CITY OF FULLERTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Special Meeting
City Council Chamber
Monday, December 7, 2009
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dasney called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Scott Stanford led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Shawna Adam, Kathleen Dasney, Scott Hayes, Wes Morgan, Kathleen

Shanfield, and Scott Stanford and Sueling Chen.

Absent: None

Staff: Parks and Recreation Director Joe Felz; Parks and Recreation Managers

Grace Carroll Lowe, Alice Loya, and Judy Peterson; and Community Center

Supervisor Eloisa Espinoza.

Guests: Fred Johnson, Chief Professional Officer, Boys & Girls Clubs of Fullerton;

Jane Holt, President Senior Club; Bob Hall and Steve Mickel, Griffin &

Associates.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

1. FINGERTIP GUIDE TO YOUTH RESOURCES

The Parks and Recreation Commission are being asked to receive and file the Fingertip Guide to Youth Resources.

Recreation Manager Judy Peterson presented the Fingertip Guide to Youth Resources to the Commission, stating that the guide is part of the City's overall gang prevention program focusing on youth services that are both in the local community and within the county. The Guide is meant to provide assistance to parents by identifying various youth activities and resources. Manager Peterson indicated a wide distribution is underway, and that a Spanish version is being completed for print. She also noted the funding is provided by the Police Department Asset Seizure.

Commissioner Questions and Comments:

Chair Dasney asked if provisions have been made for updating of information, where the location of the guide was on the City's webpage and requested a description of the guide be provided so the community would know about the contents of the guide. Commissioner Morgan asked who was handling Spanish translation and when would it be completed. Commissioner Shanfield asked if other languages were being considered. Commissioner Chen requested that it be made clear the purpose and producer of the guide. Commissioner Hayes stated the guide is a great resource for the community.

Recreation Manager Peterson indicated a small initial printing allows for an updating process, noting staff was near completion of Spanish translation and that no other languages were being considered at this time. Director Felz emphasized the guide was to provide information on prevention programs.

Chair Dasney stated item will be received and filed.

2. CONCEPTUAL PLANS FOR PROPOSED NEW COMMUNITY CENTER

The Parks and Recreation Commission are being asked to review preliminary conceptual plans for a proposed new community center and to receive public comment.

Director Felz introduced Bob Hall from Griffin Associates, lead staff working on the needs assessment for the early stages of the project and noted the planning committee consists of Fred Johnson, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club; Deanna Hurley, Community Member; Jane Holt, President of Senior Club; Lynn Rodgers associated with FAST aquatics organization; along with Commissioners Shawna Adam, Scott Stanford and Kathleen Dasney serving on a seven member Ad Hoc Planning Committee. Director Felz also introduced Bob Coffee, project architect, Steve Mickel, project manager for Griffin & Associates, and welcomed Mayor Bankhead to the meeting.

Director Felz reviewed first considerations of service partners, noting the Boys & Girls Club and Senior Club, stating a community center is a new element for Fullerton and this process is to identify what the community wants in a significant new facility. Mr. Hall presented project goals and Council guidelines before reviewing physical resources, noting the existing Boys & Girls Club is not salvageable and existing Senior Center will not be renovated. He acknowledged Saint Mary's Church has offered to contribute land for shared parking and stated the site has number of key benefits.

Director Felz addressed budget consideration and noted total project funding of about \$23.6 million consisting of \$21M Redevelopment Agency, \$1.4 M PR; \$1M Boys & Girls Club; .2M Federal funds. Mr. Hall stated the mission statement is that of developing a facility plan that: is within budget; achieves the Council guidelines; maximizes dual-use of program areas where feasible, and; relocates City programs currently being held outside of the City back into Fullerton.

Mr. Hall reviewed the approach to the needs assessment, and presented a programming goals matrix. Director Felz addressed the 3rd level of assessment in relation to Parks and Recreation programs and classes. He also reviewed planned major spaces consisting of double gymnasium (divisible), enclosed pool and locker rooms; fitness room; large community room with adjoining kitchen; smaller community room, 2 large multi-purpose classrooms; 3 smaller activity rooms; 2 technology rooms, boardroom, small library/lounge, billiard room; programmable outdoor space or courtyard. Director Felz stated the information under review is designed to get the process to the next level of architectural and building design. The designs will be presented to the Commission in midwinter and that the building spaces are based on programs, events, desired amenities, and general categories.

Commissioner Questions and Comments:

Commissioner Chen asked if this project was to include the Library and City Hall or is it out of question at this point. Director Felz noted a consistent theme of including the Library, particularly the community room, and the access from the community center across Commonwealth Avenue, and the emphasis on pedestrian access from one building to the other.

Chair Dasney noted it was more a matter of coordination and not duplicating services, and explained her assumption that the Library meeting room would have ability to do teleconferencing and other more "state-of-the-art" programs, so we would not be considering any duplication in this facility, which is one of the guidelines.

Commissioner Chen inquired if funds will need to be set aside to renovate the Library and City Hall or be included with of the funds for this project. Chair Dasney stated the Library is already in progress and noted the Library Director is present and could add any additional information; however that project is essentially already underway.

Chair Dasney indicated this meeting is going to include questions from the Commissioners and stated that Commissioner Scott Stanford and Commissioner Shawna Adam have sat on the Ad Hoc Committee and have reported back periodically as to what is going on with that committee. Chair Dasney confirmed that they are the Commission's representatives on the Ad Hoc Committee, and that they are more familiar with what has been happening at the Committee level, Chair Dasney confirmed the Commission is to review the project itself as to where it currently stands, and provide input. Chair Dasney asked if the plans are available to see tonight and Director Felz answered that the plans will be developed after the conclusion of the needs assessment.

Chair Dasney stated there will be no review of in-depth planning, or decisions made at this meeting; however wanted to reinforce that this meeting is more of a

step in the needs assessment process and the Commission is looking to hear from the community. She indicated this will come to the Parks and Recreation Commission as a decision item later on and added that this group does not make final decisions, but makes recommendations to the City Council as part of the process of reviewing major Parks and Recreation projects. Chair Dasney provided instructions to start community comments and indicated there is a sign-up list to be notified of future meetings by email or message. Director Felz stated Bob Hall will also record notes that fall under specific categories for everyone's review. Chair Dasney also mentioned the three-minute comment time limit, and then opened the meeting to public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Reginal F. Jones, 2869 Park Vista Ct., Fullerton (714-990-1320) – Stated he is opposed to the spending of \$23.6M, and opposes the demolition of the Boys & Girls Club and Senior Center.

Chair Dasney requested a review of restrictions based upon funding sources and Director Felz explained funding sources are restricted funds are available to major capital projects within the City and can not be used for other general fund obligations.

<u>Pete Saputo, 2313 Conejo Lane, Fullerton (714-992-6970)</u> – Stated he is a member of the Orange Empire Chorus which has presented programs along with fund raising events for the residents of Fullerton. Mr. Saputo stated he would like to see some large rooms to accommodate singing groups and supports the need for this facility. He also noted kitchen facilities are a high priority and would recommend attention to the kitchen location and features.

Ginger Britt, 2838 Birch Place, Fullerton (714-529-4004) – Library Trustee, stated the construction at Library was restricted to an add-on design, and wanted to emphasize an environmentally sustainable and modern building that would incorporate the outdoor spaces.

<u>Suzanne Serbin, 2806 Sunnywood, Fullerton (714-870-4349)</u> – Ms. Serbin indicated two issues of concern: classes offered at Brea Community Center are available at \$140.00 per year, and that many seniors from Fullerton go to the Brea Community Center. Ms. Serbin noted that in addition there are a lot of young Fullerton residents with children who participate in other Brea community Center classes, and that it would be nice to include a space to meet the need for a child care preschool program.

Pat Trotter, 1009 E. Whiting Ave., Fullerton (714-870-1500) – Ms. Trotter stated she is the former director of Senior Center and addressed the need for programs for the seniors, and expressed the desire that the staffing at the Senior Center continue at a professional level. Ms. Trotter requested a review of the expanded facility with programs appropriate for the baby-boomer generation to ensure that

Fullerton residents are going to age successfully. She stated that it is important to initiate this early so that our aging residents do not fall into isolation as many are restricted to facilities in which they feel welcome and their experience and expertise are honored. She stressed her concern that the City would generalize a community center for the senior programs, but expressed gratitude for funds being utilized in a way for both the youth and senior population and that the project is a good investment for the community. Pat Trotter addressed a past survey that noted needs of seniors.

<u>Vince Buck, 406 Cannon Lane, Fullerton (714-870-5258)</u> — Library Board Member stated he supports this project and would welcome the opening of the facility to the community and noted his principle concern is the linkage to the north side of the street and having access to the Library and the other facilities. Mr. Buck indicated the proposal of putting the offices of Parks and Recreations in the new community center moving them out of the basement of City Hall building is an excellent idea. He requested more attention to the cross walk and incorporating features like a Starbucks to enhance the project.

Moreno Kelly, 816 Glen haven Ave., Fullerton (714-801-0710) – Senior Club member, questioned funding sources for the \$23M, noted a current parking problem needs to be reviewed and mentioned her concern regarding traffic flow and hoped the project does not exceed the costs stated.

Director Felz indicated in order to maximize parking the facility will more than double current parking and noted future parking needs will have the option to expand up and could have a second level. Director Felz explained that the median is to slow down traffic and create a mid-walk crossing for a safer pedestrian crossing.

Wanda Shaffer, 3015 La Travesia Dr., Fullerton (714 525-6676) – Indicated she is a Fullerton resident since 1975 and noted that there has not been any mention of considering green buildings and expressed her concerned about public meetings and making available documents to the public.

Elaine Mitchell, 2313 Conejo Ln., Fullerton, (714-992-6970) — A member of Energy and Resource Management Committee expressed gratitude that the citizens of Fullerton are concerned with green buildings and sustainability issues and stated that if two buildings are going to be totally taken down, probably the most green thing would be to keep them, but as time goes by the buildings are not going to keep up with what is happening, and become outdated. Ms. Mitchell requested full LEED certification, including review of utilities and landscape designs.

<u>Donald Kinda, 340 E. Wilshire, Fullerton (714-870-4914)</u> - Stated he is interested the building design and electrical power consumption and suggested self power element and solar panels available through Federal grants.

Marty Burbank, 1400 N. Harbor Blvd, Fullerton (800-220-4205) — An attorney who works with seniors noted the current senior center does not provide a private location to discuss private matters or financial issues and would like to see a small conference room to accommodate this need.

<u>Sandra Orozco, 1213 W. Hill Ave., Fullerton (714-879-9693)</u> – Expressed a concern regarding seniors and children and how sharing the facility will work as a joint facility.

Marilyn Abcuchar, 2240 Smokewood Ave., Fullerton (714-870-8757) - Shared responses from 322 seniors requesting programs for a community center with expanded types of activities, 219 would like a swimming pool with water aerobics, 285 exercise room with weights and machines, 296 a computer room, 236 a kitchen that provided cooking classes, 198 an updated craft room with knitting, sewing and pottery making, 166 more social events, 110 casino nights, 101 dancing, 99 lunch out groups, 210 expanded senior lounge large enough to accommodate the library, television and social activities; 116 morning participants with 119 afternoon and 115 evening with 116 on weekends, 77 would bring grandchild to participate with them in classes. She stated this information was provided to Mr. Hall (confirmed by Mr. Hall).

Tony Amato, 1200 S. Highland #22, Fullerton (714-526-0540) – Past president of the Senior Center indicated this would be a good time to build a new community center, and emphasized the facility should be primarily a community center and then go from there, not just looking at the Boys & Girls Club or Senior Center. Mr. Amato stated the baseball field on the corner could be a location for a community center.

Dan Kiernan, 824 Delphine Pl., Fullerton (714-738-1767) – Board member of Boys & Girls club and Fullerton resident over 30 years stated he has been involved in this project for the last 4+years and noted this has been an integrated center concept design that will meet most of the needs of the community.

3. COMMISSIONER / STAFF COMMUNICATION

Chair Dasney indicated she participated in the senior survey and acknowledged Mr. Kiernan's statement of being involved in this project over the last 4 years noting many will indicate they are not aware of this project and are not informed, but really other people have been working on it for that long.

Commissioner Morgan expressed thanks to everyone for their participation and wanted to point out of the \$23 million a construction budget could be \$16 million at about \$400.00 per square foot with 65,000 or 70,000 SF; noting that what was not listed is the administrative support areas consisting of the offices for staff in a multi-purpose community center that could get up to 2,000 or 3,000 SF; indicating that we need to know that with the 15% additional costs for circulation, restrooms, hallways and lobbies. He also acknowledged the need for confidentially for

counseling services and referral services. He stated the ball field is very valuable to the community.

Commissioner Shanfield expressed that a community center is well needed and deserved by the community of Fullerton. She noted her concern as to the cost to the community to provide these services and asked if there will be a need to increase prices to accommodate the additional staff and increase in programming.

Director Felz stated we have an existing budget for the senior center, and that staff is currently developing plans as to how we will manage this building.

Commissioner Stanford stated that many older cities like Fullerton do not have the amenities that we are looking for and we have a great opportunity with two anchor groups, the Boys & Girls Club and the Senior Center. He indicated there are constraints by budget, constraints by size of the facility; but every effort will be made to accommodate all three groups, the Boys & Girls Club, the seniors and the community at large and with continued input will achieve a marvelous facility.

Chair Dasney suggested a time line indicating next immediate steps as the project will go from Parks and Recreation Commission to Planning Commission to RDC for design and ultimately to City Council.

Director Felz stated it is too early to discuss a time line at this date and he addressed concerns regarding relocation of current activities from project site during construction period, indicating staff is evaluating available space at the Library for senior programs along with other facilities in the City.

Chair Dasney expressed her confidence in staff's ability to relocate programming and mentioned the Lions Field project involved complete buy in with all the sport users groups and that the Department had found places for soccer, football and base ball to practice. She then addressed the character of Fullerton Parks and Recreation facilities which involve many satellites of smaller buildings and neighbor community centers and stating Fullerton is not Yorba Linda and not Brea, but a different size city with different amenities.

Commissioner Chen thanked all participants involved in bringing the community together to think about the community center for Fullerton's future and noted Fullerton's unique character should be reflected in a unique architecture design. She mentioned Cerritos Library feels like a museum and Placentia Community provides another flavor and suggested the new community center facility would allow the opportunity for the architect to bring a special uniqueness to our Fullerton Community Center. She expressed concern regarding the City's budget situation and funding sources for this project and requested consideration of maintenance costs and operation costs so as not to overburden the City and tax payers.

Commissioner Adam stated that, having sat on this Committee, residents can be assured that due diligence had been made to insure that the needs of the

community are being heard and that background information from community sources has been considered. Residents that have talked about fighting traffic to come to a community center to workout, whereas going to Brea, such as many in North Fullerton utilize Brea Community Center for a workout facility, including myself. Commissioner Adams expressed the need to look at other areas in the City to have access to a community center, such as in Northern Fullerton, West or East Fullerton and not just limited to downtown area in order to accommodate all the areas. Commissioner Adams expressed a desire to see high school and college students to participate in the planning process, noting it is important to allow younger individuals to express their needs. Commissioner Adam mentioned that Commissioner Stanford has been an advocate for having a gymnasium for basketball courts and there are two basketball courts planned so we can accommodate Boys & Girls Club and community leagues. She expressed a concern about parking issues during multiple uses, such as when rentals and sports activities are programmed. She stated all age groups and backgrounds share a need of this community center and welcome more input to this process.

Commissioner Hayes said he would be brief and expressed thanks for everyone's participation in sharing their comments and noted there were a lot of great comments covering programs, facility design, and landscaping which is going to help this resource become a more valuable facility.

Chair Dasney stated that a great effort went forth to promote this meeting tonight and this was a well advertised meeting, but noted the Commission is not really hearing a lot from the community at large.

Commissioner Chen requested an email address so comments could be provided to the Department. Director Felz indicated Parks and Recreation Department email is Parks@ci.fullerton.ca.us, and that the phone number is 714-738-6575.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Stanford MADE A MOTION and Commissioner Hayes SECONDED the motion to adjourn meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Chair Dasney adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Felz, Director of Parks and Recreation

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