

# The garage: Now it's up to Hastings' committee

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ter, the Hastings board scheduled a special June 26 meeting with only two agenda items: whether to rescind approval of the original plan, and the appointment of a blue-ribbon committee to re-evaluate the project.

## Special meeting

None of the directors attended the meeting in person. Billed as a teleconference, Chancellor Kane chaired the meeting, which was "attended" via phone by five of the seven directors, their comments broadcast over speakers.

Unlike past meetings, only about 25 people were in the audience, and only four community members spoke, their messages calm and mostly filled with hope.

Before they spoke, board member John T. Knox asked, "Are any of the speakers those who participated in the riot last month?" Secretary Susan Thomas — also by phone — assured him none was.

When the speakers had finished, Chairman James E. Mahoney said there seemed to be some public misconception that the rescission was a done deal. "There has been no rescission yet," Mahoney

said. He emphasized the board's fiduci-

ary responsibilities to the college and ran down all the ways that had Hastings responded to the community.

## Venting via phone

"Our entire process was thorough and open," he said. But given what he called Sen. Burton's "threats, we have no choice but to rescind."

Kane recommended that the board rescind its June 7 decision and opened the recommendation for discussion. The five board members weighed in:

The raison d'être for this meeting was all about "Burton's threat," Knox said. "The riot had nothing to do with our decision."

Added Director Blaine Pettit, "I'm reacting to political blackmail, [not because] it's what I feel SHOULD be done." Burton's actions, he said, were "unfair and disgusting."

"We did the best we could. . . I cannot abide this situation," said Director Brian Monaghan: "I object, and I will vote against the motion to rescind."

Director Maureen Corcoran called it "outrageous and irresponsible for a public official to put us in this position." She said the board had done its job as fiduciaries, and while she praised Monaghan's stance, "I can't see shutting down the school because of Burton."

Eugene Freeland was the most conciliatory of the board members. This is a "painful

motion," he said, "but it's the only practical one." He expressed his hope that the blue ribbon committee will come up with something that all will agree on.

The motion to rescind passed 4-1.

## Committee is formed

The idea for a blue-ribbon committee was first proposed by former board member Joseph Cotchett, Mahoney said, and he'd agreed to chair it if the board approved.

Kane recommended that the board appoint a committee — two members of the community plus three people not employed by the college — to review all previous materials and then recommend a feasible plan. She gave no due date, but said it should be concluded as soon as possible.

In discussion, Pettit called it a "mistake" to set up a high-profile committee. That "won't satisfy the howling mob," he said. "I have no faith in the politicians or in the neighborhood" — which drew an audible gasp from the audience.

The community, Pettit said, has insisted that Hastings do what it wants "or we'll wreck you" and "you'll pay for it, too." The entire process was "political thuggery," he said.

Freeland tried to mollify his colleague.

"I'm asking you, Blaine,

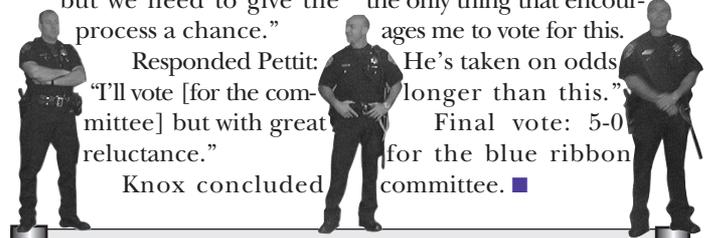
to consider turning the other cheek. You never know what you might learn. I appreciate the strength of your conviction, but we need to give the process a chance."

Responded Pettit: "I'll vote [for the committee] but with great reluctance."

Knox concluded

the discussion with a paean to the committee chair: "Knowing that Joe Cotchett is chairing the committee is the only thing that encourages me to vote for this."

He's taken on odds longer than this." Final vote: 5-0 for the blue ribbon committee. ■



## DA drops charges

Trespassing charges against the 11 people arrested for sitting-in at the Hastings College of Law board meeting on June 7 were dismissed by the DA's office on July 5, the Friday before the scheduled July 8 arraignment. Insufficient evidence, District Attorney Terence Hallinan said.

"The fact that the demonstrators entered by invitation and that the trustees left the room by choice fails to substantiate the trespass violation with which they were charged," Hallinan told the Chronicle's Rachel Gordon.

Supervisor Chris Daly and James Tracy of the Coalition on Homelessness were also charged with resisting arrest, charges that also were dropped. A review of photos of the incident "gives credibility to Supervisor Daly's contention" that he is innocent, Hallinan told the Chronicle.

Besides Daly and Tracy, charges were also dropped against:

**Randy Shaw**, Tenderloin Housing Clinic

**Sister Bernie Galvin**, Religious Witness for Homeless People

**Richard Marquez**, Mission Agenda

**Matthew Dodt**, community activist

**Paul Hogarth**, Tenderloin Housing Clinic

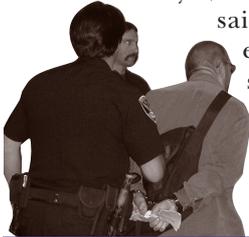
**Michelle Rose Roger**, St. Anthony's Foundation

**Meredith Ann Walters**, Central City SRO

Collaborative

**Joseph Halaiko**, St. Anthony's Foundation

**Ted Gullicksen**, Tenants Union



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