

Political Races Heat Up

considering a run for mayor

"I think we have a unique opportunity to define a vision for Alameda Point," she said.

Tam criticized what she called the city's lack of fiscal responsibility, citing the ballooning budget of the Alameda Historic Theatre.

"We need to get away from being completely ruled by market forces," Tam said.

Rich, a regional government air quality control manager with a background in labor relations,

said the city council is indecisive and does not facilitate meaningful dialogue with the community.

"There's a power vacuum," Rich said. "Nobody can agree on a course of action. If people actually sat down and talked, we could get things done."

Mathiesen, Renner and Mataresse could not be reached for comment by press time.

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Tony Daysog may run for mayor.

Planning Board Approves Alameda Landing

Business leaders turn out to endorse project

By Dan Abbott

The planning board approved the master plan for the Alameda Landing development at its July 24 meeting, after Alameda's business community turned out en masse to praise the project.

The board voted 6-1 to recommend the plan to develop 1.3 million square feet of the former FISC Naval Air Center just west of Webster Street into a mix of retail, housing and waterfront office space, marking a major milestone in the now decade-old development project.

Board vice president Anne Cook was the lone vote of dissent, arguing that the wording of the plan by development giant Catellus, a subsidiary of Prologis, was too vague in places. The project now heads to the city council for further approval.

The audience in Council Chambers was a veritable who's who of the Alameda business community, and over 30 citizens addressed the board, mostly to praise the Alameda Landing project and Catellus.

"I personally feel this is a great

opportunity for West Alameda," said Ed Clark, pharmacist and president of the West Alameda Business Association (WABA). Clark commended Catellus for several public meetings it held earlier this year, during which citizens made suggestions about the development's design.

Catellus' master plan was altered several times and currently calls for several parks, fields, and interlinking bike paths. Other members of WABA, the Greater Alameda Business Association (GABA), the Park Street Business Association (PSBA), the Chamber of Commerce, the Alameda Association of Realtors, and local business owners were also on hand to lend their endorsements to the project.

Kathy Wagner, owner of the Mariner Square Athletic Club, expressed her approval of the plan, which includes space for a 20,000 square foot athletic club on the waterfront.

"I have 2,800 members who are looking forward to a new club," Wagner said.

Several speakers expressed delight that snack company Clif Bar has announced its intention to build a new corporate headquarters at Alameda Landing. Business leaders said the sports-oriented company would provide an economic anchor to attract other businesses.

"It'll be a gorgeous base for Clif Bar," said Jim MacFee of Cushman and Wakefield, a brokerage firm representing Clif Bar. MacFee urged the board to swiftly approve the Catellus plan, since Clif Bar must have its headquarters ready before its current lease expires in August, 2008.

Though the assembled crowd mostly spoke out in favor of the project, a few speakers expressed doubts about some of the details.

Pat Bail questioned the plan to expand Tinker Avenue, which would involve cutting through College of Alameda's baseball field.

"The city spent \$1.2 million to build that field 10 years ago," Bail said. "If there is room for four soccer fields, as the presenter said, I

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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Twilight	Rise	Set	Twilight
Today	05:33	06:01	19:58	20:26
July 28	05:34	06:02	19:57	20:25
July 29	05:35	06:02	19:57	20:24
July 30	05:35	06:03	19:56	20:23
July 31	05:36	06:04	19:55	20:22
Aug. 1	05:37	06:04	19:54	20:22
Aug. 2	05:38	06:05	19:53	20:21

Photo by JoanAnn Radu-Sinaike

Point: Moves forward

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prompted the Navy to shift tack under Bush and seek payment for the Point, Potter said.

"BRAC (Base Closure and Realignment Commission) law requires obtaining the fair market value for property in situations where jobs are created and profit made," Lee said.

According to Brandt, the figure of \$108 million was determined by a Navy assessment. The city has not conducted their own assessment of the property's value.

If APCP does elect to go forward with the project, Brandt said construction could begin as soon as 18 months from now. A final master plan and an environmental impact report

call for a large retail "Town Center," anchored by a grocery store. The city estimates about 7,000 jobs will be created at the Point.

That is assuming APCP agrees to the negotiated terms. Since several years have elapsed since the developer first put forth their plans, Barry says APCP will be evaluating the deal in light of current market realities.

Said Barry: "The market is definitely changing."

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Planning: Board approves Landing

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would suggest two soccer fields and one baseball field, and maybe a football field."

Ball was one of several citizens who pointed out that the plan's general layout leaves open the possibility of large-scale, big-box retail outlets on the waterfront, something many community activists have been fighting to keep out of Alameda.

"There's 224,000 square feet of retail space left unaddressed," Ball said, and asked the board to demand more specific language in

the plan before approval.

Gatellus, one of the nation's largest development companies, has been working on the Alameda Landing project since the closure of the Naval base in 1997. The original design, drawn up during the dot-com boom of the 1990s, called for mostly research and development office space. When the tech economy faltered in 1999, Gatellus went back to the drawing board, and the mixed-use plan has been in development ever since.

In other news

Alameda's former redevelopment

ment manager Bruce Knopf, was hired by Gatellus as vice president, according to a July 25

Gatellus/Prologis press release.

"As we move into the next phase of the Alameda landing project, it needs the care and tending which can best be provided by people who know Alameda well and who are here on a daily basis," said Gatellus Senior Vice President Dan Marcus, who has headed the Alameda Landing project for several years.

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The Pop Inn

Maureen's Cat & Kitten Care Services GOING ON VACATION?