

MINUTES

PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

APRIL 19, 2005

A regular meeting of the Park and Activities Commission of the City of Rolling Hills Estates was called to order at 7:30 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers, 4045 Palos Verdes Drive North, by VICE CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Clewis, Davis, Pagliano, Pekich*, Persichina

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Allen, Pierson

STAFF PRESENT: Andy Clark, Community Services Director

*Commissioner Pekich arrived at 7:33 p.m.

PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MINUTES, MARCH 15, 2005

COMMISSIONER DAVIS moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER PAGLIANO

TO APPROVE THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2005, AS PRESENTED.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, VICE CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA SO ORDERED.

AUDIENCE ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

NONE.

HIDDEN VALLEY ROAD ENTRYWAY SIGN REQUEST

The Community Services Director reviewed the staff report per written agenda material. He mentioned that he received an email from the homeowners at 2 Pleasant Hill and 1 Hidden Valley that were not in favor of the sign. COMMISSIONER PAGLIANO stated the proposed sign with stone columns and the 6'x12' header seemed massive. He suggested that if approved, the sign should be similar to the City signs (white with green lettering) all along Palos Verdes Drive North (PVDN).

Peter Frederiksen, 8 Pleasant Hill, addressed the COMMISSION. He reviewed the history of this sign request and added that the first survey was not well received and the survey was redone. Since there is not a valid HOA for Hidden Valley/Pleasant Hill residents, Peter Frederiksen, Craig Knickerbocker, and Cathy Johnson, as a group, took on the task of surveying the neighborhood and gaining City approval for the entryway sign. The results of the survey were: 71% of the homes responded to the survey and 81% of those respondents were in favor of the sign. He added that since Mr. Knickerbocker and he were in the construction business, this sign with Palos Verdes stone columns would not disintegrate as fast as those signs presently in the right-of-way, nor would the sign be as drab. He stated that 5 or 6 homeowners have given money for the proposed sign, and therefore, money did not have to be collected from any other homeowner at this time. Mr. Frederiksen stated that when he has get together at his home, he often refers the large boulder at the corner as the landmark to turn onto Hidden Valley, otherwise, people do not know when to turn onto Hidden Valley from PVDN.

COMMISSIONER DAVIS stated that the proposed sign is not typical of the advance street signs on PVDN, and inquired as to why the standard white wood sign with green lettering was not proposed. She also inquired whether there was a tree that is near where the sign is proposed. Mr. Frederiksen stated there is a small Pepper Tree at that location. The Community Services Director stated if the sign was approved by the COMMISSION, the Maintenance crew could easily move the Pepper Tree slightly north of the Stop sign.

VICE CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA inquired as to whether guidelines existed for these types of signs. He asked Mr. Frederiksen how many households responded favorably to having a sign. Mr. Frederiksen stated approximately 30 favorable replies were received.

COMMISSIONER DAVIS stated the sign seems very large for the proposed location. It was noted that the width of the sign is 8-1/2 feet and the height is 6 feet. Mr. Frederiksen stated there would be approximately 6 to 8 feet on either side of the sign, as the right-of-way is approximately 25 feet.

VICE CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA reiterated his concern that this sign is not similar to those along PVDN. Mr. Frederiksen stated he did not believe the neighborhood would object to the regular City sign, but reiterated that the group wanted a sign with more character.

VICE CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA stated his concern regarding the responsibility for future maintenance of the sign when the 5 or 6 homeowners that are paying for the sign now move out of the area. Mr. Frederiksen stated he didn't believe that out of the 71% of those in favor of the sign wouldn't form an association to take care of the maintenance.

COMMISSIONER DAVIS reiterated the proposed drawing isn't to scale and she was concerned the overall size and bulk was too massive for the location. She wanted a plan drawn to scale of what the sign would look like at that location. She would prefer a uniformity of signs along PVDN.

Adelaide Mealy, 6 Pleasant Hill, addressed the COMMISSION. She stated she wanted to maintain the rural atmosphere and the proliferation of signs is not characteristic of a rural atmosphere. Ms. Mealy noted that there is already a lot of traffic coming down the street to go to the soccer field and felt a sign isn't needed to identify Hidden Valley. She added that this sign issue has caused bad feelings among those in the neighborhood and she requested the COMMISSION or CITY COUNCIL come up with guidelines and standards in the future to avoid this situation.

Ralph Baxter, 27 Hidden Valley, addressed the COMMISSION and stated he is opposed to any sign that is obtrusive and unnecessary. He stated the proposed sign is similar to a big monument sign and would add to "roadside clutter". He stated the large rock is a natural monument sign. He stated the proposed sign, in his opinion, is unnecessary. He has always used the large rock as a landmark to the entrance to Hidden Valley and for Pleasant Hill. Mr. Baxter stated that this area is one of the few remaining strips of PVDN that has roadside open space and he values this. He added that he loves Rolling Hills Estates and wants what is best. The City has already provided a street sign for Hidden Valley and an additional sign is redundant. Hidden Valley Road and Pleasant Hill do not need any more advertisement. He added that if this sign is approved, Wildhorse, Saddlebow, and Lazy Creek may also request signs. He reiterated that installation of additional signs along PVDN is not conducive to a rural atmosphere.

Reginald Nunn, 1 Hidden Valley Road, addressed the COMMISSION. He stated he is not in favor of the installation of this sign, and felt the sign is unnecessary. He likes privacy and there are already too many people driving down the street going to the soccer field. He stated he does not want to belong to a homeowners' association. He has lived in areas that have associations, and does not want a group telling him what to do or having to give money to an association.

He inquired as to who would be responsible for maintaining the sign. He stated he will not be responsible for the maintenance of the sign and does not want to be responsible for this sign in the future. He reiterated the large rock serves as a landmark to Hidden Valley, and that he enjoys his privacy and the open space environment.

There being no further audience discussion, the COMMISSION ensued discussion. VICE CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA questioned what happens in the future when this small number of people who gave money leave the area, and was concerned that money is put up front for the cost of the sign and installation costs, but no money was available for future costs. He also noted his concern that there was not a bona fide HOA that would have dues and monies set aside for situations such as this.

COMMISSIONER DAVIS stated if the sign is not needed, she is not in favor of approving this. If the rest of the COMMISSION were in favor of allowing a sign, she would prefer the uniform white wood sign with green lettering, similar to that along PVDN.

COMMISSIONER PEKICH was concerned there was not a HOA for that area and that there wasn't 100% agreement for installation of this sign. If the COMMISSION wanted to allow the sign, he would be in favor of the standard sign, similar to that along PVDN. He added that a sign is not needed on every corner.

COMMISSIONER PAGLIANO stated he was in favor of allowing only the standard monument sign. He added that Mr. Frederiksen noted 30 of the 42 households were in favor of installing a sign, and that it was clearly a majority of the households.

VICE CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA asked the Community Services Director what would happen if, after the sign is installed, they refused to maintain the sign. The Community Services Director stated the sign would then be removed by City staff.

COMMISSIONER PAGLIANO made the following motion:

TO APPROVE THE STANDARD MONUMENT SIGN SIMILAR TO THOSE INSTALLED ALONG PALOS VERDES DRIVE NORTH.

There was no second to this motion.

In response to a request, the COMMISSION agreed to have the audience again address the COMMISSION. Mr. Frederiksen stated that when the idea for a sign was first looked at, numerous homeowners were in favor of donating money for this purpose. With the donations from only 5 or 6 homeowners, there was enough money collected to pay for the cost of the materials and installation of the proposed monument sign. He added that if 42 homeowners could not come up with additional funds (i.e., \$500 each residence during the next 20 years) it would be sad. Mr. Frederiksen added that PVDN does not depict a rural atmosphere, as there are so many cars traveling all day on this street. He stated that the sign was not meant to offend anyone, but was to identify the neighborhood. Mr. Frederiksen stated that as long as he lives there, the sign will be taken care of. If he and the others who donated monies for the sign moves out, then maybe the sign will be removed.

VICE CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA stated it was a difficult issue to resolve since there isn't an HOA that would be responsible for future costs. If the sign were in need of maintenance, who would the City contact?

Ms. Mealy again addressed the COMMISSION and stated the issue isn't about money. The issue is who will be responsible for the sign in the future?

Mr. Baxter again addressed the COMMISSION and stated that it is nice to have a sign, but there is no clear reason for a sign. He does not believe that just because some other streets have a sign, it justifies having one installed here. He also questioned the accuracy of the survey. He added that this issue should be a "neighborhood" project rather than a few individuals paying for the whole thing. He reiterated he did not see a need for the sign and would like to see proof that 30 homeowners were in favor of this.

Mr. Nunn again addressed the COMMISSION and stated that before this sign is approved, he would want those who were in favor of this sign to deposit monies into a trust for maintenance and liability insurance purposes. He stated that the survey said the sign was paid for, but there was no mention regarding the liability or maintenance issues. He believed that those who were in favor of this sign would not support it if these issues were brought up. He did not want to be responsible for future liability for this sign.

COMMISSIONER PAGLIANO inquired whether the City would be responsible for the liability insurance since it allows signs in the right-of-way. The Community Services Director stated that the City has liability insurance for signs approved for installation in the rights-of-way.

After some discussion, COMMISSIONER PEKICH moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER DAVIS

TO HAVE THIS ISSUE BROUGHT BACK TO THE COMMISSION AFTER A HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION IS FORMED, AND DOCUMENTATION FROM THE HOMEOWNERS IS SUBMITTED SHOWING AMPLE SUPPORT OF THIS SIGN.

AYES: Clewis, Davis, Pagliano, Pekich, Persichina

ABSENT: Allen, Pierson

The Community Services Director stated he will contact the City Attorney with regard to the issues of insurance, and whether the 5 or 6 individual homeowners only could be responsible for a maintenance bond of some type to cover damages and maintenance for this sign.

ACTION ITEM FROM EQUESTRIAN COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 28, 2005

The Community Services Director reviewed the staff report per written agenda material. He stated the City Manager has been in touch with Mrs. Weber and she would prefer the unveiling of the sign to be held sometime in late June. The City Manager indicated that a rededication of the sign could be held after renovation of the Municipal Stables. This report was received and filed.

ADJOURN TO PEPPER TREE FOUNDATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

COMMISSIONER CLEWIS moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER PAGLIANO

TO ADJOURN TO THE PEPPER TREE FOUNDATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING, THE TIME BEING 8:34 P.M.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, VICE CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA SO ORDERED.

PROPOSED CHANDLER PARK DRESSAGE ARENA

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER DAVIS stated that the location proposed for the round pen is located in such a manner as not to be seen from the street. She added that it is between Chandler Park, her house and the corner behind Seahorse Riding Club, and would not interfere with the Cross Country Run.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER CLEWIS questioned the need for another round pen, as there is a round pen at Pepper Wood Park. She felt that the two rings were in close proximity to each other.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER DAVIS stated there is a need for an additional ring because the round pen at Pepper Wood Park is used consistently, and the lay out of this ring does not interfere with anything and would be a good addition to Chandler Park.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER DAVIS, in answer to an inquiry regarding a dressage arena, stated that she and Equestrian Committee Member Shinn would walk their neighborhood to gauge neighbors' reaction to the proposed additional riding ring at Chandler. She added that plenty of grass area is remaining, and the additional dressage ring would have less dust compared to a regular riding ring.

The Community Services Director stated the Pepper Tree Foundation has the funds for this project and he supports this recommendation. He added that it is estimated that this project would cost anywhere from \$14,000 to \$22,500. He added that \$15,000 to \$20,000 is available in the Pepper Tree Foundation fund earmarked for equestrian uses and that funds from the Cross Country Run were available to pay for any costs over and above what is held in the Pepper Tree Foundation fund.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER DAVIS stated that the majority of the users of this park are equestrians currently using Chandler Park, and Chandler is packed.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER PAGLIANO questioned how much of the park space will be taken away by the addition of these rings.

It was the consensus of the ADVISORY BOARD to table this item until the May meeting in order to have the proposed area marked off, and to allow time for the census of the neighbors' reaction to the proposed

rings.

GOLF TOURNAMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

The Community Services Director stated he and ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER ALLEN met with Los Verdes Golf Course staff. He felt more confident regarding the entire tournament. The next subcommittee (Allen/Davis/Persichina) meeting will be held in June.

TRACY AUSTIN DOUBLES TENNIS TOURNAMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

The Community Services Director stated the subcommittee (Allen, Pagliano, Persichina) will need to schedule meetings regarding this tournament.

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE RACE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

The Community Services Director stated this subcommittee (Clewis, Pagliano, Pekich) will need to schedule meetings for this event.

RECONVENE TO THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MEETING

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER CLEWIS moved, seconded by ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER DAVIS

TO RECONVENE TO THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MEETING, THE TIME BEING 8:49 P.M.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, VICE CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA SO ORDERED.

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS, MEETING OF MARCH 22, 2005

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, VICE CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA ORDERED

THE CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS, MEETING OF MARCH 22, 2005, RECEIVED AND FILED.

HOWLETT PARK QUARTERLY CALENDAR

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, VICE CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA ORDERED

THE HOWLETT PARK QUARTERLY CALENDAR RECEIVED AND FILED.

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

Trails Repair Update - The Community Services Director stated they have a commitment for a large amount of adobe clay. The City has received a load, which has already been used. COMMISSIONER PIERSON will be riding the trails and calling in regarding any filling needed along the trails being used for the May 7, 2005 Mayor's Breakfast Ride.

COMMISSION ITEMS

COMMISSIONER PEKICH stated the pipe is in at George F Canyon and the trails have been smoothed out. He added that some rails need to be replaced.

COMMISSIONER CLEWIS stated she walks the canyon trail as far as the bridge. She stated that coming up PVDN, a large bush near the George F Canyon sign needs to be removed as it is now partially blocking the sign. She added that as you go into the trail from the parking lot, the first bench has a plant growing over it and the plant needs to be cut way back from the bench. The kiosk at the entrance to the canyon needs to be refurbished. She suggested the COMMISSION tour the new Community room. This was set for the second meeting in June.

COMMISSIONER CLEWIS noted a dead tree at 27663 Conestoga. The Community Services Director stated the Zoning and Code Administrator has given the owner a "substandard property" notice.

COMMISSIONER CLEWIS stated the street sweeper is driving too fast on her street and is leaving debris behind.

VICE CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA stated the third and home bases on the Pony League field have been replaced.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

HIDDEN VALLEY ROAD SIGN REQUEST - The COMMISSION requested the Community Services Director to include the survey back up materials when this item comes before them in the future.

ROLLING HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ENTRYWAY IMPROVEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER PAGLIANO moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER CLEWIS

TO ADJOURN THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MEETING, THE TIME BEING 9:05 P.M.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, VICE CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA SO ORDERED.

Respectfully submitted, Approved,

Ellen Shinkai Douglas R. Prichard

Human Resources Analyst City Clerk