

EQUESTRIAN COMMISSION
MINUTES
July 6, 2010
Senior Citizen / Community Center Meeting Room

PRESENT: Vice Chair Claudia Cook
Commissioner Shari Nichols
Commissioner Rebecca Pike
Commissioner Doug Aschenbrenner
Commissioner Yvette Picconi

Councilman Jeff Templeman
Assistant City Manager Ken Duran

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Cook.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 1, 2010

Commissioner Pike made a motion to approve the minutes of June 1, 2010 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Aschenbrenner and passed unanimously.

GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 08-02

Mr. Duran introduced the item by reminding the Commission that this item was previously reviewed by the Commission in August 2008 but has been revised since then.

Larry Stevens, Assistant City Manager for Community Development, reviewed his staff report dated July 6, 2010 which outlined the project for 61 residential lots in the Northern Foothills. He described the four parts to the request as being: changes to the General Plan, changes to the Specific Plan, the Tentative Tract Map and a Development Agreement. He reviewed in detail the proposed project. He described the specific areas of discussion he is seeking input from the Equestrian Commission as the proposed number of equestrian lots, being 9 of the 61, changes to the horse keeping standards in the Specific Plan and the proposed equestrian trails. He added that he is seeking preliminary comments as there will be a number of opportunities for comment as the project goes through the review process. Mr. Stevens also reviewed the EIR and entitlement approval process and timeline.

In reference to a map of the proposal he identified the location of the equestrian lots and the two proposed trail locations. Ms. DeMonaco expressed concern that the equestrian

lots in the North West do not have direct trail access which is also a concern for emergency evacuation of horses.

Mr. Stevens reported that there is a request to change the Specific Plan horse keeping standards, in particular, to reduce the number of horses allowed to be kept on each lot.

In response to a question, Mr. Stevens responded that the proposed water tank is designed to provide the necessary capacity for fire suppression.

Stan Stringfellow, representing the developer, responded to a number of questions raised. He commented that access to the lots is difficult with narrow roads and retaining walls, providing for difficulty in providing trails along the road. He commented on the current water quality requirements to keep trails clean from debris. He added that cutting new trails is very expensive and sited stringent water quality and run off regulations. He also added that their marketing analysis showed that the larger, high end lots are the most likely ones for equestrian use. He also clarified that the trail on the south east area should be shown to connect with the Horsethief Canyon Park trail. He added that for trail connectivity throughout the project, trails would have to be through canyons and blue line streams.

Ms. DeMoneco commented that she felt a 20' wide road is inadequate width for trailer evacuation. Mr. Stringfellow responded that he felt the fuel modification plan would help fire protection.

Commissioner Cook expressed disappointment in the number of equestrian lots, the lack of trail connections and the lack of community arenas.

Commissioner Pike commented that even though there are no existing designated trails, there are informal trails that have been used for years and this project would cut those trails off. Commissioner Cook commented that she was hoping for at least a trail along the outer ring of the project. There was further discussion on the locations of the existing informal trails and their connectivity to the trails in Glendora. Mr. Stringfellow commented that the Ferguson motorway would stay.

Mr. Stevens attempted to clarify the Commissions comments on the three main equestrian issues. He stated that he understands the Commissions trail comments to be their desire to have east west trail connectivity and connection to the existing Horsethief Canyon Park trails. Also to have access from the equestrian designated lots to a trail. He summarized that their desire is to see more equestrian lots. He summarized that their desire was not to reduce the number of horses per lot but to keep the horse keeping standard as is. It was suggested that these general comments be written up and distributed to the Commission prior to their next meeting and reviewed at the next meeting for consensus.

FARMERS MARKET BOOTH

The Commissioners coordinated their attendance at the July 28th Farmers Market. They agreed not to have a booth in August.

HOOFBEATS ARTICLES

The Commissioners discussed topics for upcoming Hoofbeats articles. Commissioner Pike agreed to write an article on caring for animals in hot weather for July. It was suggested to have an article on wildfires for September.

CHANGE IN REGULAR MEETING TIME TO 6:00 P.M.

At a previous meeting it was suggested to change the regular meeting time of the Commission meetings to 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Aschenbrenner made a motion to change the regular Commission meeting time to 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Picconi and passed unanimously.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Duran reported that last summer he presented to the Commission a history and overview of the Horsethief Canyon Park Master Plan and Community Arena rules. He added that since there are new Commission members since then he will schedule another overview at a future meeting.

Mr. Duran reported that since the last meeting he met with Waste Management regarding manure recycling. They are required to submit an annual report on the feasibility of providing a recycling program which should be submitted in July.

Mr. Duran reported that the lease extension for Sycamore Canyon Equestrian Center is scheduled to be considered at next weeks City Council meeting.

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman Templeman commented that he did not have anything additional to report.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE

Marca DeMonaco suggested that the Commission get a list of horse owners in town and send them notice of Commission meetings to get public comment. Mr. Duran responded that there is no way to identify all of the private property horse owners in town. Ms. DeMonaco also inquired about evacuation plans for horse owners. Mr. Duran responded that a few years back the Commission developed an evacuation plan.

Tom Eliot commented on trail maintenance issues, in particular the Strawberry Trail. He also suggested a latch to the gate of the community arena that is higher so you don't have

to get off your horse. Mr. Duran commented he met with Mr. Elliot last week and his comments were forwarded to the Parks Manager.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Nichols was thanked for her involvement on the Commission.

Commissioner Cook gave Mr. Duran photos of tree branches overhanging the trail on Baseline. She suggested that branches overhanging trails should be trimmed to a height of 9' to allow for clearance for horses and riders.

Commissioner Picconi commented that on the trail behind Kinder Care on Foothill some of the rails are sticking out from the fence. Mr. Duran commented that that trail is maintained by County Flood Control and the City will report it to them.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.