

June 23rd, 2015



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA CONVENED
THIS 23rd DAY OF JUNE 2015, AT 6:30 P.M.
CALTRANS VACANT LOT PARCEL NUMBER 68499-01-01
1107 GREVELIA ST.**

1. ROLL CALL

Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission convened at 6:56 p.m.

Staff R Martin called the roll. Present were Commissioner Members Taylor, Gin, and Vice-Chair Zavala, .

Absent: Chair Salinas, Commissioner Rosen

Other Officials and Staff present: City Council Liaison Mahmud., Community Services Director/Staff Liaison Pautsch, and Staff Reyna Salazar-Martin.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

**3. COMMUNITY INPUT REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF THE CALTRANS
PROPERTY AT 1107 GREVELIA STREET FOR A POSSIBLE PARK**

A week prior to this meeting all residents within a 500 feet radius were notified by the City of this meeting and were encouraged to attend and give their input. Director Pautsch introduces the discussion item to the Commission and public who attended meeting. She made sure to clarify that this Caltrans property along with 2006 Berkshire Ave. (additional Special Commission meeting will be held the next day at that location) are currently being considered for purchase by the City. All comment cards were given to Staff R. Martin and were called out in order received for public discussion. Each person was given 3 minutes to tell the Parks and Recreation Commission whether they are in favor or against the City purchasing the land and how they feel the city should utilize the lot.

Community Participation and Comment (3 minutes each)

Speaker #1-Esmeralda Montoya: 1111 Grevevelia St. She is in favor of the City purchasing the lot space. She is also in favor of the city utilizing the space for a pocket park. She does however have concerns about the amount of cars parked on her street because she lives two houses down from the lot in question. She hopes that people walk to this location in order to prevent overcrowding of parked vehicles.

Speaker #2-John Silverthorn: 1115 Grevelia St. Is in favor of the city purchasing the property, but ONLY for maintenance, not for a city park. Does not want to encourage more of the public to come to his street. Is concern on who Caltrans would let purchase the land if City does not.

Speaker#3-Michelle Lindsay. 1106 Magnolia St. She lives right behind the property. Is in favor of City purchasing the lot and would like to see any kind of park, especially a passive park be built. Her only concern is the lighting a park will require. She would rather see a very-low to no lighting park. Dawn to dusk park hours would be preferable.

Speaker #4-Linda Krausen: 1109 Grevelia St. Lives right next door to the left of vacant lot. She is in favor of City purchasing lot for a park. She is against it becoming a dog park or community garden. Would rather see it become a passive park and used as it is being utilized now (for kids to be able to play, adults to have mobile chairs to relax, open area for community). Would like a fence to face street to protect park as well as fence all around to give neighbors privacy. Also, would like to see a water fountain and trash maintenance. Understands that the park will not have grass, but would like to see the terrain improved. Does not want tables put in because she feels like it would attract public to stay all day and bring in large parties. Would prefer dawn to dusk park hours.

Speaker #5 Ronald Yeung: 1129 Grevelia St. Was not present when named was called. No notes on comment card. Other residents claim he is for city purchasing lot.

Speaker #6 Cheryl Craig: 1007 Magnolia St. Is in favor of the City purchasing the land. Would like to see the city make it a passive park, or more like what it is being used now. (open area for kids to play, and community to relax).

Speaker #7- Karen Krausen: 1212 Lyndon St. In favor of City purchasing lot. Is in favor of city making it a passive park or something similar to what it is being used for now. Somewhere open for kids to be able to play and community to relax. Against another community garden, feels that lot is not big enough to split areas up for a garden and have a space for children to play.

Speaker #8-Jon-Paul Villegas: 608 Fairview Ave. Not present but his comment card read as follows: "I am in favor of City Purchase of the land in question either for a public park or a pocket park. Or even possibly a community garden if there is a consensus favoring this"

Speaker #9-Christina Blaiklock: 612 Fairview Ave. She is in favor of City purchasing lot. She would like to see a passive park that would be utilized the same as it is being used now and be maintained. She does have concern with the any lighting system that the city may want for the park.

June 23rd, 2015

Speaker #10-Brett Barber: 712 Hope Ct. She is in favor of City purchasing lot. Would like to see a passive park be built or a park that resembles what they are using it for now; area for children to play and parents to relax.

At this time City Council Liaison Mahmud wanted to note that although she has heard the majority of the comments in favor of a passive park, she wanted to clarify that a passive park will only be for walking through, and would not consist of the space or safety requirements for children to play. She believes that the residents mean a very low impact pocket park

Speaker #11-Bryan Richardson: 714 Fairview Ave. He is in favor of City purchasing lot and fully supports a park initiative. It is much more convenient for his family than walking through the busier streets to Garfield Park. Would like to see a pocket park that is similar to what the space is being utilized for now, an open space for children to play.

Speaker #12-Charlene Lohmuller: Magnolia St. In favor of the City purchasing the lot. She would like to see benches put in and is in favor of park that is similar to how it is being used now. She would like to see clear signs for dog policies.

Speaker #13 Kay Younger: 1121 Buena Vista St. Did not speak, but comment reads “great spot for a passive park”. She is in favor of City purchasing lot.

Speaker #14- Kharin Mishan: 1103 Grevelia St. Lives next door to the right of the lot in question. She is in favor of the City purchasing the lot. She is against a dog park, but is in favor of a passive park or a park with very low activity. Her biggest concern is to increase the surveillance and safety to this area. She gave a few examples of the public trespassing and stealing items from her property. She would like to see city keep an eye on the property as well as maintain property.

Speaker #15-Scott Krueckberg. 616 Fairview Ave. Is in favor of city purchasing lot. He is also part of the Community Garden and would very much like to see this space be utilized as an official “community space for the City”. Would like to see the planting of low watering plant and more natural landscaping.

Speaker #16-David Ross: 1122 Grevelia St. Is in favor of the City purchasing lot. He is also in favor of the city building a park they see fit for the space. He would appreciate a space for his dog to go off leach, but Director Pautsch reminded public at this time that a Dog Park will be built in the Arroyo Park area.

Speaker #17-Mark Lohmuller. Magnolia St. Did not have a comment card. Would like to add that he is in favor of the city purchasing the lot. His only concern is the privacy for the residents neighboring the property.

Note: Additional Resident comments submitted in writing that are attached to these minutes.

Director Pautsch opens the floor to anyone else that would like to add any other comments or concerns. Linda Krausen (Speaker #4) would like to clarify that instead of a passive park, she is in favor of a low impact pocket park. She feels many of the residents that spoke that wanted a “passive park” really meant a low impact pocket park

June 23rd, 2015

as well. A low impact pocket park that very much resembles what they are currently using the lot for, and would only like to continue that environment.

Commissioner Gin wanted to inform the residents attending the meeting that because of the consensus for the neighborhood to purchase the lot, he does want to vote on 1107 Grevelia to be purchased by the City.

Commissioner Zavala wanted to inquire about the type of fencing that would be built if property was purchase for the purpose of a park. Director Pautsch clarifies that that decision would be down the line in conceptual planning if 1)The City did in fact does purchase lot, and 2) They did if fact decide to utilize land for a park. The City would most likely want to first hear the residents input on that particular detail before building. Commissioner Taylor had nothing to add at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

By consensus, the Commission adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The next Special Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24th, 2015 at 2006 Berkshire Ave. at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved By:



Sheila Pautsch
Community Services Director



Arturo Salinas
Chair