



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
August 13, 2002

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:32 p.m. by Mayor Van Nostran in the Executive Board Room at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Larry Van Nostran
Vice Mayor Joseph Esquivel
Council Member Wayne Piercy
Council Member Todd Rogers
ABSENT: Council Member Robert Wagner (excused)

WEST SAN GABRIEL RIVER OPEN SPACE PROJECT

City Manager Howard Chambers advised that staff would provide an update on the West San Gabriel River Open Space Project, the largest of the capital improvement projects scheduled for next year, as there had been enhancements since the City Council last reviewed the proposed project. He stated that the major items for discussion would include the feedback and reactions from the property owners bordering the site; consideration of the use of reclaimed water for the site; status of the State grant application; and the project timetable.

Landscape Superintendent Al Williams displayed slides depicting the project area and proposed improvements. He stated that a meeting had been held with the property owners bordering the site and that the concerns raised at that meeting had led to several modifications in the project specifications such as the removal of a chip seal road running along the property border; changes in the type and location of access gates and locks; and other security issues. He noted that the walking path and access gates would be located as far as possible from the bordering houses.

Responding to a question from Mayor Van Nostran, Mr. Williams stated that the access gate for the L.A. Department of Water and Power (DWP) would always remain locked and that the pedestrian gate would remain open with a sign posted to provide notice to stay on the walking path and that the park would be open from dawn to dusk.

In response to a question from Council Member Rogers, Mr. Williams stated that the DWP access would have two separate locks, one with a key for DWP employees and one combination lock to provide accessibility for the City or the Sheriff's Department.

Steve Lang, Landscape Architect with Purkiss-Rose/RSI, reviewed the landscaping plans for the site which included large trees along the path on the side closest to the river; with smaller, flowering trees and shrubs on the opposite side; and a grass mix on the area closest to the houses. He stated that the landscape materials used would all be drought-tolerant, native riparian materials.

WEST SAN GABRIEL RIVER OPEN SPACE PROJECT - Continued

Responding to a question from Mayor Van Nostran, Mr. Lang stated that with the removal of the access road, any DWP vehicle requiring access could drive on the grassy area without causing serious damage.

Public Works Director Lisa Rapp advised that DWP very seldom required access to the site.

Mr. Lang stated that water samples from the reclaimed water system had been sent for testing to determine whether reclaimed water would be suitable for use on the proposed landscape materials. He reviewed the finding which demonstrated that the reclaimed water had a high saline content, making it of marginal quality for the grassy area and bad for the woody shrubs and leafy portions of the trees which were subject to salt burn on their leaves.

Water Resources Director Jim Glancy advised that the State Water Code required that the City use reclaimed water for sites where it was available, but not to the detriment of the landscaping. He noted that while there was a reclaimed water connection available at the neighboring Monte Verde Park, the line was not large enough to accommodate both sites. He concluded by stating that the Water Resources Department was prepared to provide service to the site whether potable or reclaimed water was used.

In response to a question from Mayor Van Nostran, Mr. Glancy stated that while it was possible to treat the reclaimed water for excessive salt, the cost difference between potable and reclaimed water was not very large and the additional cost of treatment could be cost prohibitive.

Council Member Rogers asked if such treatment could be done on site. Mr. Glancy stated that a small facility could be located at the Nixon Maintenance Yard. Mr. Glancy also noted that because the landscape material would be drought tolerant, it would actually require little water after the initial establishment phase.

Council Member Piercy questioned Recreation and Community Services Director Dave Rodda about mature trees that were lost due to the use of reclaimed water. Mr. Rodda stated that staff had found certain types of trees to be sensitive to reclaimed water and that there had been a number of trees at Boyar Park that were replaced for that reason.

The Director of Recreation and Community Services reported that although the bulk of the project would be funded by a \$1 million grant from the State Resources Agency, additional funding was required to complete the project. He stated that the City had applied for \$300,000 in grant funding under Proposition 12, but with the State budget yet to be finalized, had not been advised yet if the grant would be awarded. He stated that the City was in a good position to receive the additional grant funding due to the unique nature of this project, but there was the possibility that State funds for the grant could be cut or redirected. He also stated that there was another grant the City may be eligible for but no review or decision would be made on award until after the first of the year.

WEST SAN GABRIEL RIVER OPEN SPACE PROJECT - Continued

Mayor Van Nostran inquired how long the project bid price was guaranteed. Ms. Rapp responded that according to the project specifications, the bid price was good for a 60-day period.

The City Manager stated that since the bid price was excellent and from a good bidder, staff would be recommending that the City Council take action to carry the item over to the next City Council meeting, thus allowing more time to find out if the grant funding would be awarded.

Responding to a question from Council Member Piercy, Mr. Chambers stated that additional data would be prepared regarding the water options and once a decision was made on whether to use potable or reclaimed water, the project specifications might require some modifications. He recommended this decision also be deferred to the next City Council meeting.

Mayor Van Nostran inquired if any of the work could be accomplished using in-house crews. Ms. Rapp responded by stating that it was probably not feasible due to the size and scope of the project. The City Attorney stated that such a course was not advisable at this time.

Project Manager June Anderson reviewed the timetable for the project, stating that the original schedule called for work to begin on September 3 and be completed by March 25, 2003. She also noted that of the 63 properties bordering the project, 13 properties had encroachments onto the City's property and had been advised to remove their belongings prior to the commencement of the project. She stated that all of the residents of the adjoining properties had also been advised that there was to be no access on the project site during the construction and landscape establishment phases of the project.

The City Attorney advised that all residents with encroachments be given a final reminder letter at least one week prior to the start of construction.

Council Member Rogers inquired about the possibility of fire hazard on the project site. Mr. Williams responded by stating that because the grass mix being used was green year-round, the possibility of fire hazard was extremely low.

SETTING TIME AND SCOPE FOR 4900 CLARK AVENUE PROPERTY

The City Manager stated that City Council Members had indicated an interest in studying potential uses for the property located at the corner of Clark Avenue and Del Amo Boulevard, 4900 Clark Avenue, and asked that staff be given direction on the type and scope of study.

Mayor Van Nostran stated he was concerned about the lack of staff space in City Hall and that it would be prudent for the Council to consider the use of the site for a new City Hall building.

SETTING TIME AND SCOPE FOR 4900 CLARK AVENUE PROPERTY - Continued
Council Member Rogers stated that he would welcome the opportunity to review the history of the parcel, talk about the philosophy of use and express options for the site.

Mayor Van Nostran advised that City Council Members with specific ideas or information requests submit them to the City Manager in writing prior to the tentative date for the meeting of October 8, 2002.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Van Nostran adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC
City Clerk