

Summary Minutes of:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday January 4, 2010, 6:00 pm

Council Chambers at City Hall

405 Paseo de Oñate, Española

Community Development Committee Members:

Councilor Danielle Duran, Chair

Councilor Rosario “Chayo” Garcia

Councilor Helen Kain-Salazar

Mayor Pro Tem Alice Lucero

Agenda as Presented:

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. General updates from Planning, Community Services, Police Department and Public Works.
2. Update from City Manager on Department of Transportation renting office space on Calle Adelante next to Police Department
3. Tennis Courts Update
4. General Signage for City Attractions
5. Recommendations and Update from Planning and Zoning Regarding Street Vendors

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, October 19, 2009

MATTERS OF THE CHAIR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

At any time during the Open Meeting, the Committee Chair may close the meeting to the public to discuss matters not subject to the New Mexico Open Meetings Act. The Committee Members may revise the order of the agenda items considered at this Open Meeting.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of an amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the City Clerk at 747-6019 at least three days prior to the meeting.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Committee Chair Councilor Danielle Duran with the following in attendance:

Community Development Committee Members: Councilor Danielle Duran
Councilor Rosario “Chayo” Garcia
Councilor Helen Kain-Salazar
Mayor Pro Tem Alice Lucero

Deputy City Clerk: Sally Baxter
City Clerk: Heather Velasquez

Staff: Deputy Police Chief Raye Byford, Planning Director Russell Naranjo,
Public Works Director Ben Ortega

Approval of Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Councilor Kain-Salazar made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilor Garcia. The motion carried 4/0.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Item #1, General updates from Planning, Community Services, Police Department and Public Works.

Planning Department

Russell Naranjo said he did not have any updates. Councilor Duran asked how recoding was going; Mr. Naranjo said he needed a BAR (Budget Adjustment Request) approval to advertise in the (Albuquerque) Journal and this should be going out the following week.

Community Services

Len Cata, Community Services Director, said he had set up a meeting with Little League coaches and parents regarding improving the fields and taking care of the dugouts. He said there was a constant problem with graffiti, drinking and drug use inside and the city could not monitor the dugouts at this time. He said he met with the contractor regarding keeping two feet of the lower area and the roof so people inside the structure could be seen. He said this was regarding Valdez and Ranchitos.

Mr. Cata said the concession building at Ranchitos was being cleaned up and repainted; he said the building needed to be re-stuccoed and he was looking at those things as a priority. Mr. Cata said he was looking at purchasing new equipment for the recreation center, a new scoreboard, and there were a few issues with the pool as far as the temperature being inconsistent. He said the heater was functioning but he had talked with a couple of individuals who said the temperature was fluctuating because of the cold weather, the building was old, and the pool needed to be replastered. Mr. Cata said there was a small hole in the shallow end where the plaster had fallen apart.

Mr. Cata said they were using a sealant that could be used while the pool was full; he said the pool was old. Mr. Cata said he was also looking at replacing the boiler at the Lucero Center as the existing boiler was installed when the building was built. He said there was no way to remove and replace it without breaking a wall and maybe two smaller units could be installed.

Mr. Cata said those would be priorities, he was also looking at getting a few more computers at the library and new books. He said the Librarian had been filtering out what people were not checking out needed to weed out books which were not beneficial to the public, and she was looking to provide more resources.

Mr. Cata said the roof at the Senior Center had been replaced and had not leaked since being replaced.

Mayor Pro Tem Lucero asked regarding Ranchitos park graffiti if it would be possible to add a motion center light. Mr. Cata said the city could do that but he thought vandals would break it and there would go that cost. The Mayor Pro Tem asked if there wasn't a new light which was harder to vandalize; Mr. Cata said the city could give it a try to see if it helped. The Mayor Pro Tem said it was an LED (Light Emitting Diode) light with many lights.

Mr. Cata said he would check, it was a tough ongoing problem, city employees were out there constantly repainting, and vandals had even gotten on the second floor and broken in.

Councilor Garcia asked if a mural could be painted as it seemed like there was less graffiti on murals; Mr. Cata said depending on who did the mural, vandals might tag right over it, but the city could try [a mural]. Councilor Garcia said it would be a piece of art, instead of re-stuccoing, the cement block could be exposed for a mural instead of trying to re-stucco.

Mr. Cata said he was going to meet with Lupita de Herrera (city Grants Coordinator) the next day to see how much money was available and he would put together a list of what they wanted to do; he said it had been a tough issue.

Planning Director Russell Naranjo asked who used Ranchitos; Mr. Cata said currently it was Little League. Mr. Naranjo said the field was used for playing and he saw pick-up ball games on weekends. Mr. Cata said Little League had scheduled times but a lot of people used the area for soccer, etc., and the fields got torn up and had a lot of ruts he said without having someone to monitor or fence it, it was getting torn up.

Mr. Naranjo asked if the press box was used or if it could be taken out. Mr. Cata said it had restrooms and the concession area so it couldn't be taken out.

Councilor Garcia asked if the area between the pool and fields could be turned into a soccer field; Mr. Cata said that area was being used also, but the baseball field was also being used for soccer. Councilor Garcia asked if a soccer field could be put near the road; Mr. Cata said the area was not big enough.

Councilor Duran asked if the tennis courts were removed if there would be enough space; Mr. Cata said not even close. Mayor Pro Tem Lucero asked if there was enough room for a soccer field at the area at Industrial Park Road where there had been a baseball field; Mr. Cata said there was no grass there so people wouldn't use it and the bathroom facility was bad and needed to be torn down.

Councilor Kain-Salazar asked what the condition of the bathrooms at the ball fields were; Mr. Cata said not too bad. He said there was an arrangement to have the key at the concession stand, and this past summer there had been fewer problems. Mr. Cata said when the bathrooms had been open 24/7, every Monday staff had to clean the bathrooms and repair damage caused by vandalism. He said there had been one incident when people had accessed the concession stand from the bathrooms and had stolen chips, sodas, etc.

Mr. Naranjo said he didn't know why the city couldn't keep it nice; Mr. Cata said it was not fenced. The Mayor Pro Tem said it was too dark. Councilor Garcia said in Santa Fe parents paid to take care of parks, cutting grass, etc., and made money through concessions.

Public Works Director Ben Ortega asked if the city charged user fees; Mr. Cata said it was minimal, the city provided access to fields and provided lighting, and this was the first recreation center he was associated with that didn't charge. He said Española was the only place that didn't charge. Mr. Cata said when it had been brought it up the previous year, people were against charging.

Mr. Ortega said in his experience, a surcharge was paid. Mr. Cata said fees were collected, and Little League generated money and was not part of the city so they had their own issues of where the money went.

Mr. Ortega asked about charging \$5.00 per head above their other fees [for funds to go to the city].

City Clerk Heather Velasquez said if the city charged \$5 per practice session, charged each child, for fifteen children, [the city would] still get revenue because she (Ms. Velasquez) would be willing to pay. Mr. Cata said everybody would have to support it or he would get calls; he said if the city had set schedules, then the city could charge.

The Mayor Pro Tem said she didn't know how other cities [dealt with this], but wondered if it was possible to impose a fee on Little League. Mr. Cata said he had suggested this to the new Little League officers. The Mayor Pro Tem said if a child was paying \$50.00 to Little League, at least \$10.00 should come back to the city; she said it could be called maintenance, not rent. Mr. Cata said he would have a meeting Wednesday night and he would suggest that.

Mr. Cata said at the last minute [Little League had told the city about using the fields] and [they] were mad that the fields were not ready, but they had been having

problems with their officers who didn't like each other. He said people thought Little League was run by the city and people blamed the city for problems with the coaches. He said at the Lucero Center he had told Maria Sandoval to be careful who she rented the facilities to, because if an event did not go well it looked like it was a city event and people thought the city put on the events.

The Mayor Pro Tem said the city provided fields for all of the children in the valley, so maybe the city could ask the county for a subsidy; Councilor Duran said maybe the city should have a fee for tournaments. Mr. Cata said Ms. Sandoval was not letting people use the facilities for free, there was a charge.

Mayor Pro Tem Lucero said it was not just baseball fields or parks, this included the pool; she said the city was providing these services. Mr. Cata said fees are low, produced low revenue, and he agreed they should look into fees. He said one of Ms. Sandoval's duties was to call around to see what others were charging. He said what the city was charging was low so no revenue was being generated. Mr. Ortega said people would pay more to go to a better facility.

Mr. Cata asked if there was going to be an increase in fees, did it go before the council; the Mayor Pro Tem said yes. Councilor Duran said she would like for Mr. Cata to have the information for the next City Council meeting. The Mayor Pro Tem said it wouldn't hurt to talk to the counties. Councilor Duran said the portion of the city in Santa Fe County didn't have recreational events.

Mr. Cata said for a facility with a pool, a basketball, gym, a karate room, and a boxing room, it should bring in more; he said it wouldn't pay for itself, but could increase revenues to pay for other things. He said for example, Gino's only had a weight room and was generating more revenue than the city was. He said the potential was huge. However, he said, people would be upset and would complain when prices went up. The Mayor Pro Tem said they were not happy with the facilities. Mr. Cata said for the future Rio Arriba County was planning to open a facility. He said once revenue came in, it would be nice to use some for improvements.

Councilor Duran said to recap what Mr. Cata was being asked to do, he was being asked to look into a motion sensor, LED lights, a mural, redoing the fee schedule, and talking to the counties.

Councilor Garcia said she would get contact information for the mural person; the Mayor Pro Tem said she could get contact information also.

Mr. Cata said Community Services did receive a kid's fitness grant which would provide after school sports activities; he said the grant was for \$5,000.⁰⁰.

City Clerk Heather Velasquez asked Mr. Cata to incorporate a younger age group; she said she couldn't find anything for her baby to do and he was 3-4 years old. Mr. Cata said he could try and see if the city could do something. He said it was a tough age as most of the programming the city did started at age six but he could try to see if he could find something.

Police Department

Deputy Police Chief Raye Byford said he didn't have much to report since the last meeting, at that meeting they had talked about the space next to the Police Department and he would bring it up to the City Manager.

Public Works

Mr. Ortega asked the committee members to please go look at Industrial Park Road, the contractor had worked all through the break, they were working from the top down, and he had also been talking with Richard Marquez regarding the entrance median. He said they had difficulty getting it finished so the Public Works Department was going to finish it.

Mayor Pro Tem Lucero asked if there was a design for it; Mr. Ortega said yes, the problem was the material used. He said Public Works would get it where it was presentable (Mr. Ortega showed the Committee members a sample of the product to be used). Mr. Ortega said Public Works would be cleaning up medians to make them look presentable and working towards medians having the same look as those in front of Northern New Mexico College. He said this would go before the Public Works Committee the next evening, there was a full agenda for that meeting, and he invited the Community Development Committee members to attend the Public Works Committee meeting. He said there would be new policies to set permanent policies as there were a lot of inconsistencies. He said the Public Works Department staff wants to help people but get people asking why they couldn't be helped with something when someone else had been.

Planning Director Russell Naranjo said regarding the median Richard Marquez was working on, they had taken donations, had money, and he didn't know what was happening. Councilor Duran said another company had said they would put money in [for maintaining the median].

Councilor Kain-Salazar asked if it had been decided to do away with adopting medians; Mr. Ortega said the city was not allowed to have non-state or city employees maintaining the medians so he was suggesting having "sponsor a median" where businesses provided funds and had a sign in the median, but the city did the maintenance.

Councilor Garcia said dates could be added such as 2010 until whenever for companies adopting the median for years and every year add to the number. Councilor Duran said this would acknowledge longevity. Mr. Ortega said businesses would pay, the city would maintain the medians, and he wanted to come up with a design to make the medians beautiful.

Mr. Ortega said he wanted to meet with each council member regarding protocols for 2010 so when he approached an issue, he would not be in "uncharted waters", but have support at council meetings.

Deputy Chief Byford asked regarding snow removal, was state taking care of Oñate; Mr. Ortega said yes. The Deputy Chief asked if Mr. Ortega wanted officers to notify dispatch if they noticed a need for snow removal after hours, as was done in Santa Fe; Mr. Ortega said yes. Mr. Ortega said the officers could also call him directly.

Mr. Ortega said he sent out late night emails to let councilors know what Public Works Department employees were working on after normal hours.

Councilor Kain-Salazar said the last time it had snowed, roads were really bad.

Item #2, Update from City Manager on Department of Transportation renting office space on Calle Adelante next to Police Department

Deputy Police Chief Raye Byford presented:

The Deputy Chief said regarding the space DOT (New Mexico Department of Transportation) had planned to lease, the City Manager got an answer that the DOT was not going to lease the space. He said the city could turn it into big conference area or make smaller areas, and the space would be ideal to look at and lease out as meeting areas, a larger training area, or turn it into a training area to conduct police training exercises which presented scenarios; he said it was a good sized area.

Councilor Duran asked if the space became a conference room, what kinds of conferences and would the Police Department be in charge or the Community Services Department. The Deputy Chief said probably Community Services should be involved, and the city could bring in different organizations to use the space. Mr. Ortega asked if it was a warehouse, and how high the ceiling was; the Deputy Chief said probably ten feet. Mr. Ortega said in California there were indoor play gyms and they made money.

The Deputy Chief said the area was secure, had restrooms, ample parking, four separate office areas, and it had a lot of possibilities. Councilor Duran said there was a property management team being put together and this was property that could be used. She said she suggested the Deputy Chief talk with Mr. Cata first then the City Manager.

Councilor Duran asked if any were any other suggestions; the Mayor Pro Tem said using it for conferences would be ideal.

The City Clerk said the chambers was going down for about two months so she was looking for alternatives for chamber meetings; she asked how much work would there need [to be to use the space]. The Deputy Chief said it could be cleaned up and used temporarily. Mr. Cata said the Bond House was also available. The Clerk said Misión had been used in the past

Councilor Garcia asked what it would take to move the judge over there because he wanted a bigger space; Councilor Duran said she should talk to the City Manager about various uses and requests she has had for different spaces. Councilor Garcia asked if it was bigger than what municipal court currently had; the Deputy Chief said yes. Mr. Naranjo said there would be brand new construction needed and that was a possible expense. Councilor Duran said all department heads needed to talk to the City Manager and discuss it with the City Manager.

Councilor Duran asked about the restaurant at the Convento; Mr. Cata said there was a water leak New Years Eve and the ceiling had collapsed. He said water lines ran through the ceiling and the bad thing was that the ceiling was dry wall, the whole thing, and a big section would have to be replaced.

Item #3, Tennis Courts Update

Len Cata, Community Services Director, presented:

Mr. Cata said the last time he had talked with Ms. Archuleta (public schools) and Floyd Archuleta they had said a tennis court business representative had said they were going to do testing, but the business was not sure how serious the city was so if they came to look again they wanted the city to pay for it.

Councilor Duran said it was a significant amount of money so maybe the city should wait for the school board to come back and say if the school board was serious.

Mr. Cata said he would let Mr. Archuleta know.

Item #4, General Signage for City Attractions

Public Works Director Ben Ortega presented:

Mr. Ortega said at the previous City Council meeting he thought the Councilors didn't know what he had been talking about so he suggested letting him and Mr. Naranjo take the matter back [to the Council] after investigating with DOT (New Mexico Department of Transportation) what options were available, such as billboards, signage promoting Española tour routes, and signage promoting hot spots in Española.

The Mayor Pro Tem said if they could do like signs like the Camino Real signs so people knew where they need to go for an attraction.

Mr. Ortega said he wanted to go to the Lodgers Board and the Greater Española Valley Community Development Corporation.

Mr. Cata said if the DOT didn't provide the signs, the city would have to pay for them. Mr. Ortega said there needed to be a task force, and he wanted to make this happen. Councilor Garcia said a couple of business people would need to be involved also. Councilor Kain-Salazar asked if the city could do like in Las Vegas.

Item #5, Recommendations and Update from Planning and Zoning Regarding Street Vendors

Councilor Garcia said Councilor Herrera had suggested the city should have a public meeting. Mr. Naranjo said the Mayor had wanted research on policies and procedures regarding whether to eliminate street vending altogether or allow it. Councilor Garcia said there should be public meetings then it should be taken to the Council.

Mr. Naranjo said there were a lot of ordinances regarding prohibiting street vending but very few that allowed it as most places that allowed street vending didn't have ordinances regarding the matter. He said there was no happy medium. He said it was difficult to research this.

Councilor Duran said this could be a jumping off point for the public, and she suggested talking about having a public meeting. Councilor Garcia said the city did need to charge vendors, maybe yearly or monthly because right now the city was not getting anything. Councilor Duran said this would require an ordinance change.

The Clerk asked if the committee members would like to entertain this as a public townhall meeting, and said she could organize and post this as a public townhall meeting. Councilor Duran said to have the meeting at the end of January; the Clerk said the Thursday after the Council meeting.

The Deputy Chief asked which vendors would be included and if it would include the newspapers; Councilor Duran said include all, including the newspapers. The Deputy Chief said Mr. Trapp, or whoever from newspaper, should be invited.

Councilor Kain-Salazar said newspaper vending should be like it was done in Santa Fe; she said she was afraid somebody was going to get hurt. The Deputy Chief said in Santa Fe there was an agreement with the papers as to where they could and could not set up to sell newspapers. He said St. Francis Drive was considered too busy, vendors were not supposed to leave medians to sell papers, and when police witnessed this being violated or it was reported, the police contacted the newspaper the vendor was selling for.

Mr. Ortega said newspaper vendors were hazards to themselves and motorists. The Deputy Chief said what concerned the police was young kids, because kids were below the driver's line of sight.

Councilor Kain-Salazar said the newspaper vending was stopping traffic. The Deputy Chief said he thought it was time to take a serious look at it. Mr. Ortega said they should be kept on the shoulders, and if there was an accident, the city could be brought into it. Mr. Naranjo said they could take a stab at not letting it be allowed. The Mayor Pro Tem said they would have to involve the public.

Councilor Duran said it had been talked about it in the past, they said they agreed, and then they didn't take action.

Approval of Minutes, October 19, 2009

Councilor Kain-Salazar made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Garcia. The motion carried 4/0.

Matters of the Chair

There were no items.

Announcements

Councilor Garcia said the Planning Director and the City Clerk should figure out how to run the meeting.

Councilor Kain-Salazar said it should be at the Public Safety meeting on the 11th (of February).

City Clerk Velasquez asked if she needed to write down a note to call Melissa (Gallegos, Public Safety) to add it to the agenda. Councilor Kain-Salazar said it was on the agenda and to set up a townhall meeting.

Mr. Ortega asked if the committee needed a point person for signage. Councilor Duran said talk to DOT (New Mexico Department of Transportation) first.

Councilor Garcia said last week there had been trash piled up off of Highway 76 and S. McCurdy and she didn't know who to call. The City Clerk said she saw it too. Councilor Garcia said solid waste would not pick it up.

Mr. Ortega said it was state highways but he would look at it the next day.

Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Lucero made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Garcia. The motion carried 4/0.

The meeting adjourned 7:24pm.

***Minutes taken and transcribed by Sally Baxter
Deputy City Clerk/ Public Information Officer***

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF April, 2010

ELECTRONIC COPY – SIGNATURES ON FILE