

CITY OF DUARTE
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DUARTE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024 – 5:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Truong called the Special Meeting to order at 5:47 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers Present: Finlay, Lewis, Schulz, Martin Del Campo, Garcia, Truong
Councilmembers Absent: Kang
Staff Present: Brian Villalobos, City Manager
Kristen Petersen, Assistant City Manager / Director of Administrative Services
Craig Hensley, Director of Community Development
Manuel Enriquez, Director of Parks and Recreation
Larry Breceda, Director of Public Safety Services
Annette Juarez, City Clerk
Frances Jimenez, Deputy City Clerk

2. DUARTE PARK REVITALIZATION PROJECT WORKSHOP

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Director of Parks and Recreation Manuel Enriquez provided an overview of the project, listed the project goals, detailed the timeline to date; shared the concept plans; summarized feedback received during community meetings; and highlighted the adopted budget and funding sources for the project. He also answered questions posed by the City Council regarding the park project logistics and the plan renditions.

B. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – ITEMS LISTED ON THIS AGENDA

Joe Faliti voiced displeasure at the process of designing and presenting to the public the Duarte Park Revitalization Project, as well as the lack of green space per the concept plans.

Celia Faliti expressed concern with the size of green space being unable to accommodate all the elements shown in the concept plan; spoke against the addition of a dog park; and supported the proposed playground amenities.

Michelle Silence shared concern with lack of green space; opposed the idea of a dog park; and referenced a report made in 2017 by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Bryan Phan expressed appreciation for the concept plan; thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for putting together the presentation; and expressed support for the proposed park revitalization.

Robert Baron recalled a recent experience with violent dog fights; spoke against a dog park and provided suggestions for alternative use of space; agreed with renewal of the park as a whole, and expressed concern with removing green space.

Lino Paras shared his opinions regarding a dog park and offered suggestions for other locations for said dog park; and gave feedback on the need for increased lighting at the Donald and Bernice Watson and Bernice Recreation Trail and the Royal Oaks Park.

C. PROJECT DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION TO STAFF

Councilmember Martin Del Campo shared feedback she received from her constituents regarding the need for a dog park and also expressed her own experiences with the dog park community.

Councilmember Shulz shared the requests made by her constituents to support the creation of a dog park, highlighted the vast area of green space across various parks in the City; and provided feedback on the project.

Clarification was made regarding the intended purpose of the Council discussion portion of the meeting.

Per questions posed by the City Council, Director Enriquez confirmed the size of the proposed dog park.

Councilmember Finlay discussed the cost breakdown of the project and suggested changing the location of the proposed park building.

Conversation was had regarding the logistics and financial impact of having a building located at Beardslee Park instead of Duarte Park and utilizing nearby existing buildings instead.

Councilmember Lewis stated his opinions on having a dog park; supported the relocation of the park building to Beardslee Park; and also suggested using existing sports facilities for recreation programming.

Mayor Pro Tem Garcia highlighted the amount of support for a dog park he has heard from numerous residents within his District.

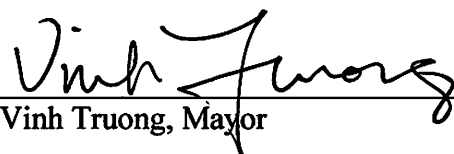
In response to questions raised by the City Council, Director Enriquez stated the scope of work of the project; detailed how the final concept came to be and confirmed logistics of the plan; clarified the recommendations presented in 2017 by the Parks and Recreation Commission and the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority; and highlighted dog owner responsibility and liability along with maintenance covered by the Parks and Recreation Department.

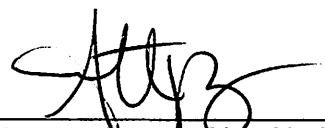
Discussion ensued about future recreation event relocations if necessary. Conversation was also had regarding the changes that have occurred since 2017 in relation to the City's demographics and the demand for a dog park. Clarification was made regarding the 2017 JPIA recommendation and their implications as being guidelines.

Following further discussion regarding the residents' inputs and the City's need as a whole, the City Council provided direction to Staff to bring back a new proposed contract with the consultant to phase out the project, identify the funding sources available, and reevaluate the proposed park building options as well as other features.

3. ADJOURNMENT – To Scheduled Regular City Council Meeting

At 7:06 p.m. the City Council adjourned the meeting to the scheduled regular City Council Meeting.


Vinh Truong, Mayor


Annette Juarez, City Clerk