

CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

Joint City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

Meeting of December 15, 2004

A Joint Meeting of the San Clemente City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order on December 15, 2004 at 7:08 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium, located at 100 North Seville, San Clemente, California.

COUNCIL MEMBERS
PRESENT

DOREY, EGGLESTON, RITSCHER, MAYOR
ANDERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS
ABSENT

DAHL

PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION MEMBERS
PRESENT

DICKSON, MALTINSKY, MCCONNELL, VANCE,
CHAIR THOMAS

PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION MEMBERS
ABSENT

VAN AUKEN, WATERS

Avenida La Pata/Avenida Vista Hermosa Community Park

City Planner Buell narrated a powerpoint presentation entitled "Avenida La Pata/Avenida Vista Hermosa Community Park". A hard copy of Mr. Buell's presentation, dated December 15, 2004, is on file with the City Clerk. During the course of discussion, Mr. Buell noted that 2,200 City residents were mailed notices of this evening's meeting; noted that the City originally considered two parcels for park development - one on the north side of Vista Hermosa at La Pata and the other on the south side of Vista Hermosa at La Pata; explained that focus has been shifted to the property on the south side of Vista Hermosa; reviewed the history of the project, public outreach efforts conducted to date, and the results of the recreational needs assessment that was conducted by MIG.

Park Planner Beck narrated the portion of the powerpoint presentation entitled "Preferred Plan"; reviewed the features contained within the preferred park plan, i.e., an aquatics center, community center, gym, lighted and non-overlaid soccer/baseball/football fields, lighted basketball courts, children's play area and a group picnic area; provided an overview of the master plan, focusing on the amenities to be provided in Phase I; explained that a berm, ranging from 20' to 50' in height, will separate the park from adjacent properties.

City Manager Scarborough narrated the portion of the powerpoint presentation entitled "Construction Financing"; reported that the cost for the fully developed Master Plan is estimated at \$46 million; stated that a \$20 million goal has been established for Phase I which reflects the amount that the City believes it can generate for construction; commented that \$20 million would fund a minimal project with only utilitarian functions (fields, lights, 50-meter pool, teaching pool and pool house); stated that the addition of artificial turf, restroom, soccer and baseball areas, and amenities around the aquatics center (seating walls, trellises, and extra deck areas), would require an additional \$3,780,000; commented that Phase I will be bid with minimal facilities together with additive alternatives; stated the project is at least 18 months away from construction, noting that the estimated construction cost and the opportunity for the City to find additional funding will likely change during that period; explained that the bulk of the construction and maintenance monies for the project will be derived from funds reserved in the Parks and Recreation Fund and monies raised from the disposition of the nine-acre site that is located across the street from the project; stated that it will also be necessary to look at surplus monies set aside for the Steed Park Master Plan; presented Staff's recommendation.

City Manager Scarborough introduced Al King, who will assume the position of Beaches, Parks and Recreation Director on January 3, 2005.

Alan Hirasura, resident of Pacific Crest/Mandalay, noted that the design will include berming across the ravine and questioned whether it would be possible to move the berm back so as to preserve the ocean view from the picnic area; questioned whether one of the youth athletic hubs can be located at Forster Ranch Community Park.

Bill Stiles, President of San Clemente Girls Softball, voiced concern that the only times they can use Steed Park is very early in the day or very late in the evening; stated that they currently use San Clemente High School at a cost of \$3,000 per year; requested that if Big League Dreams does not present a favorable proposal, that the City commit that San Clemente Girls Softball will have a place to play.

Karla Jaramillo, San Clemente, stated that her children participate in the South Coast Aquatics Team program; stated that SCAT does not have access to San Clemente High School's pool; spoke in support of an aquatics complex.

Fred Price, Marblehead resident, stated that he will be affected by traffic from the project and asserted that the area already has a traffic problem during the day; commented that while he does not oppose the park, he feels that the \$46 million cost is excessive; suggested that the park be equipped with multi-purpose fields, practical pools, and a wilderness area with walking trails.

Mark Cousineau, San Clemente, stated that he likes the park plan and especially supports the aquatics complex; urged that all aquatics facilities be included in Phase I if funding allows; urged that the aquatics complex be lighted to maximize usage; suggested that the City explore a tri-cities complex arrangement so that costs can be shared.

Curt Wilson, President of the Professional Diving Coaches Association, Member of the Rules Committee for U.S. Diving and Head Coach for UCI Springboard Diving, spoke on the need for diving facilities and offered to provide information concerning diving programs and the revenue they can generate; suggested that diving facilities be installed at the outset to provide a revenue stream to assist with facility maintenance.

Pat Fitzpatrick, San Clemente Little League Board of Directors, praised the plan under consideration because it addresses both current and future needs.

Don Campbell, AYSO Soccer, stated that the soccer program currently serves 2,300 children and pointed out that AYSO has experienced a 20% increase in participation each year for the past three years; commended the effort that went into the proposed plan.

Kent Yomogida, Field Coordinator for AYSO, spoke in support of the plan under consideration and urged that lighting be installed early in the process.

Pete Deiser, Talega resident, voiced concern that the park will generate traffic; questioned the type of use proposed for the nine-acre site and its potential to impact traffic within Talega.

Don Kunze, San Clemente, inquired as to the disposition of the funds that were originally budgeted for Forster Ranch Community Park; requested to be provided with the exact locations of all open space that is owned by the City and opined that the City should not sell park land.