

RECEIVED

Agenda Date: 4/22/2021
Council Meeting

2021 APR 21 P 2:23

CITY OF FRESNO
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Email / eComment Report

The Following item(s) were commented on:

File ID 21-537 (10:00 A.M.)

Actions pertaining to the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan:

File ID 21-566 (1-AA)

***RESOLUTION - Revoking the declaration of APN
452-114-34T as surplus property (Subject to Mayor's Veto)

File ID 21-565 (5-A)

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR -
Government Code Section 54956.8
Property: APN 468-400-54T

Total number of emails / eComments: 10

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CITY RESPONSES

Additional comments received on or after April 7, 2021 to be included in:

2021-2022 Annual Action Plan Appendix B

Comments received between March 19, 2021 and the close of the Public Comment period on April 20, 2021 are provided below along with the associated City response. All comments will be incorporated in the final submission of the plans to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Frances Reyes Acosta, City of Fresno Disability Advisory Commission: Email overall supporting the Annual Action Plan, but requesting a larger allocation of funding for Fair Housing Advocacy Services, greater emphasis on providing legal help for existing tenants to assist with requesting reasonable accommodations, and dileneating between finding housing and attaining housing in the metrics and outcomes for success for funded programs with the objective of “persons assisted” (full email attached following this summary).

[City Response:

- A response will be included in the final application to HUD.
- The public comment has been considered and accepted.]

Karla Martinez, Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability: Email supporting the Neighborhood Street Improvement projects and requesting an increased effort to reach individuals who do not have digital access or an online presence (full email attached following this summary).

[City Response:

- A response will be included in the final application to HUD.
- The public comment has been considered and accepted.]

David Baf, resident: Email requesting road repair be made on North Laureen Avenue (full email attached following this summary).

[City Response:

- North Laureen is currently in the Design phase at Public Works, and construction is scheduled for August 2022 through October 2022 as part of a larger project around Ericson Elementary.
- The public comment has been considered and accepted.]

Michael Wulf, resident: Email requesting road repair be made in the area of Cambridge Avenue leading to North Lauren Ave (full email attached following this summary.)

[City Response:

- North Lauren is currently in the Design phase at Public Works, and construction is scheduled for August 2022 through October 2022 as part of a larger project around Ericson Elementary.
- The public comment has been considered and accepted.]

Shirley Jackson, resident: Survey response suggesting reallocating a portion of the Police Department funds to fund homeless housing and rental assistance (full survey response attached following this summary.)

[City Response:

- A response will be included in the final application to HUD.
- The public comment has been considered and accepted.]

Mike Rhodes, resident: Survey response suggesting establishing homeless encampments throughout the city that provide a safe and legal place for homeless people to live, obtain water, access bathrooms, and have trash removed. Also suggests that persons experiencing homelessness get whatever help they need to transition to permanent housing (full survey response attached following this summary.)

[City Response:

- A response will be included in the final application to HUD.
- The public comment has been considered and accepted.]

Robert McCloskey, Fresno Homeless Advocates: Survey response advocating for a “Housing First” approach to homelessness as well as providing tiny homes, container homes, and using programs like Habitat for Humanity and apprenticeships to lower the cost of housing (full survey response attached following this summary.)

[City Response:

- A response will be included in the final application to HUD.
- The public comment has been considered and accepted.]

Mirna Garcia, NAHREP Fresno: Survey response suggesting allocations toward grants for homeownership and downpayment assistance from IDIS Project ID Numbers 13, 15, and 16 (full survey response attached following this summary.)

[City Response:

- A response will be included in the final application to HUD.
- The public comment has been considered and accepted.]

Exhibit 1: Email – Frances Reyes Acosta (Page 1 of 2)



April 13, 2021

RE: City of Fresno Annual Action Plan 2021-2022

Attn: Planning and Development Department, Housing and Community Development Division:

The Disability Advisory Commission (DAC) advises the City in matters pertaining to individuals with a wide range of disabilities. The comment below were prepared by the DAC Housing Subcommittee on behalf of the Commission as a whole.

Overall, the comprehensive five year goals and the Annual Action steps as identified are supported by this Commission. We would like to take this opportunity, however, to highlight some critical elements in the proposed plans and provide recommendations for adjusting funding to better serve the whole community.

When considering the HUD Community Planning & Development priorities to provide decent, affordable housing, create suitable living environments, and expand economic opportunities, it is critical that the City look at these element from a disability access lens. Key areas that make or break housing efforts for people with disabilities include ensuring that there are not only affordable housing options, but also available and accessible housing options. In our Central Valley, availability of accessible units is the key crisis for people with disabilities looking for affordable housing. It is recommended that when funding projects for construction of affordable housing units, that the City require more than the mandated minimum number of accessible unit to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

The CDBG funding as allocated in this plan is critical for disability access in the community. The federally mandated and council approved ADA Transition Plan contains priorities for barrier removals at our parks, community centers, and the public right-of-way. CDBG funding for these barrier removal projects are a critical component of fulfilling Title II accessibility mandates, an aspect that should be included within the text of the document. Economic opportunities opened up for people with disabilities when funding is allocated for improving infrastructure. When a person with a disability can use the sidewalk and access public transportation, they now have the ability and opportunity to get to work. When the City invests in barrier removal projects at community centers, they open up possibilities for participation in life-long recreation, from early childhood intervention programs to meal support and recreation services for older adults. The DAC is supportive of the CDBG allocations as indicated.

The DAC is supportive of HOPWA goals as stated. While strides have been made in the last few decades in the overall acceptance of persons with AIDS/HIV, there are still many needs related to increasing the housing opportunities for these individuals with disabilities.

Exhibit 1: Email – Frances Reyes Acosta (Page 2 of 2)

The ESG objectives as stated show the awareness of the intersectional issues faced by people with disabilities experiencing homelessness. DAC recommends to continue to partner with disability subject matter experts for greater understanding of the diverse needs of this community and for culturally competent services.

The DAC encourages a larger allocation of funding for Fair Housing Advocacy Services and greater emphasis on providing legal help for existing tenants to assist with requesting reasonable accommodations. Many currently housed community members with disabilities have tenant-landlord struggles that put them at risk of experiencing homelessness, including but not limited to unfair rental cost increases, refusal to provide reasonable accommodations, and unlawful eviction threat. While federal mandates state that tenants must be provided reasonable accommodations, having those needs actually met is a common struggle that people with disabilities face. Many are left with little recourse and fear retaliation or displacement from their home if they push to have their legal rights to be met in rental housing. The plan objective of 75 persons served is not enough to meet the actual needs of this community, based on the observations from local disability advocates.

The DAC recommends that the City better define the metrics and outcomes for success for funded programs with the objectives of "persons assisted." Understanding that finding housing and actually attaining housing are two different outcomes, it would be of value to report the extent to which these persons were assisted.

The DAC is supportive of housing rehabilitation programs that are provided through the HOME fund. These kinds of programs assist people with disabilities to age in place with dignity.

Individuals with disabilities represent 14 percent of our community. Fresno outstrips both state and national averages for the percentage of population identified as a portion of an overall community (11% and 13%, respectively). As the population continues to age, these numbers are quite likely to increase. The investment in accessible and affordable public housing is essential to the independence of people with disabilities and the older adult population of Fresno.

Any questions on these comments can be addressed to DAC Secretary, Shannon M. Mulhall, Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 559-621-8716 or Shannon.Mulhall@fresno.gov. We would happily discuss any and all of the above issues.

Sincerely,



Frances Reyes Acosta, Chair
City of Fresno Disability Advisory Commission

Exhibit 2: Email – Karla Martinez (1 of 2)

April 16, 2021
Planning and Development Department
Attn: Housing and Community Development Division
2600 Fresno Street Room 3065
Fresno CA 93721

sent via email

To the Housing and Community Development Staff:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments for the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan. Leadership Counsel works alongside the most impacted communities advocating for sound policy to eradicate injustice and secure equal access to opportunity regardless of wealth, race, income, and place. We work with community leaders throughout the San Joaquin Valley and Eastern Coachella Valley on such issues as safe, affordable drinking water, essential transit services, wastewater services, decent, affordable housing, and the right to live free from industrial pollution with infrastructure that supports healthy lifestyles.

First, we'd like to acknowledge the Public Infrastructure Improvements projects that are included in the Annual Action Plan. The funding that will go towards complete streets and street improvements around Yosemite Middle School and the Chester Neighborhood have been long awaited and we look forward to seeing the construction phase for these projects begin and continue to get funded. These communities have lacked the proper infrastructure to create a safe, healthy environment and we're glad to see these investments being made.

Furthermore, the programs described in the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan are especially important, as COVID has affected many families this past year and residents throughout the City of Fresno are counting on programs to help them financially, socially, and economically. Although these programs are highly important, it is equally important to secure in place an effective outreach procedure, so as many families and individuals can use these programs. There should be diligent efforts made to ensure those who need access to these programs most, can benefit from them. There should be a way to access these programs for those who lack a digital and online presence. For instance, it should be easy to call, obtain a paper form, safely come in person to access the needed information.

We want to especially highlight the Promote Fair Housing, Home Repair and Rehabilitation Program, and the Senior Paint Program. Residents have continually asked about programs such as these and have found it hard to find the appropriate information and application for these resources. Even ourselves, as paid advocates who are aware of these funding sources and the programs they finance, have difficulty accessing this information to provide for folks. To promote these programs, we recommend posting informational flyers at high trafficked areas and

Exhibit 2: Email – Karla Martinez (2 of 2)

existing spaces where people congregate such as community facebook pages, laundromats, bus stops and buses, community centers, schools, social services offices, and so forth. Working with local community based organizations, schools, religious institutions, and other informal groups who have an existing presence and relationships with these populations is also another way in which more residents can be reached. Specifically, Leadership Counsel welcomes the opportunity to support outreach efforts and ensure community partners are aware of the services provided. The residents of Fresno deserve to live and pursue quality housing and these programs can help them achieve it.

We thank the Housing and Community Development Staff again for the opportunity to submit public comments. We hope our recommendations are considered and look forward to the programs and infrastructure. As always we are happy to partner and help with outreach. If any questions arise, do not hesitate to contact me at kmartinez@leadershipcounsel.org.

Sincerely,
Karla Martinez
Policy Advocate
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Exhibit 3: Email – David Baf (1 of 1)

From: [HCDD](#)
To: "[davidbaf150](#)"
Subject: RE: 2021 Action Plan
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 9:46:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.ipa](#)

Hello David,

Thank you for taking the time to provide input on the 2021 Annual Action Plan. I have good news. Your street is currently in the design phase and is scheduled for construction in August 2022 through October 2022. It is part of a larger project around Ericson Elementary.

Housing and Community Development Division
City of Fresno Planning and Development Department
2600 Fresno Street • CHN 3065 • Fresno CA 93721
HCDD@fresno.gov • 559-621-8300



From: davidbaf150 <davidbaf150@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 4:47 PM
To: HCDD <HCDD@fresno.gov>
Subject: 2021 Action Plan

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I live at 2035 N Laureen, moved here in 1992. The neighborhood has never had any resurfacing, on Weldon east of chestnut the street looks like a dirt road? It's super bumpy in front of the church, it makes the entire neighborhood look bad lowers home values and attracts homeless and riff raff. Please resurface Weldon and not let us turn into a blighted neighborhood, thanks D.B.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Exhibit 4: Email – Michael Wulf (1 of 1)

From: [HCDD](#)
To: "Michael Wulf"; [HCDD](#)
Bcc: [Susie Williams](#)
Subject: RE: "2021 Action Plan"
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 9:24:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Hello Michael,

I just received an update from our Public Works Department that your street is in the design process, and construction is scheduled for August 2022 through October 2022. It will be part of a larger project around Ericson Elementary.

Housing and Community Development Division
City of Fresno Planning and Development Department
2600 Fresno Street • CHN 3065 • Fresno CA 93721
HCDD@fresno.gov • 559-621-8300



From: Michael Wulf <mwulf559@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 11:45 AM
To: HCDD <HCDD@fresno.gov>
Subject: "2021 Action Plan"

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To whom it may concern.

I am a resident in the 93703 zip code. I am thankful and appreciate the opportunity to be able to submit a comment in regards to fixing the roads in Fresno. In particular, I would like to request the residential area of Cambridge Ave off of Chestnut Ave leading to N.Laureen Ave exiting towards E. Vassar Ave. These roads are in HORRIBLE condition. It feels like an earthquake driving through these road daily ! Let's continue to beautify Fresno and build appeal in ALL of the city, not just select areas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Exhibit 5: Survey Response – Shirley Jackson (1 of 2)

2021-2022 Annual Action Plan Public Comment

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, April 16, 2021 4:49:27 PM
Last Modified: Friday, April 16, 2021 4:56:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:17
IP Address: 99.3.108.45

Page 1

Q1

Which priority areas are you commenting on? Select all that apply.

**Homeless and Homelessness Prevention,
Affordable Housing,
Public Infrastructure and Facilities**

Q2

Please enter your input or comment to the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan

Support! We need to help our homeless and low income families. Studies have shown that by giving the homeless housing and families rental assistance people are able to bounce back and get back on their feet. I also think the city of Fresno needs to defund our police department and give their overbloated budget to city projects that will actually HELP the people of Fresno and remove the "need" for such policing (or lack thereof) in the first place. Fresno has so much potential to be an amazing city, and helping our homeless, low-income folks, and communities around the city by investing in projects such as affordable housing, homeless prevention, and public infrastructure is a step in the right direction.

Q3

Name

Shirley Jackson

Q4

Organization

Respondent skipped this question

Q5

Title

Respondent skipped this question

Q6

Email Address

lioninthetrees@gmail.com

1 / 2

Exhibit 5: Survey Response – Shirley Jackson (2 of 2)

2021-2022 Annual Action Plan Public Comment

Q7

No

Sign up for email updates from the City of Fresno's
Housing and Community Development Division

2 / 2

Exhibit 6: Survey Response – Mike Rhodes (1 of 2)

2021-2022 Annual Action Plan Public Comment

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, April 18, 2021 9:57:42 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, April 18, 2021 10:06:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:22
IP Address: 98.192.189.103

Page 1

Q1

Which priority areas are you commenting on? Select all that apply.

Homeless and Homelessness Prevention,
Affordable Housing,
Community Services,
Fair Housing

Q2

Please enter your input or comment to the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan

We need to establish homeless encampments throughout the city that provide a safe and legal place for homeless people to live. Fresh water, toilets and trash pick up will be provided.

Next, each homeless person will get whatever help they need, transition to permanent housing and live a better life.

Q3

Name

Mike Rhodes

Q4

Organization

None

Q5

Title

N/a

Exhibit 6: Survey Response – Mike Rhodes (2 of 2)

2021-2022 Annual Action Plan Public Comment

Q6

Email Address

mikerhodes@comcast.net

Q7

No

Sign up for email updates from the City of Fresno's
Housing and Community Development Division

Exhibit 7: Survey Response – Robert McCloskey (1 of 4)

2021-2022 Annual Action Plan Public Comment

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, April 19, 2021 3:56:23 PM
Last Modified: Monday, April 19, 2021 4:00:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:15
IP Address: 47.151.224.157

Page 1

Q1

Homeless and Homelessness Prevention

Which priority areas are you commenting on? Select all that apply.

Exhibit 7: Survey Response – Robert McCloskey (2 of 4)

2021-2022 Annual Action Plan Public Comment

Q2

Please enter your input or comment to the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan

2 / 4

Exhibit 7: Survey Response – Robert McCloskey (3 of 4)

2021-2022 Annual Action Plan Public Comment

As the Annual Action Plan states, the City has received \$12.6 million in annual entitlement funds for 2021 to provide decent, affordable housing, create suitable living environments, and expand economic opportunities. In addition to these annual entitlement funds, the City has recently completed planning for the expenditure of over \$38 million in emergency funding issued in 2019 and has not yet issued a required report on this funding. In 2008 the City issued a 10 year plan to end homelessness with a "Housing First" approach. To this day the City is still not using such an approach to the never ending housing crisis. This Annual Action Plan continues to perpetuate a cycle of failure.

We, the community, are at a crossroads. Do we accept a continued failed effort to "shelter the homeless"? Do we continue to pour millions of dollars into the current system of temporary housing, law enforcement, and code enforcement that perpetuates a cycle of chronic homelessness for some? Obviously, the City needs to embrace a different, more cost-effective, long term solution with a more humane approach to actually housing the homeless. The voices of the unhoused community must be represented at every step and immediate needs must be met first.

We know that the main causes of homelessness are the lack of affordable housing, health problems, employment, poverty, low wages, and domestic abuse. The chronic unhoused population, by most estimates, varies from 10-25% of the unhoused community. Therefore, a small percentage of unhoused people are using expensive emergency room and acute care services. They are constantly being harassed by police and arrested for petty crimes. The chronically unhoused are circulated through jails and prisons at an enormous cost. With effective long term solutions, these costs can be dramatically reduced.

A "Housing First" approach should be put into place, which is mandated by much of the state and federal funding. In a Housing First model, needed services are provided off-site by community-based social service organizations and tenants are supported with job training, counseling and other supportive programs. Where implemented, this approach had had great success. It is a shift from the past and present, where an individual has to go through a number of transitional steps to qualify for permanent housing. The Housing First model represents an opportunity to transform the homeless, health, and criminal justice systems to increase housing stability, reduce emergency healthcare use, and reduce recidivism to jail. It will break the cycle of multiple crisis service use, resulting in public cost offsets.

Census Bureau show that the housing vacancy rate in Fresno has fallen from 6.9% in 2019 to less than 1% in 2020. Obviously, without enough available housing the homeless crisis will only worsen unless more creative solutions are implemented.

A first look at funding sources and recipients show a few providers receiving large amounts of funding. Although the City's efforts are heading toward a permanent housing model, the numbers of people currently housed and projected to be housed are still just a fraction of the homeless population. The City should consider other models and programs that have been used to provide lower cost housing, such as tiny homes, container homes, and less costly ways to build, such as Habitat for Humanity and apprenticeship programs. Until more permanent housing is built, interim measures must be taken, including the establishment of safe camps throughout the city, sanitation facilities throughout the city, and more low barrier shelters.

We are at a crossroads. Do we continue to fund the continuum of care service model, where there is an inherent investment in keeping things the same, i.e. keeping the shelters and keeping the transitional programs funded? Or implement a variety of options to create permanent housing? As elected officials it is your responsibility to use the recent surge in funding to establish more permanent housing. There are political, ideological and public opinion reasons that make it a challenge to implement Housing First. Some arguments against Housing First are: "you need to earn your housing", "why should you give someone something for nothing?" or "these people are undeserving". To counter this, we need to appeal to people through a moral argument, that housing is a fundamental human right. Or, through a financial argument, that millions of our tax dollars are being poured into a never-ending cycle of providing temporary shelter beds, transitional housing, and costly services.

Bob McCloskey

Exhibit 7: Survey Response – Robert McCloskey (4 of 4)

2021-2022 Annual Action Plan Public Comment

Q3

Name

Robert McCloskey

Q4

Organization

Fresno Homeless Advocates

Q5

Title

Parliamentarian

Q6

Email Address

bobmccloskey06@gmail.com

Q7

Yes

Sign up for email updates from the City of Fresno's
Housing and Community Development Division

Exhibit 8: Survey Response – Mirna Garcia (1 of 2)

2021-2022 Annual Action Plan Public Comment

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:43:50 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:48:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:11
IP Address: 67.181.206.68

Page 1

Q1 **Fair Housing**

Which priority areas are you commenting on? Select all that apply.

Q2

Please enter your input or comment to the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan

Under this particular items I see allocation for funds to temporary housing and rental assistance. Nothing allocated towards grants for homeownership, down payment assistance. As someone who lives in Fresno and works as a realtor in Fresno I first hand am able to see the needs of our families. The best way to resolve and have sustainable wealth is through home ownership. IDIS Project ID Number 13, 15, 16,

Q3

Name

Mirna Garcia - NAHREP President

Q4

Organization

NAHREP Fresno

Q5

Title

President

Q6

Email Address

Mirna@EnvisionFresno.com

1 / 2

Exhibit 8: Survey Response – Mirna Garcia (2 of 2)

2021-2022 Annual Action Plan Public Comment

Q7

Yes

Sign up for email updates from the City of Fresno's
Housing and Community Development Division

City Council on 2021-04-22 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Meeting Time: 04-22-21 09:00

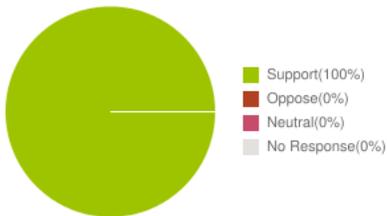
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
City Council on 2021-04-22 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting	04-22-21 09:00	65	2	2	0	0

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



City Council on 2021-04-22 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

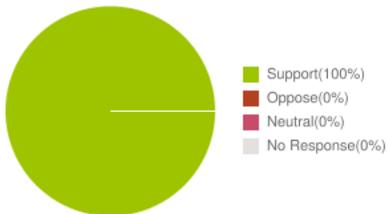
04-22-21 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
5-A ID 21-565 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR - Government Code Section 54956.8 Property: APN 468-400-54T Negotiating Parties: City Manager Esqueda, Prosperous Terra, LLC (Ruelas, Inc.) Under Negotiations: Price and terms of sale	1	1	0	0
1-AA ID 21-566 ***RESOLUTION - Revoking the declaration of APN 452-114-34T as surplus property (Subject to Mayor's Veto)	1	1	0	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



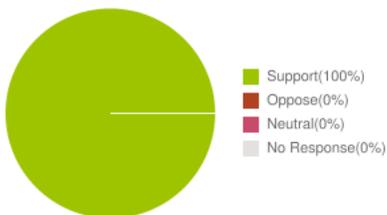
Agenda Item: eComments for 5-A ID 21-565 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR - Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: APN 468-400-54T

Negotiating Parties: City Manager Esqueda, Prosperous Terra, LLC (Ruelas, Inc.)

Under Negotiations: Price and terms of sale

Overall Sentiment



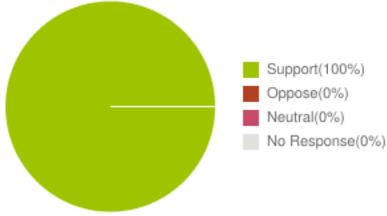
Brian Stepanek

Location: 55415, Minneapolis

Submitted At: 8:38pm 04-20-21

I am in full support of Fuego FC building a stadium in Downtown Fresno.

Overall Sentiment



Dan Waterhouse

Location:

Submitted At: 11:55am 04-21-21

As a past resident on Dudley Avenue across the fence from the proposed park, I wholeheartedly support revoking the surplus property declaration and moving ahead with development of this long needed neighborhood park.