

EQUESTRIAN COMMISSION
MINUTES
August 2, 2010
Senior Citizen / Community Center Meeting Room

PRESENT: Vice Chair Claudia Cook
Commissioner Rebecca Pike
Commissioner Doug Aschenbrenner
Commissioner Yvette Picconi
Commissioner Marca DeMonaco

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 JULY 6, 2010

Commissioner Pike made a motion to approve the minutes of July 6, 2010 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Aschenbrenner and passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Commissioner Aschenbrenner nominated Commissioner Cook for Chair. There being no other nominations it was moved by acclamation to elect Commissioner Cook as Chair.

Commissioner Aschenbrenner nominated Commissioner Pike as Vice Chair. There being no other nominations it was moved by acclamation to elect Commissioner Pike as Vice Chair.

GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 08-02. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT –
NORTHERN FOOTHILLS, PRELIMINARY COMMENTS

Mr. Duran reported that the purpose of this item being on the Agenda again was for the Commission to confirm their summary of comments from the previous meeting. He added that Commissioners DeMonaco and Pike went on a site visit with the applicant and asked for them to share their impressions of the site visit.

Vice Chair Pike commented that she found the site visit helpful to see the locations where things are proposed. She added that it gave a better perspective on road locations and the difficulty of the terrain.

Commissioner DeMonaco commented that previously she had expressed concerns on the road width and emergency access but she has changed her mind. She added that they discussed with the developer alternative trail methods, possibly using part of the 6 acre Begin property and a portion and another privately owned land to get access to Shirlimar. She also commented that maybe it would be nice for the City to acquire some of the northern 40 acres for trails. Councilman Templeman suggested that maybe the Commissioner could walk the suggested trail to see what obstacles or possibilities there might be.

Vice Chair Pike commented that she took Commissioner Picconi to the top of the face trail and pointed out some of the proposed locations.

Councilman Templeman commented that if a trail up the canyon is not feasible, maybe there are other options. He added that it is his understanding that the Glendora trails will go away; so, focus should probably be on trails on the San Dimas side. He added that maybe the developer could mitigate some of the trail issues through a developer escrow account or conduct a trail feasibility study. He also added that from the Commissioners' comments it seems that trail connectivity is a more important issue than the number of equestrian lots.

In response to a question on trail maintenance responsibility, developer representative Stan Stringfellow responded that per the settlement agreement, the City would be responsible for maintaining the trails. Commissioner Aschenbrenner commented that it doesn't make sense for the City to maintain trails within the development. He added that it doesn't make sense for interior trails that would only serve 9 equestrian lots.

There was more discussion on trails within the development and the changes in the road location from the original plans.

Mr. Stringfellow explained that they are trying to provide a trail that connects to Horsethief Canyon Park but they are not proposing an east west trail because the Ferguson Motorway dead ends to private property. He suggested that the City make contact with the property owner on Dalepark to discuss an easement or license agreement to cross his property to get to Shirlimar.

Mr. Stingfellow also responded to the animal evacuation concern from the last meeting. He clarified that the main artery road is 26' and the roads leading to the equestrian lots are 20'.

In response to a question as to why the 9 equestrian lots were separated into two locations at opposite ends he commented that they tried to isolate them into clusters on the exterior of the development. He added that their market studies indicate that they don't believe there is a market for equestrian lots. Commissioner Cook responded that even though the

market study indicates there may not be a current interest in equestrian lots, that could change in the future.

Mr. Duran summarized the developers suggested changes in the horse keeping standards, primarily in the number of horses allowed per lot and asked for Commissioner consensus. In response to a question from Mr. Stringfellow several commissioners explained horse breeding requirements and personal horse keeping. Commissioner Pike commented that she felt it would be difficult to have different horse keeping standards for this development. It was the consensus of the Commission that the horse keeping standards should not be changed and kept the same as other zones in the City.

Mr. Duran asked for a consensus opinion on the number of horse keeping lots. After additional discussion it was the consensus of the Commission that while they would like to see additional horse keeping lots they can understand why 9 lots were selected and why they were located where they are.

There was additional discussion regarding the trail locations. It was the consensus of the Commission that their primary concern is for trail connectivity to existing trails in San Dimas. It was also a consensus that there is some concern with east – west trails but they realize the constraints in doing this.

HOOFBEATS ARTICLES

Commissioner DeMonaco volunteered to write an article on equestrian emergency preparedness for the September Hoofbeats article.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Duran reported that he received the annual manure recycling feasibility report from Waste Management earlier today and he will be reviewing it. He also reported that a more rider-accessible latch at the community arena is being installed.

Mr. Duran also reported that the Parks Maintenance crew has been working with the contract tree trimming contractor on raising the height of tree trimming along the trails. Several Commissioners commented that they noticed the trimming. He further reported that the Sycamore Canyon Equestrian Center lease with the Adairs has been approved by the City Council.

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman Templeman had no report.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner DeMonaco apologized for not being able to attend the Farmers Market. She added that she will be out of town and will miss the September meeting.

Vice Chair Pike commented that she felt that the Commission's presence at the Farmers Market was a good idea and suggested that they do it again next year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.