



MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF
CITY COUNCIL/SAN DIMAS
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2009, 6:00 P. M.
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
245 E. BONITA AVE.

PRESENT:

Mayor Curtis W. Morris
Mayor Pro Tem Denis Bertone
Councilmember Emmett Badar

City Manager Blaine Michaelis
City Attorney J. Kenneth Brown
City Clerk Ina Rios
Assistant City Manager of Community Development Larry Stevens
Assistant City Manager Ken Duran
Director of Development Services Dan Coleman
Director of Public Works Krishna Patel
Director of Parks and Recreation Theresa Bruns

Stephen Gaffney, AIA, Nestor+Gaffney Architects
Gary Chubb, Vice President, Griffin Structures Inc.

ABSENT:

Councilmember John Ebiner
Councilmember Jeff Templeman

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Morris called the meeting to order at 6:01 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

No one came forward to speak.

3. STUDY SESSION

- a. Review options, receive recommendations, and provide direction regarding the proposed renovation and expansion of Civic Center Plaza and the Veterans Memorial.

City Manager Michaelis said the Architect will be reviewing details from the previous discussion of the plaza design and will present recommendations. He said it would be appropriate to get a vote of the City Council to confirm the direction and to discuss the location of the Veterans Memorial.

Mayor Pro Tem Bertone stated that the redesign of the city hall is not yet approved and if the City Council decides to not go through with the redesign, how will that affect the Veterans Memorial.

City Manager Michaelis replied that there is no firm commitment to have the Veterans Memorial as part of the civic center until a decision is made by the City Council to renovate the city hall. However, now is the time to incorporate that design.

Mayor Morris said only three members of the City Council are present; Councilmembers Badar and Ebner are absent due to hospitalization and family illness.

Stephen Gaffney, AIA, Nestor+Gaffney Architects, distributed a revised map and walked through the details of the plaza including the parking lot area, concrete planters, trees around the perimeter, pervious pavers, and the fountain as the focal point of the plaza. He said there are three parts of entry to the building, and the extension to the community building created another stage area, making the plaza larger with more useable square footage.

In response to Council, Mr. Gaffney replied that the existing Tongva mural would remain and the existing parking lot would be removed and replaced with asphalt concrete, islands added, the sidewalk minimized, planters added, and wheel stops removed.

City Manager Michaelis said it would be appropriate to approve the concept design.

It was moved by Councilmember Templeman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bertone, to approve the concept design of the city hall/plaza renovation. The motion carried 3.0.2; Councilmembers Badar and Ebner were absent.

Mr. Gaffney said he looked at ways to incorporate the Veterans Memorial into the plaza and took an area for a large flag pole and seat wall with individual branches of the service.

In response to Council, Mr. Gaffney said the United States and State flags would fly on the same flagpole. He said the memorial is meant to be viewed from the front and would have the same features as a piece of artwork, but not be the main focal point of the plaza. He added that the scale of the original design would take up a significant portion of the plaza and he decided to downscale the design.

Jaci Wisniewski asked if there would be room for expansion as names of Veterans are added.

In response to Ms. Wisniewski and other members of the audience, Mr. Gaffney said the monument would not have names. The original design had a stone tablet with the emblem of each branch of service. He stated that adding names could become problematic in the limited amount of space. He said the monument was meant to be an element integrated into the plaza and the scale needs to fit with the plaza. He would have to see how flags could be used to not impose on the scale and some compromises would have to be made.

Councilmember Templeman suggested using a portion of the park for the monument.

Mayor Morris preferred that this type of discussion be held with all members of the City Council participating.

Unidentified Male thought the original site at the corner of Bonita Avenue and San Dimas Avenue was perfect for the memorial.

Mayor Morris said there are deed restrictions on that property and at a previous meeting the City Council said they were not in favor of building a Veterans monument there.

Janie Graef asked if the City Council had in mind any alternative sites for the Memorial.

Mayor Morris stated there is another space owned by the city at the corner of Cataract Street and Bonita Avenue, south of the Railroad tracks. He further replied that trees on those two lots would remain.

Mayor Pro Tem Bertone wondered if locating the Monument on that site would interfere with the proposed Gold Line.

David Harbin asked if staff would propose coming up with a list of other alternative sites and if there was another area on city hall property that could be used.

Mr. Gaffney said unfortunately his recommendation does not work for them and the only other area he would suggest is the site with the statue of Jedediah Smith. He would advise finding a site on a park elsewhere since the Civic Center Park has restrictions.

City Manager Michaelis said the County owns the property between the Library and the Plummer Building; Councilmember Templeman recommended asking Jay Gomez if the County has an interest in participating.

Gary Enderle stated El Monte did a great job on their Monument and he has photos he could share with the City Council. He said it would be preferable if the design could be incorporated into the courtyard, but it does not need to be there.

Mayor Pro Tem Bertone said he could approve the design without the military flags.

David Harbin expressed concern with the train noise at the recommended site.

Mr. Gaffney said he would like a decision tonight on whether or not to incorporate the Memorial into the plaza area. He said the plaza would work with or without the Memorial and he could incorporate it as another piece of public art. He said a concrete wall is easily incorporated and he would look to the Committee to provide the engraved stones.

Mr. Harbin asked if engraved bricks can be placed in the ground.

Mr. Gaffney stated he would need to know how many names and bricks would be provided so he can integrate them into the design.

In response to Councilmember Templeman, Mr. Gaffney said he currently has a placeholder for the Memorial, but as other sites are explored, the timeline will expire.

Councilmember Templeman said the flagpole should be located in a more significant area.

Mayor Morris said there is consensus to proceed without the Memorial and to change the location of the flagpole.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Mayor Morris adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m. The next City Council meeting is Tuesday, August 25, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ina Rios, CMC, City Clerk