

Pleasant Grove City Council Work Session Minutes
August 12, 2008
7 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mayor:

Michael W. Daniels

City Council Members:

Lee Jensen

Excused:

Bruce Call

Cindy Boyd

Jeffrey D. Wilson

Mark K. Atwood

City Recorder:

Amanda R. Fraughton

Deputy Recorder:

Mary Burgin

Others:

Frank Mills, City Administrator

Tina Petersen, City Attorney

Gary Clay, Finance Director

Lynn Walker, Public Works Director

Ken Young, Comm. Dev. Director

Tom Paul, Police Chief

Richard Bradford, Economic Dev. Director

Degen Lewis, City Engineer

Marc Sanderson, Fire Chief

The City Council Members met in the City Council Chambers at 86 East 100 South, Pleasant Grove, Utah 84062 at 7 p.m.

Mayor Daniels welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Daniels called roll for the Council and noted that Council Members Call, Wilson, Atwood and Jensen were present. He excused Council Member Boyd.

2. Opening Remarks

Opening Remarks were given by Council Member Atwood.

3. Department Report (Leisure Services Department)

Director Bradford told the Mayor and Council that due to Director Giles not being able to attend the meeting, he would be introducing the speaker for the Leisure Services Department presentation. He then introduced Mr. David Biesinger, and said that he was in his last year at BYU. He also noted that Mr. Biesinger was a graduate of Pleasant Grove High School and a recent newlywed. Mr. Biesinger had met his wife, Celeste, while working during the summer in Alaska. Mr. Biesinger's majoring in

Geography planning (urban and rural), with a minor in math.

Mr. Biesinger then came forward. He said he had been asked to work on the City's parks and green spaces as well as the trail system. He is to provide the Council with an inventory of what is available in the City, including passive parks, recreational parks and the overall trail system. He asked that as he goes through his presentation, that if there were any questions, that the Council feel free to ask.

He said that there is a national standard set as to how many acres needed to be in green space of some kind. The standard is 10 acres of parks per 1,000 people. With a current population of about 32,000 people, he said Pleasant Grove was short with only 118 acres in parks.

Next, he explained the terms passive parks and recreational parks. He said a passive park would include an area that could be used for open space with park benches, picnic areas, etc. He noted that when doing an inventory of this kind of park, he found that the City needed more of them. With Manila Creek Park under construction with the recreational pond, he said the City's inventory will increase. He said he has been brainstorming with staff to try to see areas that these particular kinds of parks could be regionally built. Also, Mr. Biesinger noted that in the General Plan, on page 88, there are specific areas that are targeted for parks and trails. He suggested the Council might want to refer to the map in that section.

A recreational park, on the other hand, would be a park like Manila where there are baseball fields and tennis courts. He said the current recreational facilities are heavily overused, and there really needs to be more such parks provided for the growing population in Pleasant Grove. He also added that the Manila Creek Park is scheduled to eventually have ball diamonds, but that is a few years away.

Trails were the next subject he included. He said that a comprehensive trail system for the City is also included in the General Plan. However, he noted that there are certain trails that are still incomplete. Some of those proposed trails go through wetlands, and need to be approved by the Army Corps of Engineers.

He said he has suggested to Director Giles that all trails eventually be uniformly marked with stripes and the new Pleasant Grove logo on trail markers. Additionally, he said that trails could be built from park to park within the City. Also, he suggested that perhaps people could rent bikes at the new Embassy Suites Hotel and ride around the trails of the City.

Mr. Biesinger then reminded the Council and Mayor that people often look at the amount of parks and trails that a City has when they are looking to purchase a home.

Mayor Daniels then asked that in the national standards that Mr. Biesinger was quoting, if open area next to the City in the form of forestry areas could be included. He said there are hundreds of thousands of acres that are not owned by the City, but contain a huge natural trail system that residents can take advantage of.

Mr. Biesinger said that was an excellent question. He said he would do some research and get back with the Mayor.

Council Member Atwood then remarked that it was to the City's advantage to have these areas being looked at with "a fresh pair of eyes," as Mr. Biesinger was. He added that he felt it was good to have someone evaluating what we are and can do with our parks and trails systems.

Mr. Biesinger then said that even though he had grown up in Pleasant Grove, he could see, through his training that the City was doing better with the upgrading and building of parks.

Council Member Jensen said that with the national figures that Mr. Biesinger had quoted as to the City being behind in building parks and trails, he wondered if there was anyway it could ever catch up with where it needed to be. He said if the City could provide all that was prescribed, at what cost?

Mr. Biesinger then explained that it would be very difficult for the City to acquire the land needed to meet the national standard. However, he said that what the Mayor had said about surrounding forestry areas would indirectly add to the acreage. He said the wilderness areas would need to become more accessible by trails so that residents could benefit from those open spaces.

Council Member Atwood agreed. He said he supported a previously mentioned idea of hooking together Battle Creek (Kiwanis) area to Grove Creek canyon. He also noted that residents were very blessed to have such areas in their backyards.

Council Member Jensen said that the kind of area he was referring to was open parks. Mr. Biesinger then explained that parks aren't just areas with sod and swings. He said it is also undeveloped areas that have access for residents.

With the Murdock Canal, Mayor Daniels said that Pleasant Grove has the longest area, three miles, of any community in Utah County with the canal in their city limits. He said the canal is slated to be covered, and that area will become part of the trail system for the City. When doing calculations of trails areas, he said that it should probably be considered part of the parks and trails.

In regard to the national standards that Mr. Biesinger brought up to the Council, Director Young explained that those guidelines were used more as a recommendation, not an exact amount. He said that it is now suggested that each community look individually at their own situation, and involving the public, come up with their own needs assessment. He also noted that using forestry land with City trails and parks would be considered a good blend for guidelines.

Mayor Daniels thanked Mr. Biesinger for his report.

4. Discussion of items for the upcoming August 19, 2008 City Council meeting

Mayor Daniels said that after the consent agenda items on the August 19, 2008 agenda, there were just two items of business.

a. To consider approval of Dee Bates' request for Final Plat approval of a 3-lot subdivision known as Dana Point Subdivision, Plat "A," located at approximately 596 South PG Blvd, in The Grove-Interchange Subdistrict zone. SAM WHITE'S LANE NEIGHBORHOOD

Director Young explained that this item will be discussing property on the east side of Pleasant Grove Boulevard in the vicinity of the Dana Point development. He said the owners want to subdivide and develop this particular piece of property. With the plat never being recorded, he said this would take care of the recordation of the plat.

b. To consider approval of Elk Ridge Development’s request of Final Plat approval of a 4-lot subdivision, known as Dana Point Subdivision, Plat “B,” located at approximately 550 South PG Blvd, in The Grove-Interchange Subdistrict zone. SAM WHITE’S LANE NEIGHBORHOOD

Director Young explained that this plat is directly west of the property that had just been discussed in item “a.” He said that there isn’t any planned development for this property at this time.

5. Mayor, City Council and Staff business

- Director Bradford said that he would like to add a little piece to Mr. Biesinger’s presentation that was given earlier. He said he is working with him and Director Giles on a pedestrian-friendly connectivity from the new Embassy Suites Hotel and convention center to the down town area.

He next told the Mayor and Council that the PGBA had held a very successful lunch and mini trade show the previous Friday in the downtown park. He said that over 100 people attended

- Engineer Lewis said that in reference to Mr. Biesinger’s earlier report, there are several things that can be done to formulate a really exciting trails plan in Pleasant Grove. He said he looks forward to participating in the formulation of that plan.
- Director Young said it was his intention to have the down town ordinance prepared for the August 19th Council meeting. However, he said that there were some difficulties in getting it ready, and it was now planned to be on the September 2, 2008 Council agenda.

He then announced that the soft opening for Central Bank (on Pleasant Grove Boulevard) will be on Monday, August 18, 2008. The grand opening will be on Friday, August 26, 2008 at 10 a.m. Director Bradford said he and Administrator Mills were given a tour of their new facility, and were very impressed by the beautiful surroundings—especially the woodwork.

- Director Walker announced that the paving on 200 South was coming along well. He said it was being done from Main St. up to the top of the road.

In regard to the Manila Creek pond, Director Walker said they would be holding a Neighborhood Advisory Board meeting at a concerned resident’s home in that area to discuss how the pond is being monitored by the piezometers. He said that he and the engineers do not see any evidence of water leakage from the pond.

Council Member Jensen noted that he had received a call from a neighbor that said that his neighborhood, around the Sage Road area, has no storm drain system. Director Young said that curb and gutter is part of the storm drain system. He also said that part of that area actually does have a storm drain system in place.

- Chief Sanderson told the Mayor and Council that Captain Steve Brande had been doing a fire inspection the previous week and as he was looking up, took a misstep and fell one story down an elevator shaft. He said he was transported by ambulance, and had surgery on his injured back. Currently, he said the prognosis looked good.
- Chief Paul indicated that at 1:45 a.m. on the previous Sunday, two of the public safety cars were parked along State St. and about 1400 West behind a suspected drunk driver. He said a car came along the highway, and hit the back of the two police cars, doing a tremendous amount of damage. The driver of the car that hit the police cars was cited for drunk driving. He said, however, that one of the officers had just stepped about 3 feet away from the police car before it was hit, and was amazingly safe.
- Recorder Fraughton reminded the Mayor and Council that she had handed out registration forms for the September meeting of the Utah League of Cities and Towns Conference in Salt Lake. She said she needed to know in the next few days whether the Council Members and their spouses would be attending. She also offered to fill out the form for them, if they just call her in City Hall.
- Attorney Petersen handed out a copy of the Supreme Court's information on oral arguments. She stated that she had been getting a lot of questions on the procedures. The information in the handout should be helpful to the Council and answer some of their questions. She said that she has three tickets for the hearing for herself, Mayor Daniels and Council Member Atwood. If anyone else would like to attend, she said they can come to the hearing and stand in line and try to get in. Also, she said Mr. White was planning to be in Pleasant Grove on August 19, 2008 with the attorney that will be doing the oral arguments in the case. She indicated that they will be talking to certain City staff in preparation for the case.

Mayor Daniels then told the Council that he had received a phone call from a member of the CNN newsgroup that covers Supreme Court cases. He said the reporter will be talking to a variety of people concerning the case.

Attorney Petersen then told those present that Mr. White had asked that City officials should not give impromptu media interviews. She noted that Mr. White would like questions referred to his office.

- Mayor Daniels then complimented Director Clay on his and Treasurer Bezzant's hard work on the report that went to the State Auditor's office. He said they received another excellent rating on the report.

Mayor Daniels then said that the City Summer Party would be coming up on August 20, 2008 at 6 p.m. He said that Council Member Atwood would be heading up assignments for the Council for the party.

6. Plat signed

The Loader Estates final plat was signed.

7. Executive Session to hold a strategy session to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property (UCA 52-4-205(1)(d)).

ACTION: At 7:45 p.m, Council Member Wilson moved to go into executive session to hold a strategy session to discuss the purchase, exchange or lease of real property (UCA 52-4-205(1)(d)). Council Member Jensen seconded and the motion passed unanimously with Council Members Wilson, Call, Jensen and Atwood voting, “Aye.”

ATTENDING:

Mayor:

Mike W. Daniels

Council Members: Excused:

Lee Jensen Cindy Boyd

Mark K. Atwood

Bruce Call

Jeffrey D. Wilson

Others:

Frank Mills, City Administrator

Tina Petersen, City Attorney

Gary Clay, Finance Director

Amanda Fraughton, City Recorder

Mary Burgin, Deputy Recorder

ACTION: At 7:57 p.m, Council Member Call moved to go back into regular session. Council Member Jensen seconded and the motion passed unanimously with Council Members Call, Jensen, Wilson and Atwood voting, “Aye.”

At this point, Council Member Jensen questioned Administrator Mills regarding the status of the State St. UDOT railroad overpass project. He asked if Administrator Mills knew the current timing of the project. Administrator Mills answered that bids were currently being opened for the detour that needed to be temporarily used along 200 South from State St. to Main St, then again south to State St. The plan is that UDOT will provide two lanes plus a turn lane along that route. There will be new asphalt as well as curb and gutter and a new drainage system, also. Additionally, he said that the detour will probably be used until April of 2009, or about 18 months.

Council Member Call asked if Administrator Mills had any new information on the projected completion of 2000 West. Administrator Mills said that the City is hoping to do their part of the project in September. However, whether there will be oil for the asphalt available is still in question. He explained that the county representatives are now saying that they are going to put in storm drain system now as well as curb and gutter. The sidewalk, landscaping, etc, will match what the City is doing on 2000 West, he noted.

8. Adjourn

ACTION: At 8:01 p.m, Council Member Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Atwood seconded and the motion passed unanimously with Council Members Call, Wilson, Atwood and Jensen voting “Aye.”

This certifies that the Work Session Minutes For August 12, 2008 are a true, full and correct copy as approved by the City Council on September 2, 2008.

Mary Burgin, Deputy Recorder