



AGENDA REPORT

DATE: July 18, 2023

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: David Gassaway, City Manager *DB*

SUBJECT: Peafowl Management – Background

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive report, open discussion, and provide direction to staff.

STATEMENT OF ISSUE

In May 1998, the City acquired Dunnell property, through a family trust deed that stipulated the property be developed as a park. The property had long been a refuge for a flock of approximately 50 peafowl, which had free roam of the property and the surrounding Rolling Hills neighborhood. The peafowl population has increased since the City acquired the property, and some residents consider them a nuisance. Further, some residents feed the peafowl within their neighborhoods and at their homes, which encourages the peafowl to visit and remain rather than pass through. Staff has compiled background on peafowl management for council consideration.

DISCUSSION

In 1998, the City Council requested a committee of residents be established to evaluate the future of a flock of approximately 50 peafowl that had resided on the Dunnell property for many years. The City's Community Services Department acted and invited a group of Rolling Hills neighbors in conjunction with the City's park planner to form the Peafowl Research Committee. Nine residents and two City staff members comprised the initial committee. In fall 1998, the committee conducted a survey to fully understand the Rolling Hill community's preference as to what was to occur with the resident flock of peafowl. The survey results indicated that the community wanted the birds to stay. The result on how to maintain the flock was almost evenly split between free roam and containment. Therefore, the committee recommended that for the "health and safety of the birds, people and the environment; the future development of the site, and the control of property damage – it was in the best interest of all concerned that the City develop a management plan to study a means of containment for the peafowl."

In March 1999, council approved Resolution No. 99-59, which directed the Community Services Department to develop a Peafowl Management Plan for the peafowl in and around the Dunnell property. The management plan was to study the peafowl, determine the optimum number of peafowl, and determine if maintaining peafowl on site was feasible from a financial and operational standpoint. The

management plan was intended to guide the integration of the peafowl into the future park.

Council approved the adoption of the Dunnell Property Conceptual Development Master Plan, which included the Peafowl Management Plan, through the attached Resolution No. 2004-87 on April 6, 2004. At that time, a large free flight aviary for the peafowl was planned for the property to protect the birds, as directed by Resolution No. 99-59, and make their presence on the site a positive one. Additional findings indicated an optimal flock size of 25-30 peafowl.

On December 1, 2009, council approved Resolution No. 2009-273 to amend the architectural contract for the Dunnell Master Plan Implementation Project. The amended scope eliminated the peafowl aviary due to ongoing maintenance costs and health concerns for the contained flock. The decision to eliminate the peafowl aviary and allow the birds to continue to roam free was done in collaboration with the Dunnell Property Master Planning and Peafowl Research Committees on November 19, 2009.

Mitigation Efforts

Since the City acquired the property, the peafowl population has increased, and some residents consider them a nuisance. Further, some residents feed the peafowl within their neighborhoods and at their homes, which encourages the peafowl to visit and remain, rather than pass through. In 2018, a group of residents of the Rolling Hills Neighborhood and City staff teamed together to form a new Peafowl Committee. Over the course of a year, the team performed extensive research to educate themselves on all aspects of peafowl. Residents created informational flyers to help educate the neighborhood about the committee and to provide information about peafowl - with an emphasis to not feed them. A subcommittee was also created to regularly feed the peafowl at the Dunnell property, with the hope that feeding the peafowl on a regular schedule at the same location would help lure the peafowl out of the neighborhoods and back onto the Dunnell property.

Additional mitigation efforts:

- Implemented Adoption Program
- Created Informational Flyer with Peafowl Deterrent Information
- Population Control Research: Explored birth control options and egg management.
- Contacted Local Vendors: In response to request from residents, staff contacted vendors to perform trapping and rehoming of peafowl, non-responsive.
- Expanded Vendor Search: City expanded their vendor search to a larger area and still have had no success.
- Pilot Trapping & Relocation Program: City staff-led trapping and relocation program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Currently, there are no budgeted recommendations and therefore no anticipated financial impacts.

PUBLIC CONTACT/ADVISORY BODY RECOMMENDATION

Community engagement was conducted at a variety of touchpoints since acquiring the property and associated peafowl. The concentrated community engagement efforts occurred from fall 1998 through September 2019.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION

Staff is seeking council direction. The council may also choose not to act at this time.

STAFF CONTACT

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COORDINATED WITH

City Manager's Office, Police Department

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution 2004-87

REVIEWERS:

| Reviewer | Action | Date |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Kaushal, Paul | Approved | 6/29/2023 - 11:25 AM |
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