

SOUTH COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Minutes of Special Meeting – April 9, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice Chairman Harry Walls who led the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called by Secretary Elaine Thomas with the following members present:

Harry Walls	Istar Holliday
Dick Wright	Rick Dean
Dan Gaddis	Susan Cholakian
Elaine Thomas	Ed Eby

Members Absent:

Vince McCarthy	Dan Woodson
Bill Dorland	Gary Spelbring
El Jay Hansson	Patricia Duron

A quorum was declared.

Vice Chairman Harry Walls announced the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Draft Environmental Impact Report on the Nipomo Community Park submitted by Clyde Cruise.

Clyde Cruise, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee presented the Nipomo Community Park Master Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report that had been issued March 2, 2012. Committee examination and a public meeting to discuss the DEIR was held March 28, 2012 with 22 community members attending. There were a number of items mentioned at the meeting that pertained to the Master Plan rather than the DEIR. Jackie Walls prepared a detailed list of the comments and was thanked for her work.

The following is a list of observation sorted by topic:

Aesthetic Resources

1. Multi-use sports fields that could accommodate 6 lighted soccer fields for night games. The DEIR may not handle the intrusion of this many light for 1.5 to 2 hours a game.
2. Tree removal does not seem to protect the oldest oak trees and their protection seems to be a community goal.

Biological Resources

1. Nipomo Native Garden is supported by the committee and community.
2. Types and number of wildlife species seems too low by those who have spent time in the Park.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

1. Usage and size of proposed equestrian staging area is not reflected.
2. The DEIR does not take into consideration the potential impact of crime in the park, the use of alcohol at events or security required.

Noise

1. The community is concerned that the cumulative noise from the project has a greater impact than is shown in the DEIR.
2. Amplified sports games could present an issue for the residents on Tejas St.

Public Services and Utilities and Traffic Issues were also included in this report.

Mr. Cruise issued a detailed report as well as minutes of the public meeting. He urged the SCAC members to spend time studying these items.

Questions:

Istar Holliday raised the issue of the separation of the Master Plan and the DEIR. There seems to be an overlap of a number of items. Clyde agreed that there is an overlap and that should be discussed to determine which items apply.

Dick Wright - Thanked Clyde, Mike and Bonnie for their hard work in preparing the report and said he appreciated its thoroughness.

Comments:

Dan Gaddis – Discussed the location of a Community Center in the Park in reference to crime concerns. We have only 1 sheriff at night in the general area and this would prove to be inadequate. The Community Center should be located on Tefft in order to provide better crime prevention coverage. He believes our Sheriff Department is understaffed for our Nipomo Community.

He also said he understood that the Community Center may be built with private donations and believes this would not be a good plan. He said the Community Center should be owned by the community, not private ownership.

A small park on the corner of Osage and Camino Caballo is unsuitable for a children's playground. It is a very busy intersection and there is no parking.

The suggestion to widen Osage in order for two cars to pass is redundant since two cars can presently pass. A trail and equestrian trail proposed for Osage would involve condemning private property of the homeowners along the street. Also a number of old growth oak trees would have to be removed.

Susan Cholakian questioned the availability of emergency responders to the Park.

Public Comment:

Ed Eby – Said there are 3 items that cannot be mitigated.

1. Oak Tree removal: The removal of old oak trees cannot be mitigated since removing an old tree and replanting a sapling is not a mitigation.
2. Aesthetics - Open space which is used for some kind of development must be replaced in another open space.
3. Traffic – Land Use cannot widen Osage with condemning private property.

Harry Walls said the Chair will accept the report, with thanks and supply copies to other SCAC members who were not present at this meeting. This discussion of this report will take place at the next SCAC meeting on April 23, 2012.

Meeting adjourned 7:10 p.m.