



**City of  
Santa Clara**  
The Center of What's Possible



**MINUTES OF THE CITY-MISSION COLLEGE  
LIASION COMMITTEE MEETING  
November 30, 2020 at 4:00 PM**

**Council Present:**

- Chair Gillmor
- Committee Member Hardy
- Committee Alternate O'Neill

**Staff Present:**

- Deanna J. Santana, City Manager
- Robyn Sahid, Assistant to the City Manager
- James Teixeira, Director of Parks and Recreation
- Andrew Crabtree, Director of Community Development
- Julie Minot, Executive Assistant to the Mayor and City Council

**Mission College Present:**

- Ann Kepner, Mission College Board of Trustees
- Bob Owens, Mission College Board of Trustees
- Brad Davis, Chancellor
- Manny Cappello, Associate Vice Chancellor
- Daniel Peck, President
- Danny Nguyen, Vice President

**Chair Gillmor called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.**

**Item 1. Mission College Response to COVID-19**

President Daniel Peck gave an overview of Mission College's (Mission) transition to remote operations during COVID-19 and related challenges. The impacts across student populations, such as the digital divide and health challenges were emphasized during this time. Mission provided over 300 laptops and hotspots and is continuing to seek out students who need help. Mission also provided technical support and opened a by-reservation computer lab which complies with Santa Clara County COVID-19 safety mandates.

In partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, Mission resumed a drive through food distribution operation and increased frequency to once per week, making a big difference in helping the students and community. Mission established a food assistance program, distributing meal vouchers to students and families in need, supported through CARES act funding, and donations from nonprofits. Mission has also given \$1.7 million in direct aid to over 5000 students. Mission is also helping undocumented and international students with financial support.

Mission is also expanding mental health services, and has also partnered with Kaiser, to support flu shots.

Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor asked if the food distribution is only for students. President Peck responded that the meal service program is limited to the student population; however, in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank the food distribution is open to the community. The meal service program is one day a week with vouchers that are applied for electronically. The student response is very positive and as a result Mission is looking into opportunities for a permanent food pantry location.

Vice Mayor Karen Hardy thanked Mission College for their work and commented that educators must think of all barriers that students face. President Peck then acknowledged Mission's partnership with Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD).

## **Item 2. Mission College Spring/Summer/Fall Planning**

President Peck shared that Mission plans for the upcoming Spring and Summer semesters will continue to be remote, and that much planning is being done to transition to a hybrid model. Mission is planning a return to campus in Fall 2021 but will be prepared to maintain a remote model if needed.

Vice President Danny Nguyen stated that the Mission/West Valley District has weekly check in calls with County of Santa Clara.

Mayor Gillmor asked about enrollment numbers, and President Peck responded that enrollment is down by 6 to 8 percent.

## **Item 3. Mission College Bond Project Update**

President Peck began by thanking the community for their support. The "Big Building" is gone, and the plaza is complete. All new buildings are modern and designed for today's instruction, in celebrating diversity and cultures, and all incorporate social justice into the design. Mission has also just begun construction on other projects, including renovation to the building which houses the Child Development Program, and installation of new turf on fields. All projects are on schedule and President Peck commented that Mission may be able to take advantage of less escalation costs.

## **Item 4. Mission College Scholarships and Financial Assistance**

President Peck introduced the Mission Promise program, which offers two years free tuition plus \$1000 per term for books with priority given to SCUSD graduates and City of Santa Clara residents. Mission looks forward to giving an update on the program at a City Council meeting. There are a few requirements to meet to qualify; it is not a competitive scholarship, but a community scholarship. Trustee Ann Kepner commented that the City's Youth Commission would be a good way to promote the Mission Promise program.

## **Item 5. College and Faculty/Staff Housing**

President Peck opened by stating that housing affordability is a challenge in our region and poses significant obstacles for students and staff, which affects employee retention. Chancellor Brad Davis commented that the theme Mission would like to promote is one of collaboration and that Mission wants to collaborate with City on all matters including housing and transportation. He further stated that all Community College Districts in the Bay Area are planning for housing and transportation needs for student, and that Mission looks forward to a partnership for a better way forward.

Mayor Gillmor asked if a plan was in place to build housing on campus. President Peck responded that the prior proposed project did not happen. Mayor Gillmor commented that the City has nearby affordable housing projects/components at developments such as Tasman East, St. Anton, other Specific Plans. The Mayor asked if there is land on the Mission Campus that could be used to build housing. President Peck responded that they are looking into possibilities.

Councilmember Teresa O'Neill recalled her time serving on the SCUSD Board and remarked that her happiest moment was the grand opening of La Casa Del Maestro Apartment Complex. She further commented that the San Mateo Community College District has followed Santa Clara models, and is in process of their third project for affordable housing for staff. Councilmember O'Neill shared her hope that there will be a more open approach to financing options and said Casa Del Maestro was a huge success and helped SCUSD retain staff.

## **Item 6. City of Santa Clara Land Planning Update**

Community Development Director Andrew Crabtree reported that construction activity in the region remains strong and there are higher levels of permit activity over last year and a lot of long range planning taking place, especially on the Northern part of Santa Clara in proximity of the Mission campus. He named the Tasman East Specific Plan, the 100% affordable housing project by St. Anton. A total of 4480 units are proceeding through the permit process to start construction this year and early next year. The success of the plan is that we've achieved target number of units without using all the land. The City has also started the process to amend the Patrick Henry plan to add 1500 more units. Director Crabtree also commented on the Related Santa Clara project, a 10 million square feet project including commercial and food/beverage space, retail, and a hotel, which is going through land use entitlement process. The first two phases are in the final planning approvals. Director Crabtree then spoke about the status of the Patrick Henry Specific Plan, which is adjacent to Mission College. This is anticipated to add 12,000 housing units to the area. He further referred to a meeting with Mission staff in November 2020 to explore adding a roadway between the campus and Patrick Henry Drive. This is currently being studied under the Patrick Henry Specific Plan. An analysis of the amount of traffic the roadway would carry is being done and the City has provided some of the information to Mission College; further discussions will take place. It is anticipated that the Patrick Henry Specific Plan will be completed in a year. Other nearby projects include the expansion of the Hilton Hotel on its existing site, and other interest in developing in the Northside.

President Peck shared that one of Mission's concerns in addition to increased traffic is road maintenance to support increase in traffic.

Mayor Gillmor commented about potential of the CCD or Mission college to partner with the developers for workforce or housing and recommended that they explore this potential opportunity. The economy is unknown, such as the current increase vacancy rate and lower rents. The Related project will have a tremendous impact and will present many opportunities for students and Mission will naturally be a source of a workforce. She further commented that transportation issues will be a concern and asked for clarification from City Manager Santana on scooter use, as this is a popular mode of transportation for students. City Manager Santana reported that the State recently passed legislation that allows local governments to provide permits for scooters and similar mobile activity and that City staff will be bringing forward as part of the January 2021 Policy Priority Setting Session for the Council to discuss a permitting program.

President Peck reported that Mission has met with developers as referenced by the Mayor; Mission looks forward to future meetings and would appreciate connections. He further reported on past connections with Levi's Stadium for hospitality employment and learning opportunities for students and cited positive conversations with Related. He then stated the last mile stretch of roadway in getting from the transportation hubs to campus is a critical one and asked that Mission College is included in all future discussions.

Director Jim Teixeira commented that he doesn't have anything to add to Land Update and looks forward to collaborating with Mission College. He further stated that COVID-19 has limited recreation activities and adult sports are not allowed under current conditions. He looks forward to future collaboration when possible.

Mayor Gillmor stated that the City just opened a new sports complex and the City is upgrading parks in the City/trails, etc. The City of Santa Clara's facilities are ripe for youth sports as an attractive destination. Mission College's facilities will be very attractive for future sports events as well.

President Peck asked about a plan for developing a walking trail along Calabazas creek, and Mission is interested in this potential. Director Teixeira responded that Patrick Henry Drive has several park facilities, and since many parks are connected via trail system, at least one park will be connected to the campus by a trail. Councilmember O'Neill also stated her hope to see the trail enhancement.

## **Item 7. Future Opportunities for Partnerships**

President Peck reiterated his hope for collaboration and asked to be connected to the right parties for future partnership. Mayor Gillmor remarked that the City's goals as of January 2020 had to be set aside due to the pandemic and the focus changed to meeting the basic needs of the community. The City is doing more with less as tax revenue is severely decreased. We all need to focus on doing more with less as well as stay positive that we will get through these difficult times. Mayor Gillmor commented that Mission is a lifeline for students and the community in this time. President Peck thanked outgoing Councilmember O'Neill for her service.

President Peck suggested that Mission College hold quarterly presentations to the City Council, as well as a joint City Council/West Valley/Mission College meeting in the first quarter 2021. Mayor Gillmor agreed that Mission's updates to the City Council are always helpful and concurred with ensuring future meetings are scheduled.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.