

Minutes of the Governing Board Study Group Meeting June 2, 2009



San José/Evergreen
Community College District

A. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Trustee Okamura called the Study Group Meeting of the Governing Board of the San José/Evergreen Community College District to order on Tuesday, June 2, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., in the Technology Center, Room T-415, at San José City College.

Board Members Present:

Mr. Balbir Dhillon
Ms. Maria Fuentes
Mr. Richard Hobbs
Mr. Ron Lind
Mr. Randy Okamura
Mr. Richard Tanaka

Board Members Excused:

Ms. Mayra Cruz

President Okamura reminded the audience that the Board needed to hear enough information before it could move forward on making a decision regarding the baseball field complex. He said the purpose of the study session was to hear information provided by district staff as well as comments from members of the community.

B. **CHANCELLOR'S PRESENTATIONS**

Chancellor Pérez stated the purpose of the special Board study session was to obtain Board and public input on responses to comments with respect to SJCC's baseball field complex aesthetic and land use impacts described in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR). She reminded the audience that this session was not a public hearing to discuss other aspects of the SEIR, but only the baseball field complex. She introduced members of her staff, outside consultants and legal representatives, who gave presentations to the Board.

Mr. Matthew Fagan from Maas Companies, Inc. gave a summary of the findings and mitigation issues from his SEIR regarding the baseball field at SJCC.

Attorney Ilene Dick from Farella, Braun & Martel, LLP summarized the District's status and remaining steps required by CEQA.

Ms. Monica Gomez, Public Information Officer for the District, distributed and presented the Public Outreach Protocol for Development Projects--a future plan that would be put in

Minutes of June 2, 2009, Board Study Group Meeting

place to inform the public on matters relating to capital projects. Chancellor Pérez stated that the district had a weakness in its organization because it did not have a procedure in place for communicating with the public about capital projects, and this new protocol is a way to address that issue.

Mr. Robert Dias, Executive Director of Facilities, gave an overview of SJCC's Facilities Master Plan 2021 and gave a chronology of events pertaining to the baseball field complex. He stated that the Facilities Master Plan was changed to relocate the baseball field complex in May 2007 and work commenced on the project in December 2007. Work was stopped on the complex in July 2008, and the decision to prepare the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (DSEIR) was made in August 2008. The first stage in the preparation of the DSEIR was the Notice of Preparation (NOP)/Initial Study (IS), and the public review period for this stage was October 8, 2008 through November 7, 2008. The issues identified in the NOP/IS were related to aesthetics, land use, noise, recreation and transportation. Eight comment letters/emails were received on the NOP/IS. As a result, a Community Scoping Meeting was held at SJCC on October 10, 2008 to review these comments. Based on the findings of the NOP/IS, the DSEIR was written. The period for public review for written comments on the DSEIR was February 24, 2009 through April 9, 2009; and during this time seven comment letters/emails were received. The issues addressed in the public comments pertained to noise, air quality, transportation and aesthetics. It was determined, as reported by Mr. Matthew Fagan in his prior report to the Board, that the transportation and aesthetics issues cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level. For example, even if you paint the lighting poles, there is still no effective way to conceal them.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Board heard public comments Ms. Randi Kinman, President, and Mr. Michael Larocca from the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association and other neighbors in the community who expressed their concerns about the poles, noise and traffic problems posed by the baseball field complex. They also heard comments from Doug Robb, Head Baseball Coach, SJCC, Erik Wagler, Associate Head Baseball Coach, SJCC and members of the SJCC baseball team about the problems they've encountered in using other teams' baseball fields for their practice and home games.

D. BOARD DISCUSSION

After hearing public comments, the Board asked questions to clarify some information reported to them. Trustee Fuentes asked if the period for public comments concerning the SEIR is over or if public comments can still be received. Mr. Dias stated that the period for public comments was over on April 9, 2009.

Minutes of June 2, 2009, Board Study Group Meeting

Trustee Hobbs said he felt the pain on both sides of the issue, and that the decision concerning the baseball field complex will be a difficult one to make. On the one hand, there is the negative impact of the baseball field complex on its neighbors; on the other hand, there is the desire to support the needs of the baseball team. He said it's important for the Board to review their options to determine the best solution. He outlined some options: 1) leave the baseball field complex as described in the DSEIR, 2) switch locations with the softball field that's located in the center of SJCC's campus, 3) relocate the baseball field by building another one in the undeveloped space at Evergreen Valley College, 4) SJCC baseball team to continue to use other school's baseball fields and 5) discontinue the baseball program at SJCC. Trustee Fuentes stated that Trustee Hobbs is moving in the right direction by looking at all potential solutions. President Burke said the option to move the baseball complex to the softball field area was taken off the table when SJCC began its work on the Master Plan. President Okamura said that any option the Board chooses would impact the baseball program and its cost. It would be great if a solution can be found that would retain a baseball program at the college. He said that he and Chancellor Pérez recently met with members of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association and did a tour with them of the area surrounding the baseball field complex, and he understands their concerns as well. The Board is now committed to find out what they can do given the hand they were dealt. He asked the administration to bring alternatives to the table, along with the costs and risks, so that the Board could make the best possible decision.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Rosa G. Pérez, Secretary
Board of Trustees