

PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

Special Joint Meeting with Piedmont Board of Education

April 30, 2007, Open Forum Notes

A Special Open Forum Session of the Piedmont City Council was held April 30, 2007, in the Community Hall at 711 Highland Avenue. In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a) the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on April 25, 2007.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Friedman called a special joint session with the Piedmont Board of Education to order at 7:40 p.m. He announced that the purpose of the joint meeting was to receive update reports from Fisher-Friedman Associates regarding the City's Civic Center Master Plan Project and from Murakami/Nelson Architects regarding the School District's Measure E Bond Program Seismic Projects. The Vice Mayor stated that because School District property and facilities are located within the Civic Center, proposed modifications to these facilities may impact Civic Center Master Plan development proposals. Therefore, it is the Council and School Board's desire to identify potential opportunities for collaboration between the two renovation efforts to maximize the efficient use of community resources.

ROLL CALL

City Council: Mayor Nancy McEnroe, Vice Mayor Abe Friedman and Councilmembers John Chiang and Garrett Keating

Absent: Councilmember Dean Barbieri

Board of Education: President Ward Lindenmayer, Vice President June Monach and Board Members Ray Gabois and Roy Tolles

Absent: Board Member Cathie Geddeis

City Staff: City Administrator Geoff Grote

School Staff: Superintendent Constance Hubbard

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the public forum.

CIVIC CENTER MASTER PLAN REPORT

Project Manager Nathan Ogle and Public Meeting Coordinator Sherrin Bennett narrated a power-point presentation highlighting the conceptual visions for the Civic Center generated from community workshops. Ellen Poling of Fehr & Peers, Traffic/Parking Planning Consultant, reported on the findings to date of on-going Civic Center parking and traffic studies. Public input has indicated a desire for the following types of facilities: café, arts & cultural center, daycare, fitness, senior and teen centers, swim facilities and additional parking.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT
SEISMIC UPGRADE
REPORT**

John Nelson narrated a power-point presentation summarizing the conceptual plans under consideration for Havens Elementary School and the High School based upon a Tier II analysis of seismic and handicap accessibility issues. Initial review indicates that the structural integrity of school buildings is not as bad as originally feared, hence there may not be the need for as much demolition/exterior changes as anticipated.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Public testimony was received from: Michael Coen, William Drum, David Oppenheimer, Jody Cornelius, Drew Bendon, George Childs and Tim Rood. Points raised during testimony included:

- Support for an underground parking garage adjacent to a new swim facility;
- Whether consideration is begin given to locating a swim center at the City's Corporation Yard;
- Support for two competitive-sized swimming pools or one competitive and one dual use pool rather than one competitive-sized pool and one lap pool;
- Preference that the City's Master Plan decision-making timetable coincide with the School District's timetable in order to maximize the potential for a collaborative effort between the two agencies;
- Preference that a new swim center be located on School property rather than the Corporation Yard to allow for convenient and easy access by children;
- Support for exploring the possibility of creating a sports playfield on the Havens Playground;
- Concern that there be no redundancy/duplication in facilities by the school and City, e.g. library, theatre/arts center, etc.;
- Preference that any swim center or parking garage be privately financed and operated;
- Support for utilizing technology so as to reduce the necessity of residents having to physically come to the Civic Center in order to conduct business at City Hall;
- Opposition to a new swim center on School property because of liability concerns and the potential that general public access to the pool could be restricted;
- Opposition to the construction of a parking garage – too expensive to build and operate and unnecessary given the scale of activity;
- Preference that Havens School be demolished and a new 2-story school be constructed to free-up space on site for development of a playfield as well as create the potential for locating a café at this central location.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

Board of Education:

- The Municipal Tax Review Committee be requested to update its demographic data and supply this updated information to the School Board. In addition, the Piedmont Swim Club also be requested to provide pool use patterns and demographic data to the School Board;

City Council:

- PHS Principal Randy Booker be requested to make a presentation before the Council describing the type of pool facility required to satisfy the needs of the high school's aquatic programs;
- When completed, the Superintendent provide the Council with the priority ranking of its program *needs assessment* analysis;
- Fisher-Friedman be provided with the design concept for transforming Blair Park into a multi-use sport and recreational site prepared by Clarence Mamuyac of the *Citizens Group on Moraga Canyon*. Fisher-Friedman be requested to evaluate on a preliminary basis, Mr. Mamuyac's proposal as well as the potential of the Corporation Yard/Blair Park as alternative sites for proposed Civic Center uses, e.g., swim facility. The Council requested that no additional cost be incurred as a result of this evaluation and that this effort not distract Fisher-Friedman from its primary task/focus on the Civic Center.

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Education:

- Willing to consider the possibility of locating a new swim center on school property, with the understanding that no Measure E Bond funds could be expended in this regard;
- A determination as to whether Havens School will be repaired or substantially demolished and reconstructed will probably not be made until the Fall of 2007;
- The likelihood that the PHS Allan Harvey Theatre will require demolition is remote;
- Support for the scheduling of another joint meeting with the Council in early June – the Superintendent and City Administrator to coordinate the date and time for said meeting;
- Request for public feedback as to: (1) repair or rebuild preferences regarding Havens School; (2) whether the Ellen Driscoll Theatre should be preserved because of its architectural heritage; (3) entrance to school site and location of drop-off zones that are safe for children; and (4) building accessibility.

City Council:

- Requests the public at the next Civic Center community workshop meeting on May 10 to submit suggestions as to: (1) the types of facilities that will improve the Civic Center; (2) what facilities/uses should be relocated outside of the Civic Center or eliminated in order to alleviate impacts on the surrounding residential neighborhoods; and (3) what types of joint school/city projects should be undertaken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice Mayor Friedman adjourned the meeting at 10:05 p.m.