

AGENDA REPORT FOR CITY COUNCIL

MEETING DATE: March 2, 1999

TO: The Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: A Resolution Of The Fairfield City Council Approving The Recommendation From The Community Services Commission That The Peafowl Remain At Rolling Hills Neighborhood Park II And Directing The Community Services Department To Develop A Peafowl Management Plan

A) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution.

ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION The Community Services Commission approved the Rolling Hills Neighborhood Park II Peafowl Research Committee's recommendation at its December 2, 1998 meeting. The Committee's recommendation was to keep the peafowl on the Dunnell-Burton property, incorporate them into the development and long term use of the park, and to have the City develop a management plan to contain and manage the peafowl on site.

B) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The City of Fairfield held a public meeting in August 1998, to organize a Peafowl Research Committee prior to beginning the planning process for the second neighborhood park in Rolling Hills. This Committee was charged with the tasks of researching information on peafowl habitat and their compatibility with public park use. The Committee was also asked to make a recommendation on whether the peafowl should be incorporated into the development and long term use of the park. In addition to the research, the Committee created a survey which was sent to the neighborhood for input on retaining/removing birds. The Committee's recommendation includes retaining peafowl on the site and directing the City's Community Services Department to develop a Peafowl Management Plan for the site.

C) DISCUSSION: The 6.2 acre future park site, located at the corner of Hilborn Road and Hillridge Drive, was deeded to the City of Fairfield on May 19, 1998, by Braewood Development Corporation after the termination of the life estate in favor of Adey L. Dunnell. Approximately 40 peafowl are present at the site, descendants from an original pair dating back some 45 years, that belonged to the late Mrs. Dunnell.

As housing developed in the Rolling Hills area, concern and passion regarding the peafowl has grown. When the property was acquired by the City of Fairfield,

MEETING DATE: MARCH 2, 1999

SUBJECT: A Resolution Of The Fairfield City Council Approving The Recommendation From The Community Services Commission That The Peafowl Remain At Rolling Hills Neighborhood Park II And Directing The Community Services Department To Develop A Peafowl Management Plan

and the desire to begin the planning process for park development occurred, it became evident that research on peafowl, habitat and potential integration into future park use was needed. The City held a public meeting to present the park planning and peafowl research process and seek volunteers to form a Committee that would research detailed information on peafowl, habitat, compatibility within a public park site and neighborhood sentiment regarding the retention of birds at the site.

The Committee, made up of neighborhood volunteers and the City's Landscape Architectural consultant, met over a series of four meetings from August through October 1998, to tour the site and conduct detailed research with Avian experts, peafowl ranches, zoological gardens, City of Fairfield, County of Solano and communities with similar settings/situations. The Committee developed and synthesized a survey, illustrating neighborhood concern and desire for incorporation of the peafowl into future park plans. The survey results showed that the community overwhelmingly wants the birds to stay. The results on how to keep the flock were almost evenly split between free roam throughout the neighborhood and containment on the site.

The Committee and Community Services Commission recommend that the peafowl remain at the site and that the City develop a management plan to study a means of containment for the peafowl, to determine the optimum number of peafowl, and to determine if maintaining peafowl on site is feasible from a financial and operational stand point. The management plan will guide the integration of the birds into the future park, if found to be feasible.

- D) PUBLIC CONTACT: Initial public meeting on July 30, 1998, ongoing meetings with Research Committee from August-October 1998, presentation at Rolling Hills Neighborhood Network General Meeting on October 15, 1998, and Community Services Commission public hearing on November 18 and December 2, 1998.
- E) FISCAL IMPACT: Fee of approximately \$5,000 is anticipated to hire avian consultant to develop management plan. The management plan will include cost estimates to develop bird aviary structures, continued maintenance of aviary structures, and ongoing care of the birds, including feed and veterinary care. Funding for the plan is available in the FY 1998-99 budget.

PAGE 3

MEETING DATE:

SUBJECT:

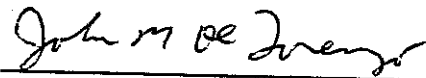
AGENDA REPORT FOR CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 2, 1999

A Resolution Of The Fairfield City Council Approving The Recommendation From The Community Services Commission That The Peafowl Remain At Rolling Hills Neighborhood Park II And Directing The Community Services Department To Develop A Peafowl Management Plan

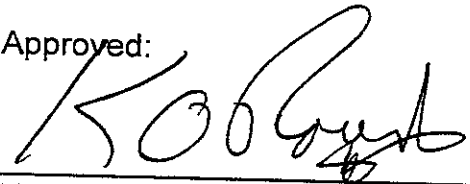
- F) ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION: Deny approval of peafowl plan recommendation. Amend peafowl plan.

Prepared by:



John M. De Lorenzo, Director
Community Services Department

Approved:



Kevin O'Rourke, City Manager

Coordinated with: City of Fairfield Planning and Development, Fire and Police Departments
Rolling Hills Neighborhood Network

Attachment:

Resolution
Excerpt of Community Services Commission Meeting Minutes of
November 18 and December 2, 1998

CITY OF FAIRFIELD

RESOLUTION NO. 99-59

A RESOLUTION OF THE FAIRFIELD CITY COUNCIL APPROVING THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION THAT THE PEAFOWL REMAIN AT ROLLING HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK II AND DIRECTING THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP A PEAFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Fairfield was deeded a 6.2 acre future park site, located at the corner of Hilborn Road and Hillridge Drive, on May 19, 1998, by Braewood Development Corporation after the termination of the life estate in favor of Adey L. Dunnell; and

WHEREAS, approximately 40 peafowl are present at the site, descendants from an original pair dating back some 45 years, that belonged to the late Mrs. Dunnell; and

WHEREAS, this property will be developed as a neighborhood park within the Rolling Hills area; and

WHEREAS, the Peafowl Research Committee was formed to research information on peafowl habitat and compatibility with public park use; and

WHEREAS, the Peafowl Research Committee met from August through October, 1998, to tour the park site, conduct detailed research with avian experts, peafowl ranches, zoological gardens, City of Fairfield, County of Solano, and other communities; and

WHEREAS, the Peafowl Research Committee developed and synthesized a survey, illustrating neighborhood support for retaining peafowl and a desire to incorporate peafowl into plans for the Rolling Hills Neighborhood Park II; and

WHEREAS, the Peafowl Research Committee presented their recommendations to the Rolling Hills Neighborhood Network and Community Services Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Community Services Commission recommends a management plan be developed to determine if it is feasible to incorporate peafowl into future park plans for the Rolling Hills Neighborhood Park II site.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Fairfield that:

1. The Council approves the recommendation of the Peafowl Research Committee and the Community Services Commission; and
2. The Community Services Department is directed to prepare a Peafowl Management Plan to determine a means of containment for the peafowl and to assess if it is feasible to incorporate them into future park plans for the Rolling Hills Neighborhood Park II site; and
3. The City Manager is authorized to do all things necessary and proper to develop a Peafowl Management Plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd Day of March, 1999, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

EXCERPT OF MINUTES

JOINT MEETING

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION AND GOLF ADVISORY BOARD

Senior Center, Christiansen Room Wednesday, November 18, 1998, 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lannon at 6:08 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Commissioners Lannon, Roberson, Jordan, Thompson
Absent: Commissioners Branch, Byrum

Roll Call:

Present: Golf Advisory Board members, Mitchell, Petray, Thompson, Torres
Absent: Butler, Rogers, Lannon

Staff: John M. De Lorenzo, David Creighton, Sandra Reece-Martens

Approval of Community Services Commission Minutes of November 4, 1998 meeting -
On motion by Jordan, second by Thompson, the minutes were approved.

Public Hearing and Recommendation From Peafowl Research Committee Concerning Peafowl in Rolling Hills Neighborhood Park II (Dunnell-Burton Property) - Gretchen Stranzl McCann, Landscape Architect Consultant, reviewed the history of the property and the process by which the Peacock Research Committee organized. She explained that avian experts were consulted before the group made a recommendation. She introduced members of the committee.

Linda Bisby reported that the Committee toured the property, and sent out 600 surveys to Rolling Hills residents. They received 184 responses; 105 responses voted to keep the birds; 52 responses voted to reduce the flock; and 24 responses voted to remove all the birds. Ninety-nine responses voted to allow the birds to roam, and 84 responses voted to contain the birds.

The Committee's recommendation, therefore, is to allow the birds to remain on the property and that the City develop a management plan to contain the birds. Mr. Bowen stated that he is very satisfied with the recommendation. Members of the Committee and the Commission discussed the need to protect the birds from children and vice versa. It was explained that the feed costs \$6.50 for a 50 lb. bag, and Denise Ray, as Mrs. Dunnell's former caretaker, has assumed the responsibility of feeding them. Commissioner Jordan said that she had visited Bluerock Springs Park in Vallejo, and

learned that volunteers feed the birds which number between 20-25. The Committee explained that the average life span of the birds is 20-30 year, they mate annually, are not smelly, and are not aggressive. Mr. Bowen explained that the Committee's goal was to separate fact from fiction, keep harm from the birds, and integrate an attractive nuisance into the future park.

Mr. De Lorenzo explained that staff supported the Committee's recommendation, as it was well-thought out. He said the recommendation will be agendized for action at the next Commission meeting, and then the Commission's recommendation will go to City Council.

Commissioner Thompson requested a copy and the results of the survey.

Commissioner Lannon suggested that City staff develop a plan to acquire the school site in Rolling Hills and develop a park on the property.

EXCERPT OF MINUTES

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

City Council Chamber

Wednesday, December 2, 1998, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lannon at 6:10 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Commissioners Branch, Jordan, Lannon, Thompson.

Absent: Commissioner Byrum, Roberson

Staff: John M. De Lorenzo, Kathy Swett, Hank Dutra, Candi Leonhardt

Approval of Community Services Commission Minutes of November 4, 1998 meeting -
On motion by Jordan, second by Thompson, the minutes were approved.

Chairperson Lannon requested that item 5 be moved to the top of the agenda so that Commissioner Branch could be present to vote on it.

Public Hearing and Recommendation From Peafowl Research Committee Concerning Peafowl in Rolling Hills Neighborhood Park II (Dunnell-Burton Property)-John De Lorenzo reviewed the survey that was conducted by the Rolling Hills Neighborhood Network. He said that the Committee's recommendation was that the peafowl remain on the site, and the City develop a management plan to contain and manage them. Commissioner Branch said that he toured the site, and complimented the Committee on the job they did. Commissioner Jordan inquired about the type of containment, and Mr. De Lorenzo said it may be a type of netting and the natural environment would be maintained as much as possible. The management plan will determine this. Commissioner Thompson inquired about the costs of feeding the peafowl and was told that Mrs. Dunnell's daughter has been paying for the feed. On a motion by Commissioner Branch, second by Commissioner Jordan, the Commission voted to accept the recommendation of the Peafowl Research Committee to keep the peafowl, and to direct the City to develop a management plan to contain and manage the peafowl.