MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Esquivel in the Executive Board Room at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Joseph Esquivel
Vice Mayor Larry Van Nostran
Council Member Steve Croft
Council Member Diane DuBois
Council Member Todd Rogers

COMMUNITY MEETING POLICY DEVELOPMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE
Mayor Esquivel stated that at the conclusion of the adjourned City Council meeting held on January 24, 2006, which addressed on- and off-street parking issues, he had appointed an ad hoc committee to develop a policy strategy on parking issues for potential presentation at a community meeting. He noted that he had received a request to reconsider the formation of the committee.

Council Member Rogers stated that while he had initially felt it would be a good idea for an ad hoc committee to prepare material for a workshop, he had since reconsidered and now felt that it would be more appropriate to have the entire City Council present at any community meeting. He expressed concern that if there were a meeting with only two Council Members present, those two could be perceived as enemies by any residents in opposition to the policy presented.

Vice Mayor Van Nostran stated that if the entire City Council were to be present at such a community meeting, residents in attendance could reasonably expect a final decision to be made.

Council Member Croft clarified that the mission of the ad hoc committee was only to look at the issues and to prepare a draft policy for a community meeting.

Council Member DuBois stated that any decision about a community meeting was premature at this point, as the ad hoc committee still had research to do, such as talking to other cities about the successes and failures of their programs and possibly going out into neighborhoods to talk to the residents.

Mayor Esquivel noted that former Council Member Robert Wagner, acting as an individual, had held a couple of public hearings to collect input from residents.
COMMUNITY MEETING POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Continued

Council Member Croft stated that after reviewing options, the ad hoc committee would prepare specific recommendations and, if the City Council felt it was appropriate to move forward, a community meeting could be scheduled. He noted that the committee had already conducted a preliminary meeting with staff and was waiting for information to come back to the committee.

Council Member Rogers stated it could be made clear that a community meeting was for advisory purposes and that the issue would later be brought before the entire City Council at a regular meeting.

City Manager Howard Chambers stated that the data available from the Wagner meetings was now somewhat out of date. He also advised that staff was working to identify other communities that had experienced similar situations to provide the committee with information on different types of approaches, what worked or did not work, and what pitfalls to avoid. He noted that the present committee structure would be more flexible than scheduling for the entire City Council.

Council Member Croft stated that the ad hoc committee would come back to the whole Council with a proposal and format for a community meeting and the City Council could decide at that time how the meeting should be structured. He further stated that it was important to determine the level of community support for any proposal put forth before Council action was taken. He noted that if there was not sufficient support for any proposal, the issue could be tabled on that basis.

Council Member DuBois stated that one effective way to determine the preference of Lakewood residents would be to put a measure on the ballot, but to do so was very costly.

Vice Mayor Van Nostran advised that if the parking issue could be identified as the most pressing for residents, the cost could be justified.

City Attorney Steve Skolnik stated that the deadline for putting a measure on the June statewide ballot was too close to allow the City Council sufficient time to study and develop an appropriate ballot measure.

Responding to a question from Mayor Esquivel, Council Member Croft stated the committee could complete its work by late March or early April.

Mayor Esquivel suggested a survey of residents.

Council Member Rogers stated that a survey could be mailed to every Lakewood resident for a fraction of the cost to place a measure on the June ballot.

Responding to a question from Mayor Esquivel, the City Manager stated that staff would be looking at Buena Park and La Palma who had recently looked at similar issues.
COMMUNITY MEETING POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Continued
Mayor Esquivel instructed the ad hoc committee to continue to work on this issue and stated that when they concluded their work, another meeting would be scheduled to present the findings.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Esquivel adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC
City Clerk