East Bay Regional Park District for the release of Measure WW funds to pay for parks and recreation enhancements in Dublin

-The City Council received the audit report for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. We received a clean audit report with no comments. The auditors noted the excellent work of our city's finance staff, especially commending our internal controls and sound fiscal practices

-The City Council approved a grant and initiated the process for an Environmental Impact Report as a component of the Downtown Specific Plan. This is an important component of the city's plans to consolidate the San Ramon Road Specific Plan, the West Dublin BART Specific Plan, the Downtown Core Specific Plan, and the Village Parkway Specific Plan into one comprehensive planning document to help guide future development in the area.

### **FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup>**

-The City Council held a Saturday morning workshop with all of its Commissions to review the Goals and Objectives for the upcoming fiscal year. The city's budget will be adopted based upon high priority goals and objectives, and this was the opportunity for the City Council to garner input from its Commissions on their respective policy areas.

### **FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>**

-The City Council recognized Dublin Police Chief Gary Thuman for his 12 years of service to the city. Commander Thuman has accepted another assignment within the Sheriffs' Department, but he was honored in a special reception prior to the meeting. Under Commander Thuman's watch crime remained very low in the city despite a

doubling of the population. He was always responsive to the community's needs and made sure we were fully staffed at all times. The Department also maintained an active role in the community due to Commander Thuman's leadership, including his own personal service as the Chairperson for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event for several years.

-The City Council received donations from the Altamont Car Cruisers and the Anthony and Angela Bilich Family for Dublin Police Services. The Altamont Car Cruisers donation will go towards funding a Parent Handbook, while the Bilich Family donation will go towards youth programs

-A proclamation was given to recognize Alameda County's 2-1-1 program

-Former Alameda County Fire Chief Bill McCammon gave a report to the City Council on the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority (EBRCSA). This is a remarkable partnership combining the counties of Alameda and Contra Costa, 29 cities in the East Bay, and all affiliated law enforcement agencies. The purpose is to have radio interoperability for all public safety agencies to be able to respond jointly during an emergency. Dublin has maintained a leadership role within the JPA since the beginning, and in fact their offices are located in our city. The JPA continues to raise funds and purchase equipment to complete its comprehensive emergency communication network.

-A report was presented on the city's plans on ways to increase its diversion rates. More work will be done to increase recycling amongst businesses, multi-family housing complexes, and the schools. Special recognition goes to former Mayor Janet Lockhart and Vice Mayor Kasie Hildenbrand for their work on a sub-committee that examined the issue.

-The Council approved a request from SunCal to begin processing a Specific Plan and Environmental Impact Report for the Camp Parks property. The property is approximately 180 acres and has been entitled "Dublin Crossings." Vice Mayor Kasie Hildenbrand was appointed to a committee to interview consultants for the project. It was also decided that a Task Force would likely be created consisting of all stakeholders to analyze the project as it moves forward. The Council recognizes that this property right in the middle of the city is extremely valuable, and therefore is asking for a thorough review process. More information will follow in the months to come, as both SunCal and the Army are still in the due diligence process for determining improvements on the base and the land values associated with the Camp Parks property.

-In response to parents concerned about pedestrian safety for students walking to school, a no parking zone was established on Oak Bluff Lane. The Council also asked staff to bring back a more thorough review of traffic-safety related issues throughout the city, including the placement of crossing guards.

-The City Council opted to have an annual video newsletter produced as part of its Communications Strategic initiative. This will come at no cost to the General Fund.

## **JANUARY 31st**

-The City Council held an all-day Strategic Planning Workshop to analyze and make modifications to our city's Mission, Vision, Values, and 10-Year Plan. In regards to the 10-Year Plan, the Council voted to maintain four of its six strategic initiatives (Downtown Enhancements, Transportation Enhancements, Jobs/Housing/Services Balance, Dynamic Recreation Facilities). The Council voted to modify its initiative on Open Space to include a component on Environmental Sustainability. The Council also decided to replace its Goal of creating a city of villages and replaced it with a strategic goal on enhancing Communication. The Mission Statement and Values were streamlined, and the Vision was updated. More information on the specific changes can be found on the city's website ([www.ci.dublin.ca.us](http://www.ci.dublin.ca.us)).

## **JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

-Dublin Police Services Commander Casey Nice was introduced as the City's new Police Chief. Commander Nice has extensive experience within the Sheriff's Department and is excited about the opportunity to serve in Dublin

-Dougherty Elementary School was recognized for its participation in the Walk n' Roll to School program. This is an important effort to promote healthy lifestyles and a cleaner environment

-Alan Brown was appointed to the Planning Commission, Sonal Nichols was appointed to the Heritage and Cultural Arts Commission, and Jing Firmeza was appointed to the Housing Committee.

-Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) received recognition, and January was recognized as National Blood Donor Month in the city of Dublin

-The City Council approved an authorization to go to bid for Fallon Sports Park, Phase I

-The City Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton to implement the Solar Cities Program. This is an important step to help the Council achieve its new Strategic Initiative of environmental sustainability

-The City Council voted to improve the first stage of the Promenade, which is a pedestrian-oriented Main-Street style retail project. The project is located between Dublin Boulevard and Central Parkway and will be connected by Grafton Street. The first phase of the project includes a 50,000 square foot Club Sport, which will be adjacent to ground-floor retail with office space on the upper floors. The project will be accompanied by a parking garage.

-The City Council approved over \$80,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding requests to 14 non-profit service providers

## **JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>**

-The City Council received a report on freeway and closures associated with the construction of the West Dublin BART station

-A special presentation was given on the city's new marketing brochure. The brochure is a component of the city's increased efforts to improve economic development. It is very well-designed and has updated information that will be helpful in promoting our community to prospective businesses.

-The Council formally accepted the new play equipment recently installed at Stagecoach Park

-The Council formally accepted the park furniture that was replaced at Shannon Park and Kolb Park

-The City Council adopted the first component of its Economic Incentive Program. The program was a tax sharing program for tenant improvements. Specifically, if a new business moves to Dublin that is slated to generate at least \$100,000 of new sales tax revenue, the city would give half of that revenue back to the business for interior and/or exterior tenant improvements. This was seen as an incentive for a business to move to Dublin because they would get some of their revenue back and the start-up costs of moving to Dublin would be "free." Existing businesses would also qualify if it can be shown that they were expanding within our city, creating \$100,000 of new revenue.

-The City Council approved an extension of the Development Agreement (DA) at Wallis Ranch from 5-15 years. In return, the city received a \$1 million community benefit payment upfront in one lump sum. Wallis Ranch was already an entitled project approved in 2007. Without the agreement of an extension they would have been automatically granted a five-year DA, meaning that if construction began before January of 2014 then the city would not have received any money. However, the council directed staff that any future DA extensions must be negotiated for a much greater sum than the past practice of \$100,000 per year to account for inflation.

-The Council approved a General Plan Amendment study to examine changing the zoning on the Redgewick property from Single-Family Housing to Estate Housing. This would lower the density on the site from 68 units to 4 units.

-The City Council received a presentation on a new program called "Glen the Guide Summer Nature Day Camp." This is a unique program that will be offered at the scenic Shannon Community Center, and is in direct response to the Community Needs Assessment as a program desired by residents.

-New guidelines were approved for a Youth Fee Assistance program to ensure that all young people can participate in recreation programs regardless of their ability to pay. A program was established to guide the solicitation of donations for the program, and it's important to note that this will not come at the expense of the General Fund.

### **DECEMBER 16th**

-Appointments were made by the Mayor to various local and regional committees and commissions. A full list can be found on the city's website at [www.ci.dublin.ca.us](http://www.ci.dublin.ca.us).

-A signage program for Dublin Toyota was approved

-The facility use policy and rental fee schedule for the Shannon Community Center was approved

-The City Council approved the bid to begin construction of the Dublin Heritage Park Phase I, which also includes the relocation and restoration of the Kolb properties on the site

-Don Biddle was unanimously chosen for an appointment to fill a vacant seat on the Dublin City Council caused by Tim Sbranti's election as Mayor. Biddle was chosen based upon his diverse experience as a Planning Commissioner, former school board member, and longtime community leader. His term is through November of 2010

-Eric Swalwell was appointed to the Planning Commission. Steve Jones was re-appointed to the Parks and Community Services Commission, along with Anthony Totaro. Kim Halket was re-appointed to the Heritage and Cultural Arts Commission along with Dayna Tutino and Steve Minniear.

### **DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>**

-Tim Sbranti was sworn in as Mayor, while Kasie Hildenbrand and Kevin Hart were sworn in as Council Members. Kasie was then unanimously selected to become Vice Mayor.

-The Council approved an Ordinance related to the maintenance of foreclosed residential properties

-The Council approved changes in the residential density allowed on the Croak and Jordan properties. The new guidelines require both Medium-Density properties to ensure that at least 50% of the residential units constructed to have private usable yards that are at least 400 square feet. The original Medium Density designation did not include any requirement for the construction of private usable yards, so this will definitely help create lower densities within the city

-Modifications to the public art at Bray Commons were approved

-The 2008 Crossing Guard Study was evaluated, and the council opted to place a new Crossing Guard to facilitate student safety near Green Elementary.

-The City Council unanimously voted to move forward on a new high priority goal to create an Economic Incentive Program to help attract and retain business within the city of Dublin. The plan will be brought back in pieces as components are created, with the goal to help spur economic development throughout the city.

-The City Council decided it would make an appointment to fill the vacancy created by Tim Sbranti's election as Mayor due to the costliness of a Special Election. The process was outlined in detail, which included the submission of applications and live interviews before the council at its December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.