



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
July 10, 2018

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

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Steve Croft
Vice Mayor Todd Rogers
Council Member Diane DuBois
Council Member Ron Piazza
Council Member Jeff Wood

GOALS SOCCER CENTER

City Manager Thaddeus McCormack stated that a study session had been previously held and that a petition had been submitted by residents in opposition to the proposed Goals Soccer Center facility.

Council Member Piazza stated that after having been briefed, he noted the necessity of dealing with the parking issues in the neighboring areas but expressed interest in hearing about available options.

Mayor Croft reported that Goals had reconfigured the parking installation to include both phases rather than just the first phase in response to the Council Members' concerns.

Responding to Council Member Piazza's question, Steve Skolnik, Office of the City Attorney, stated that the project would utilize just under one-third of the total acreage.

Mr. Skolnik replied to Council Member Wood's inquiry pertaining to the estimated revenue and agreement term by stating that it would be \$100,000 a year, which would be offset by whatever portion of the public use time the City wanted to take advantage of with a term of 25 years.

Vice Mayor Rogers suggested consideration of other alternatives for uses of the historically underutilized portion of Bloomfield Park, such as another dog park, an archery range or a demonstration site for water wise landscaping. He expressed concerns with the change of the neighborhood park to a regional facility; the potential for management changes; serving of alcoholic beverages; the duration of nighttime operations with lighting and noise issues; and the minimal revenue stream. He offered that sometimes the traditional way of doing things in Lakewood were the right things that had served the City well for over sixty years.

Council Member DuBois and Council Member Wood expressed support for providing an opportunity to look at options for enhancing the park.

GOALS SOCCER CENTER - Continued

Mayor Croft acknowledged the efforts by Goals to respond to the City Council's concerns pertaining to the parking issues and noted that no changes would be made to existing park programming. He highlighted that positive aspects of the opportunity to offer such facilities to residents on a no cost basis and to include the additional benefit of having facilities and leagues for older teens and adults. He stated that he would not be opposed to exploring other options but noted that with structural deficit going forward, these types of private/public options provided the opportunity to add offerings to residents and would, therefore be in favor of the project.

Council Member Piazza stated that such long term leases could incorporate language in the agreement to ensure performance by the Goals management.

Responding to Council Member DuBois' question regarding the existing parking issues, Recreation and Community Services Director Valarie Frost stated that such issues occurred mostly in the evening from residents of the apartments and casino patrons.

Council Member Wood inquired about the ability to utilize the free use for such community organizations as the Special Olympians. Mr. Skolnik responded by stating that the details of how the free use would be managed was still subject to negotiation. He further stated that the expense of building the facility did not allow for paying more than \$100,000 a year, therefore, any usage for time they would otherwise be using for paid users, would be deducted from that amount.

Nathan Woodbridge, Goals Vice President, Operations, and Beth Romero, Goals Director of Administration, provided statistics on the volume of parking usage during peak times at the other Goals facilities.

Glenn Cantu, Lakewood; Felix and Jean Augustine, Lakewood; Dale Kekuna, Lakewood; Josie Montez, Lakewood; Rose Ramos, Lakewood, spoke in opposition to the proposed Goals soccer facility project citing the existing parking and traffic issues related to the neighboring apartments, casino and hospital as well as concerns associated with alcoholic beverage consumption.

Mr. Skolnik explained that staff would like to receive City Council direction on whether to negotiate details of an agreement to be brought back for further consideration at a later date or to no longer move forward with the project.

Mayor Croft expressed interest in looking further at the agreement with Goals; in having another public meeting with the residents; and for staff to make a recommendation on parking management for the area to address the residents' concerns associated with the neighboring apartment building and the casino. He noted that the parking issues existed whether the project moved forward or not.

Council Member Wood stated that despite the fact that Goals had put together a good presentation, he was committed to addressing the concerns of the residents.

GOALS SOCCER CENTER - Continued

Council Member DuBois explained that she maintained her initial support for a project that offered additional sports opportunities and acknowledged the existence of parking issues that needed to be addressed. She encouraged staff to move in the direction of seeking solutions.

Council Member Piazza stated he was in favor of continuing to look at the project and to find available options to bring such a world class facility to the City.

Vice Mayor Rogers expressed concerns that the project would create additional issues with traffic, law enforcement, and after hours in the park and did not see a compelling reason to move forward. He stated the importance that residents understood that the parking that Goals would add was not going to be available for the casino employees or apartment and would be closed when the facility was closed.

Mr. McCormack stated that rather than the next step being to come back with an agreement, further measures could be taken with addressing the issues that were raised and then report back to the City Council.

CLOSED SESSION:

At 7:22 p.m., Mayor Croft announced that the City Council would recess to a closed session.

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS – Pursuant to Govt. Code §54957.6

Designated Representative: City Manager, Office of the City Attorney and Liebert Cassidy and Whitmore, Director of Administrative Services, Assistant to the City Manager, Human Resources Manager

Employee Organization: Lakewood City Employees' Association

At 7:31 p.m., the City Council reconvened and the City Attorney advised that there was no action to announce.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Croft adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC
City Clerk