



MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF
CITY COUNCIL/SAN DIMAS
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2008, 5:30 P. M.
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
245 E. BONITA AVE.

PRESENT:

Mayor Curtis W. Morris
Mayor Pro Tem Emmett Badar
Councilmember Denis Bertone
Councilmember John Ebiner
Councilmember Jeff Templeman
City Manager Blaine Michaelis
City Attorney J. Kenneth Brown
City Clerk Ina Rios
Assistant City Manager of Community Development Larry Stevens
Director of Development Services Dan Coleman
Director of Public Works Krishna Patel
Parks and Recreation Director Theresa Bruns
Planning Manager Craig Hensley
Facilities Manager Karon DeLeon

Ralph Thomas, President, Historical Society
David Bratt, President, Festival of Arts
Don Green, President, San Dimas Rodeo
Linda Rouyer, Saffron Catering

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Morris called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

(For anyone wishing to address the City Council on an item on this agenda. Under the provisions of the Brown Act, the legislative body is prohibited from taking or engaging in discussion on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. Speakers are limited to three minutes or as may be determined by the Chair.)

- a. Members of the Audience

There were no comments.

3. STUDY SESSION

- a. Study Session regarding the use arrangements for the Walker House - community groups and a food concession.

Executive Director Michaelis said the Walker House building and landscaping are scheduled for completion in December 2008. Mr. Michaelis presented the use plan for discussion by the City Council, community organizations, food concessionaire, and the public to get an understanding of the various uses and how they may best compliment each other, and to confirm the uses of the building are compatible and complementary to the restored Walker House. He reported that a community meeting was held in January and the San Dimas Historical Society, San Dimas Festival of Arts, and San Dimas Rodeo have jointly proposed a plan for all three groups to utilize the Walker House. Staff feels the proposed community group plan works well for the building to house the Historical Society and Festival of Arts and thought the Rodeo could be located in another city facility that would still meet their needs. Staff recommends that the use plan be evaluated after 12 months to see if changes need to be made.

1) **Ralph Thomas**, President, Historical Society, believes the best way to support the vision of the organization is to centralize all activities of the museum, gift shop, office, and archival research space into the Walker House. He provided a brief outline of how each space would be utilized not only for paper archives, but 3-dimensional artifacts as well, and their annual ice cream social.

2) **David Bratt**, President, Festival of Arts, outlined the Festival's needs for office space, art gallery, and shared space with the Historical Society. He said they would utilize additional space for the two annual art shows in October and April, including the veranda and patio. He stated it is the Festival's intention to invite artists and students to display their art, as well as rotate the art collection between the Walker House and city hall.

City Manager Michaelis said it could be possible for the Festival to conduct the April 2009 show at the Walker House.

Mr. Bratt replied that the Organization felt more comfortable conducting a smaller show in Fall 2009 to determine how well the building would work for a larger art show.

3) **Alta Skinner** stated that if a show is to be held in the Walker House, they would be in need of a different type of panels for the artwork.

4) **Don Green**, President, San Dimas Rodeo, said the Rodeo is a nonprofit organization that raises funds for college scholarships and any extra money goes to the rodeo facility grounds. He said they would like space for meetings and would be flexible and agreeable with any decision.

In response to Council, Mr. Green said an office at the Equestrian Center would work, or he would be willing to consider any other rent-free site.

Assistant City Manager Duran provided a brief history of the restaurant selection process and said after requests for proposals were sent out in December, three proposals were received in January. Staff visited and met with each restaurant and they have narrowed down the decision to one restaurant. He stated that what set apart Saffron is mainly that they are a caterer that operates in an historic building. He explained the negotiated terms for the use of the kitchen, dining room, parlor, waiting room, and small lounge, and said the patio, veranda, and use of community meeting rooms would be available through city rental. He said Saffron also has an opportunity to work with the Festival of Arts for the Spring and possibly the Fall Shows utilizing dining areas.

Linda Rouyer, Saffron Catering, stated they respect and appreciate historical spaces, and will offer a choice of casual, reasonably priced outdoor patio dining or elegant sit-down café dining. She said communication is important to them and will be fluid in working on a partnership with the City and community groups.

Ms. Rouyer responded to Council that their Manager lives in San Dimas and is very responsible and respectful of the building. She said with the restrictions of space, they work from a commissary and provide a fixed menu, but are willing to adjust to accommodate the needs of the community. She added that diners can be moved indoors in inclement weather.

In response to Councilmember Bertone, Ms. Rouyer replied that there is no dress code and everyone is welcome; however, there are two menus to choose from and patrons will be seated accordingly.

In response to Councilmember Ebiner, Bill Emerson said the idea is diners would become curious enough to tour the building. Ms. Rouyer added that the servers are trained on history and conduct tours at their present location.

In response to Councilmember Templeman, Mr. Hensley said a security alarm system would be installed with the ability to monitor the interior and exterior of the building. Mr. Templeman did not recommend allowing unsupervised access upstairs due to risk of damage to the collection.

Mayor Morris invited members of the public to comment.

Mitchell Crawford expressed concern that the mixed use would put constraints on the restaurant operation. Ms. Rouyer said at some point it could become a hindrance; however, sharing is part of being in an historic building.

In response to **Jim Elliott**, Mayor Morris explained that the City Council would consider financial arrangements in closed session and discussion would then be held in open session. He mentioned that a decision would not have to be made this night.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Morris adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m. The next City Council meeting is August 26, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ina Rios, CMC, City Clerk