

Special Meeting
City of Hawthorne
Parks & Recreation – Fine Arts Commission
Minutes for March 18, 2008

LET THE RECORD SHOW PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954.2 THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED ON THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS BULLETIN BOARD AT 9:00 AM THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008.

The Parks & Recreation – Fine Arts Commission meeting was called to order by Commissioner Bowie @ 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers of Hawthorne City Hall.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Bowie, Monteiro, McGregor, Jeppesen, Balboa, Hughes and Chairman Morton.

The flag salute was led by Commissioner Bowie.

Commissioners need to make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the property on 126th & Grevillea Ave.

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Bowie feels we should make it a park but our current parks need improvement. Make we should make it a walking park for now.

Commissioner Balboa would love to have a new park but right the city is having financial problems and it just doesn't make since economically. She also suggests that the professionals in the city make the decision to do whatever they see fit for the property.

Commissioner Jeppesen feels the city should save the property for a later when the city has the money to develop. But don't sell the property.

Commissioner Hughes said according to the specs that was given to him it would cost 2.7 million to build a park, but there were a lot of unnecessary amenities that could be eliminated to bring the cost down. All the park needs is benches and trees and that could be built for approx. \$1 million. Go ahead and built the park.

Commissioner McGregor said there were a lot of people who expressed an interest to have a park but the city has to study this issue very carefully and all factors should be taken into consideration.

Commissioners Monteiro said he is for open space, but we need to be realistic. To maintain the current parks it would cost the city \$3.1 million and they don't have that right now. In order to build this new park, it would cost the city \$2.7 million.

Commissioner Monteiro asked the City Manager, “Does the city even have a \$1 million to build a new park”.

City Manager replied, “no” The city has a \$4 million short fall right now. We could sell the property and make it a condition that the developers make a small portion a park. Then everyone would be happy.

Commissioner Hughes said the city would still have to pay something when they sell it.

Commissioner Bowie asked how long could we sit on the property?

City Manager said, we don’t want to sit on this property too long because of the maintenance issues.

Commissioner Monteiro said he doesn’t recommend a park right now. We have 6 parks and we need to work on maintaining them. There were only 16 people to speak out of 94,000 people in the population of Hawthorne. That is less than 1%. He thinks the city should sell the property.

Commissioner Morton said if everything was financially okay it would be a great idea to build a park but it doesn’t seem feasible to move forward right now. If we could get an agreement with the developers to build some kind of green space it could help a lot.

Commissioner Jeppesen asked who would take care of the maintenance on this property if the developer agreed?

Assistant Director Hardison said, the property could be maintained by the developer or the city. It is all negotiable.

Commissioner Balboa said, we don’t want a park in side of a gated community, we would like to see a public park. They should maintain the property for a while.

City Manager agreed.

Commissioner Monteiro said he would like to see a business going in there. That is a smart move right now.

City Manager said we would negotiate the best deal.

Commissioner Monteiro gave a recommendation:

“While the Parks & Recreation – Fine Arts Commission agrees that adding additional parkland is necessary within the city, in addition to funding for deferred maintenance projects on existing parks. Due to the current financial situation of the City and State, the Commission would not recommend development of the 126th Street / Grevillea Avenue property at this time. Should the City Council deem the property to be sold, the Commission would recommend that a portion of the property to be set aside for a public

park and maintenance of said park become the responsibility of the developer for an agreed upon period of time.”

Vote All Ayes.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Morton @ 7:00 PM. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, April 1, 2008 @ 6:00 PM at the City Council Chambers of Hawthorne City Hall.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Kywana Bowie