



Wednesday, March 30, 2016
Minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council

CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the South Pasadena City Council was called to order by Mayor Mahmud on Wednesday, March 30, 2016, at 7:40 p.m., in the Amedee O. "Dick" Richards, Jr., Council Chamber, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Joe, Khubesrian, and Schneider; Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti; and Mayor Mahmud.

Absent: None.

City Staff

Present: Sergio Gonzalez, City Manager; Teresa L. Highsmith, City Attorney; Evelyn G. Zneimer, City Clerk; Anthony J. Mejia, Chief Deputy City Clerk were present at Roll Call. Other staff members presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Closed Session Announcements

The Regular Closed Session of the City Council of March 30, 2016, was called to order by Mayor Mahmud at 6:30 p.m., with all Councilmembers present, except Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti who arrived at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Bobbie Nansen, South Pasadena resident, voiced concern that her family is being unfairly prosecuted by the City; stated that her family has spent a significant amount of money to defend itself against false accusations from the City and perjury by staff.

Christopher Sutton, Attorney representing the Nansen family, urged City Council to authorize the City Attorney sufficient negotiating authority to resolve the existing litigation with the Nansen family; noted that the Nansen's had not given consent for the City to construct a retaining wall and sewer line on their property; stated that Mr. Nansen may be willing to be jailed if he feels the settlement deal is unfair.

The meeting convened into Closed Session to discuss the following items as listed on the Closed Session Special Meeting Agenda:

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – PENDING LITIGATION, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1):

Name of case: Mark Nansen, et al. v. City of South Pasadena, et al. Case No. BC543533

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – INITIATION OF LITIGATION, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(4):

Number of Cases: 2

City Attorney Highsmith reported that City Council provided direction to staff regarding the agendaized Closed Session Item No. A, but did not take any reportable action; advised that City Council will reconvene into Closed Session to discuss Closed Session Item No. B immediately following the Study Session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Lesak, South Pasadena resident, announced that April is Autism Awareness Month and encouraged City Hall to light itself up in blue lights to help raise awareness; summarized Autism Spectrum Disorder and encouraged residents to participate in awareness activities.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHNEIDER, SECOND BY MAYOR PRO TEM CACCIOTTI, CARRIED 5-0, to approve Consent Calendar Item No. 2.

2. **Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Right of Way Inc., on Behalf of the Golden Streets Festival Working Group for Traffic Control Services for the Golden Streets Festival**

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHNEIDER, SECOND BY MAYOR PRO TEM CACCIOTTI, CARRIED 5-0, to authorize the City Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Right of Way Inc., on behalf of the Golden Streets Festival Working Group for traffic control services for the Golden Streets Festival to be held on June 26, 2016.

ACTION/DISCUSSION**2a. Authorize a Letter of Support for Senate Bill 1018: California Environmental Quality Act: State Route 710 North Study**

Principal Management Analyst Lin presented the staff report.

Mayor Mahmud opened and closed the Public Comments period, there being no one desiring to speak to this issue.

MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHNEIDER, CARRIED 5-0, to authorize a letter of support for Senate Bill 1018: California Environmental Quality Act: State Route 710 North Study.

STUDY SESSION**3. Discussion and provide direction regarding the potential South Pasadena Community Center**

Community Services Director Pautsch and Ron Hagan, Senior Associate Consultant with Integrated Consulting Group, Inc. (ICG), narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Community Center Feasibility Study City Council Presentation."

In response to City Council inquiries, Mr. Hagan advised that future project phases will include examination of architectural compatibility with nearby facilities, seismic retrofitting of the Plunge Building, and whether the Community Center could be financially self-sustaining; stated that the adaptive reuse of the Plunge Building would be a few percentage points more expensive than demolishing the facility and constructing the Community Center a new; advised that it is feasible to expect that up to 20 percent of construction costs could be grant-funded and 10 percent raised by the community; cautioned against relocating the banquet facility to the upper level as it would create a need to leave the entire building open during rental events.

In response to City Council inquiry, Community Services Director Pautsch noted that support for a Community Center continues to be a top priority for residents, as was demonstrated during the recent Community Forum on budget priorities.

During the course of discussion, Council noted that: 1) exterior access to the tennis and basketball courts need to be added to the design; 2) security related to access/entry points need to be addressed; 3) there is a need for stairwells so that youth can access their designated areas on upper levels; and 4) it would be preferable to locate the senior center on the lower level, due to concerns related to power outages or elevators being out of service. Mr. Hagan stated that the floor plans will include options to locate the administrative offices and youth areas on the upper level and to relocate the senior center to the lower level as well as provide non-motorized pedestrian access to the senior center.

Mayor Mahmud opened the Public Comment period.

Glen Duncan, South Pasadena resident, former member of the Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC), noted that the City has previously used California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provisions and historic preservation as rationale against the extension of State Route 710; opined that the City should maintain its stance on historic preservation and adaptively reuse the existing Plunge Building into the design for a Community Center.

Jim McLane, South Pasadena resident, Chair of the CHC, stated that the CHC is opposed to the demolition of the Plunge Building; commended the design team and Community Center Ad Hoc Committee (Ad Hoc Committee) for modifying the project design to address the concerns of the CHC; suggested that the CHC should be sought to provide input during the restoration of the Plunge Building.

Debra Beadle, South Pasadena resident, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, pointed out that the Ad Hoc Committee was charged with developing a Community Center that would serve the needs of the residents; advised that it was the consensus of the Ad Hoc Committee to demolish the Plunge Building and construct the Community Center on a cleared site.

Bob Vanderwall, South Pasadena resident, member of the Ad Hoc Committee, suggested that the lower level of the Plunge Building could be utilized for commercial use, pointing out that lease revenue could help offset Community Center debt payments.

Odom Stamps, South Pasadena resident, former President of the South Pasadena Preservation Foundation, voiced support for the preservation and reuse of the Plunge Building; spoke on the history of the Plunge Building and the removal of the community pool.

John Lesak, South Pasadena resident, former member of the CHC, voiced support for the adaptive reuse of the Plunge Building, noting that residents value historic preservation; opined that demolition of the Plunge Building should have never been a consideration.

Larry McGrail, South Pasadena resident, President of the South Pasadena Preservation Foundation, spoke in support of adaptively reusing the existing Plunge Building as part of the new Community Center.

There being no others desiring to speak on this item, Mayor Mahmud closed the Public Comment period.

During the course of discussion, it was agreed by City Council that the Plunge Building should be preserved and incorporated into the design for a Community Center. City Council expressed gratitude to members of the Community Center Ad Hoc Committee for their hard work and valuable input.

Councilmember Schneider suggested that a historic architect should be utilized from the onset of designing the Community Center and that the CHC should serve in an oversight role during the restoration of the Plunge Building.

MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to:

1. Proceed to the next level of design on the concept plan which provides for the restoration and adaptive use of the existing Recreation Building (Historical Landmark #45) and utilizes a portion of Orange Grove Park and the City Yard site to build a new community center for South Pasadena.
 2. Direct staff to return to City Council with the scope and fee for the next level of design study.
4. **Discussion and provide direction regarding the South Pasadena Public Library Operations Study**

Director of Library, Arts, and Culture Fjeldsted and Joe Mathews, of JRM Consulting, narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled "South Pasadena Public Library Operations Study."

In response to City Council inquiry, Mr. Mathews explained differences between a Library Foundation versus Friends of the Library, noting that a Foundation would primarily solicit for major donations and endowments; explained that the proposed organizational chart includes one additional position of Assistant Library Director; explained that providing mobile resources to staff would allow them to roam and assist patrons.

City Manager Gonzalez advised that the City will be utilizing the Library Operations Study to assist in decision-making related to physical space planning, technological resources, and developing staffing models.

Director Fjeldsted explained that immediate planned improvements to technology include expanding e-resources such as audiobooks and movies.

Mayor Mahmud opened the Public Comment period.

Edward Pearson, South Pasadena resident, President of the Library Board of Trustees (LBT), advised that the LBT unanimously supported all of the study's recommendations, with the exception of the proposed organizational chart; explained that two Trustees voiced concerns related to the proposed Assistant Library Director position; recommended that the City accelerate the merging of the reference desk and circulation desk and filling current librarian vacancies.

There being no others desiring to speak on this item, Mayor Mahmud closed the Public Comment period.

City Manager Gonzalez clarified that the creation of the Assistant Library Director position is still under consideration and could be the results of a consolidation or restructuring of existing positions.

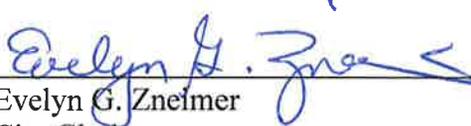
During the course of discussion, the City Council agreed that improvements to wayfinding signage would improve residents' awareness of available nearby parking.

MOTION BY MAYOR MAHMUD, SECOND BY MAYOR PRO TEM CACCIOTTI, CARRIED 5-0, to:

1. Direct staff to proceed generally in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Library Operations Study and return to City Council with an implementation plan.
2. Accelerate the implementation of the proposed organizational restructuring.
3. Accelerate the remodel and consolidation of the reference and circulation desks.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Mahmud adjourned the City Council meeting in memory of Scott Van Sant, at 10:16 p.m. The City Council recessed to Closed Session at 10:16 p.m. and adjourned at 11:00 p.m.



Evelyn G. Zneimer
City Clerk



Diana Mahmud
Mayor

Minutes approved by the South Pasadena City Council on April 20, 2016.