



Wednesday, October 21, 2015
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Joint City Council/Redevelopment Successor Agency

CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the South Pasadena Joint City Council/Redevelopment Successor Agency was called to order on Wednesday, October 21, 2015, at 7:35 p.m. in the Amedee O. "Dick" Richards, Jr., Council Chambers, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California, by Mayor Joe.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers/Redevelopment Successor Agency Members Cacciotti, Khubesrian, and Schneider; Mayor Pro Tem/Agency Vice Chair Mahmud; and Mayor/Agency Chair Joe

Absent: None

City Staff

Present: Sergio Gonzalez, City Manager/Agency Executive Director; Teresa L. Highsmith, City Attorney/Agency Counsel; and Anthony J. Mejia, Chief Deputy City Clerk/Chief Deputy Agency Secretary; were present at Roll Call. Other staff members presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

INVOCATION

Mayor Joe gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chief Deputy City Clerk Mejia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Regular Closed Session of the City Council of October 21, 2015, was called order at 6:00 p.m., and all Councilmembers were present, by Mayor Joe.

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

3. Conference with Legal Counsel – Initiation of Litigation
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(4)
Number of Cases: 2

4. Conference with Real Property Negotiators
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8
Property: Northeast corner of El Centro Street and Mound Avenue
(APN 5315-003-901)
Agency Negotiators: City Manager Sergio Gonzalez; City Attorney Teresa L. Highsmith
Negotiating Parties: Jonathan Genton, Genton Property Group
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

5. Conference with Real Property Negotiators
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8
Property: 1503-1507 El Centro Street (APN 5315-003-903 & 5315-003-904); and Southwest corner of El Centro Street and Edison Lane (APN 5315-003-902)
Agency Negotiators: City Manager Sergio Gonzalez; City Attorney Teresa L. Highsmith
Negotiating Parties: Jonathan Genton, Genton Property Group
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

City Attorney Highsmith reported that City Council provided direction to staff regarding the agendaized Closed Session items, but did not take any reportable actions.

2. “IMPACT OF YOUR VOTE” PRESENTATION PRESENTED BY THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

Angineh Meserkhani, Voter Outreach Representative, Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk’s Office, narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Impact of Your Vote” and encouraged to community to vote during the upcoming election on November 3, 2015.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE YOUTH COMMISSION

Talia Parker, Chair, Youth Commission, narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Annual Youth Commission Report" summarizing the events facilitated by the Youth Commission during Fiscal Year 2014-15.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Art Salinas, Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC), presented the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Annual Report of the PRC.

5. PRESENTATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ann Penn, Secretary, Library Board of Trustees (LBT), presented the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Annual Report of the LBT.

6. PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 2015 AS "SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH"

Mayor Joe presented a Proclamation to Claudia Morales and Nancy Verdin, representing Day One, declaring October 2015 as "Substance Abuse Prevention Month" in the City of South Pasadena.

7. COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Councilmember Schneider reported on his attendance at the Public Works Commission and Public Safety Commission meetings; noted that the City held a Bike Rodeo over the past weekend in which the community was invited to learn about bicycle safety; pointed out that the Fire Department has purchased new cardiac monitors.

Councilmember Khubesrian displayed PowerPoint slides and spoke on the following topics: 1) the need for pedestrian safety improvements on Arroyo Drive, noting that a community meeting was held in which City consultants reviewed potential improvements for consideration; 2) air pollution particles which can be harmful to human health; and 3) the importance of children's safety during the upcoming Halloween holiday.

Councilmember Cacciotti displayed PowerPoint slides and spoke on the recently held Bike Rodeo; requested that City Council agendize consideration of allocating up to \$2,000 of his discretionary funds for the purchase of an electric-assist bicycle for the Police Department, seconded by Councilmember Schneider; noted that the Cal State Long Beach Volleyball Team held a fundraiser in South Pasadena on October 17, 2015; advised that the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is accepting applications for its Residential Electric Vehicle Incentive Pilot Program; encouraged the community to attend the City's upcoming Water Wise Landscape Workshops.

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud announced that she attended Assemblymember Holden's "Moving Goods, Moving People" public hearing regarding the need for transportation and circulation network improvements; advised that Carrie Bowen, District 7 Director, Caltrans, indicated that Caltrans anticipates completing its review of comments on the draft Environmental Impact Report for the State Route 710 extension within six months; voiced concern that the Clean Water Act is creating costly storm water liabilities for Los Angeles County cities, noting that attention will need to be given to ensure responsible and cost-effective solutions are developed; applauded the Police Department for hosting "Coffee with a Cop" and the Bike Rodeo; noted that a variety of community events will be held including the City's Halloween Spooktacular, Vecinos de South Pasadena's Dia de los Muertos, Community Garden's Fall Celebration, South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce's Arts Crawl, and South Pasadena Arts Council's Utility Box Art Festival.

Mayor Joe displayed PowerPoint slides and reported on his attendance at the Los Angeles County Mayor's Regional Meeting on October 14, 2015, hosted by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, in which they discussed issues related to homelessness, funding for street and sidewalk repairs, and the Los Angeles bid to host the 2024 Summer Olympics; advised that the City was invited to present at the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Mayors Water Council, on October 15-16, 2015, which focused on storm water compliance and other water issues; requested that the City Council adjourn tonight's meeting in memory of Joanne Lindsey Dickson. No objections were voiced.

8. CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Gonzalez reported that the City has retained Joe Matthews to complete the City's Library Operations Study; introduced Anthony Mejia newly hired Chief Deputy City Clerk.

9. REORDERING OF AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Joe opened the Public Comments period.

Odom Stamps, South Pasadena Preservation Foundation, urged City Council to direct staff to prioritize processing amendments to the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance; noted that the proposed amendments would expand use of the Mills Act agreements to include landmark residences as well as properties located within historic districts.

Mayor Joe requested that City Manager Gonzalez provide an update on the status of the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance at the next City Council meeting.

Felix Gutierrez, South Pasadena resident, spoke on his efforts to restore his family's historic residence on Milan Avenue, noting that removal of the asbestos siding would greatly improve the appearance of the property; urged Council to move forward with updating the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Shlomo Nitzani, South Pasadena resident, spoke in support of installing "no right turn" signage on Monterey Road between Diamond and Meridian Avenues, suggesting a 120-day pilot program be conducted to test the effectiveness of the signage; questioned if the City's Animal Commission has taken any action to resolve his concerns related to peacocks; recommended that the City Council reconsider its Exclusive Refuse Service Agreement with Athens.

City Manager Gonzalez noted that the peacock issue has been referred to the City's Animal Commission and an item will return to City Council at the appropriate time.

Laurie Wheeler, President, South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, invited the community to attend the Fall Arts Crawl on October 24, 2015, noting that stores, art galleries, and restaurants will be open late; announced that the Chamber of Commerce is now hosting a community-based calendar for local events.

Beatriz Solis, South Pasadena resident, submitted an online petition, reportedly containing support of over 100 South Pasadena residents, urging that the City develop a pocket park at Berkshire Avenue and Valley View Road.

There being no additional speakers, Mayor Joe closed the Public Comments period.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the Consent Calendar, with the removal of Item No. 16 for separate discussion at the request of Councilmember Schneider.

11. CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA GENERAL CITY WARRANTS AND THE REDEVELOPMENT SUCCESSOR AGENCY WARRANTS

MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the Prepaid Warrants Nos. 190357-190426 in the amount of \$645,711.32, General City Warrants Nos. 190427-190562 in the amount of \$401,867.33, and Payroll dated October 9, 2015, in the amount of \$405,885.99, totaling \$1,501,718.56; and seated at the Successor Agency to the Community Redevelopment Agency, approve Redevelopment Successor Agency warrants for \$48,253.92 (included in the above total).

SUBJECT TO REVISION: UNAPPROVED UNTIL RATIFIED BY CITY COUNCIL

12. MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORTS FOR AUGUST 2015

MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to receive and file the Monthly Investment Reports for August 2015.

13. RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA INVESTMENT POLICY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-16

MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to adopt Resolution No. 7429 entitled "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING AN INVESTMENT POLICY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-16."

14. DISCRETIONARY FUND REQUEST FROM MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS FOR THE "COFFEE WITH A COP" PROGRAM

MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the discretionary fund request from Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud in the amount of \$250 for the purchase of promotional materials for the "Coffee with a Cop" Program.

15. FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE COUNTYWIDE PARKS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

City Manager Gonzalez noted that the City's Community Engagement Meeting will be rescheduled from December 10, 2015, to a date to be determined in January 2016.

MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN; CARRIED 5-0, to approve the Funding Agreement with the County of Los Angeles for community engagement activities related to the Countywide Parks Needs Assessment.

ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION**16. RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR \$208,000 FOR THE SOUTH PASADENA DOG PARK FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT FOR THE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT EXCESS FUNDS GRANT PROGRAM**

In response to City Council inquiries, Community Services Director Pautsch advised that there would be sufficient funding in the City's Maintenance & Services account for the long-term maintenance of the dog park; explained that conceptual plans for the dog park have been approved, final construction plans and specifications are being developed, and it is anticipated that construction could begin as early as April 2016; noted that the proposed dog park would have fully-fenced separate small dog and large dog areas, bench seating, lighting, and drinking fountains.

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud encouraged staff to meet with the Friends of the Dog Park to encourage them to raise funds to help offset the cost of constructing the proposed dog park, noting that any saved funds could potentially be reallocated to help fund future neighborhood pocket parks.

Councilmember Khubesrian stressed the importance of ensuring that the dog park is accessible to nearby neighborhoods, thereby encouraging dog owners to walk rather than drive to the dog park.

Community Services Director Pautsch advised that staff intends on creating a walking path from Arroyo Drive to the proposed dog park, if funding permits.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHNEIDER, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTI, CARRIED 5-0, to adopt Resolution No. 7430 entitled "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT FOR FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT EXCESS FUNDING FOR SOUTH PASADENA DOG PARK AND APPROVES THE ADOPTION OF A YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PLAN."

PUBLIC HEARING**17. APPEAL OF A DECISION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO IMPOSE A CONDITION OF APPROVAL THAT REQUIRES A DEPUTY INSPECTOR FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SINGLE FAMILY HOME ON A HILLSIDE LOT LOCATED AT 2131 HANSCOM DRIVE**

Senior Planner Mayer presented the staff report, recommending that the City Council deny the appeal and uphold a condition of approval that would require the applicant to make a deposit of \$12,000 to the Public Works Department for the services of a Deputy Inspector during the construction of a new single family home on a hillside lot at 2131 Hanscom Drive; responded to City Council inquiries.

In response to City Council inquiry, Public Works Director Toor advised that he expects \$5,000-\$8,000 will likely be needed for a Deputy Inspector, noting that unspent deposit funds will be refunded to the applicant; explained that the Deputy Inspector will work on an on-call hourly basis during specific periods of the construction phase.

Mayor Joe opened the Public Hearing.

Christopher Sutton, Attorney, advised that he represents the Nansen Family who also own property on Hanscom Drive; voiced support for the subject appeal, suggesting that Condition of Approval No. 56 related to the Deputy Inspector requirement be deleted; asserted that hillside regulations are not fairly applied by the City and the Monterey Hills Construction Regulations were not adopted by City Council nor incorporated into City Codes; distributed a document outlining the number of properties which are located on hillsides with 30% or greater slopes and a letter from Senior Planner Mayer related to hillside grading.

Wayne Brosman, Attorney, representing the Appellant, stated that Condition of Approval No. 56 was improperly added to the list of conditions, following closure of the Planning Commission Public Hearing; opined that the Deputy Inspector requirement is a violation of equal protection under the law.

Milad Oueijan, Architect, representing the Appellant, advised that he worked on a previous project on Hanscom Drive which was subject to the Deputy Inspector requirement, noting that the requirement was the main reason why the prior project did not move forward; pointed out that the Deputy Inspector requirement creates an unlimited and uncontrollable expense for projects which is unacceptable.

There being no others desiring to speak on this item, Mayor Joe closed the Public Hearing.

In response to City Council inquiries, Planning and Building Director Watkins noted that the City Council adopted the Monterey Hills Construction Regulations in 2006 and revised regulations were re-adopted in 2013. City Attorney Highsmith advised that the regulations are enforceable as written policies of the City Council.

In response to City Council inquiries, Senior Planner Mayer explained that the Planning Commission did not take formal action to include the Deputy Inspector requirement in the adopted resolution; noted that he explained at the Planning Commission meeting that a Deputy Inspector would be required due to the project's need for a construction staging plan. City Attorney Highsmith noted that the City Council could remand the project back to the Planning Commission for consideration of whether a Deputy Inspector is necessary for the subject project and the appropriate deposit amount, if any.

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud noted that a general contractor has an ability to ensure construction staging is pre-planned to best effectuate the time of an onsite Deputy Inspector.

Following discussion, MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to remand the matter back to the Planning Commission to review the factual allegations of inconsistency as it relates to the applicability of requiring a Deputy Inspector during construction, taking into consideration the Southwest Monterey Hills Committee's recommendations and City Council's adoption of the Monterey Hills Construction Regulations, with specific reference to Recommendation No. 9 requiring the developer to fund a Deputy Inspector.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

18. DISCUSSION AND POLICY DIRECTION ON VALET PARKING OPERATIONS IN THE CITY

Principal Management Analyst Lin presented the staff report, advising City Council that the Planning Commission could initiate an amendment to the Planning Use Permit Section of the Zoning Code to formalize the allowance of valet parking operations in the South Pasadena; responded to City Council inquiries.

In response to City Council inquiry, City Manager Gonzalez explained that if the Rialto Theatre desired to request valet parking it would first need to define its future proposed use and then submit a Parking Management Plan.

Principal Management Analyst Lin advised that next steps to allow valet parking operations would include referring the matter to the Planning Commission for consideration and input regarding potential amendments to the Zoning Code and specific process requirements such as the application process, traffic analysis requirements, and permit fees.

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud questioned whether it is necessary to consider allowing for valet parking operations until there is a greater need or additional interested parties, noting that the Mission-Meridian Village Parking Garage is underutilized.

City Manager Gonzalez noted that the Zoning Code amendment would not implement valet parking operations, but rather it would make valet parking available if a private business is interested in valet parking; stated that restaurants have inquired with the City about the possibility of utilizing a valet parking system; pointed out that the City is working on installing wayfinding signage for the Mission-Meridian Village Parking Garage.

Mayor Joe opened the Public Comments period.

Linda Krausen, South Pasadena resident, voiced objection to allowing for valet parking operations in South Pasadena, pointing out that residents, through taxes, have already paid for on-street parking; opined that valet parking operations would create an elitist mentality which is incompatible with the City's character.

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

In response to City Council inquiry, City Manager Gonzalez advised that the South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce supports allowing valet parking operations in an effort to encourage visitors to eat and shop in South Pasadena.

Councilmember Khubesrian recommended that any applicants for valet parking should bear the cost of conducting the appropriate traffic analysis.

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud indicated opposition to the proposal because a need for the Zoning Amendment has not yet been demonstrated and she feels that staff's attention would be better served by addressing higher City priorities.

Following discussion, MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 4-1 (MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD VOTING NO), to direct the Planning Commission to initiate Zoning Amendments to allow for valet operations in the City and request the South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Subcommittee to provide input.

19. DONATION OF DECOMMISSIONED STREET NAME SIGNS FOR THE ENHANCEMENT AND PROMOTION OF PUBLIC ART IN THE CITY

Assistant to the City Manager Demirjian presented the staff report, recommending that City Council approve donation of decommissioned street name signs to the South Pasadena Arts Council (SPARC) for the enhancement and promotion of public art; noted that the South Pasadena Educational Foundation (SPEF) recently expressed an interest in receiving donated signs; responded to City Council inquiries.

SUBJECT TO REVISION: UNAPPROVED UNTIL RATIFIED BY CITY COUNCIL

In response to City Council inquiries, Public Works Director Toor advised that the City has approximately 50 decommissioned signs ready for donation and it is anticipated a total of 200-300 signs will be decommissioned over the next three years; explained that the Public Works Commission has recommended a \$50 price point for decommissioned street name signs, based on the actual cost of replacement.

In response to City Council inquiry, City Attorney Highsmith advised that the donation of decommissioned street name signs would not be considered a gift of public funds as there is a clear public purpose for the donation to a local nonprofit organization.

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

Councilmember Khubesrian recommended that the decommissioned street name signs be donated to both SPARC and SPEF with instructions that proceeds be split between the organizations, noting that unpurchased signs would be utilized for a public art project.

Councilmember Cacciotti questioned whether outreach to other nonprofit organizations was conducted. City Manager Gonzalez stated that a public outreach effort was not conducted, however, explained that staff's rationale for recommending donation of the signs to SPARC was based on a nexus between the City's Strategic Goal to promote public art and the mission of SPARC.

Councilmember Cacciotti suggested that the first 50 signs be donated to SPARC with direction that proceeds be utilized for arts programming and that City Council reassess the situation and consider other nonprofit organizations for donation of the remainder of the signs; recommended that SPARC be required to submit a marketing plan subject to City Council approval.

Councilmember Schneider requested that City Attorney Highsmith develop a written policy regarding the disposition of surplus property for City Council consideration.

In response to City Council inquiries, Howard Spector, representing SPARC, stated that SPARC would be capable of handling the fundraising efforts for the signs; advised that SPARC will need to develop a marketing plan and establish fundraising perimeters before pursuing a public art project; explained that SPARC is a nonprofit organization under a fiscal sponsor; noted that SPARC was designated as the City's Official Arts Council as recognized by City Council Resolution.

Councilmember Cacciotti requested that SPARC provide paperwork demonstrating that it is a nonprofit organization.

Following discussion, MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHNEIDER, CARRIED 5-0, to:

1. Approve the donation of decommissioned street name signs to the South Pasadena Arts Council (SPARC), subject to City Manager approval of the sales marketing plan, and direction that proceeds be allocated for art programming.
2. Direct that a portion of the decommissioned street name signs be utilized in a public art project in the future.
3. Request that SPARC report back to City Council in six months with an update on the fundraising efforts.

REPORTS

20. LIBRARY INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS TO BE ADDRESSED WITH THE SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE BY VOTERS ON NOVEMBER 3, 2015 OF MEASURE L, THE LIBRARY SPECIAL TAX INITIATIVE

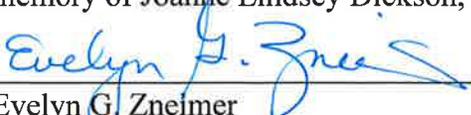
Director of Library, Arts, and Culture Fjeldsted presented the staff report and responded to responded to City Council inquiries.

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

MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTI, CARRIED 5-0, to receive and file a report on the South Pasadena Public Library (Library) information technology improvement needs to be addressed with the successful passage of Measure L, the Library Special Tax Initiative, on the ballot for the November 3, 2015, General Municipal Election.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Joe adjourned the Joint City Council/Redevelopment Successor Agency Meeting in memory of Joanne Lindsey Dickson, at 11:09 p.m.


 Evelyn G. Zneimer
 City Clerk


 Robert S. Joe
 Mayor

Minutes approved by the South Pasadena City Council on November 18, 2015.

SUBJECT TO REVISION: UNAPPROVED UNTIL RATIFIED BY CITY COUNCIL