

**LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES
May 12, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor/Chairman Parris called the regular meeting of the City Council/Redevelopment Agency meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members/Agency Directors: Mann, Sileo, Vice Mayor/Vice Chairman Smith, Mayor/Chairman Parris

On a motion by Council Member/Agency Director Sileo and seconded by Vice Mayor/Vice Chairman Smith, the City Council excused Council Member/Agency Director Marquez from the meeting by the following vote: 4-0-0-1; AYES: Mann, Sileo, Smith; Parris; NOES: None; ABTAIN: None; EXCUSED: Marquez.

Excused: Council Member/Agency Director: Marquez

INVOCATION

Dr. Manuel Salazar – Lancaster Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member/Agency Director Mann

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of the Antelope Valley High School Navy JROTC

Presenter: Mayor Parris

Public Works Week Proclamation

Presenter: Mayor Parris

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE REMOVED

None

ORDER OF AGENDA

It was the consensus of the City Council to discuss Item Nos. PH 3, CA 1, CA 2 and CA 3 at the beginning of the meeting, once the Consent Calendars for the Redevelopment Agency and the City Council were approved.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

MAY 12, 2009

APPROVAL OF AGENCY CONSENT CALENDAR

On a motion by Vice Chairman Smith and seconded by Agency Director Sileo, the Redevelopment Agency approved the Agency Consent Calendar, by the following vote: 4-0-0-1; AYES: Mann, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Marquez.

RCC 1. MINUTES

See CC 2 for the approval of the Regular Redevelopment Agency Meeting minutes of April 28, 2009.

RCC 2. RESOLUTION NO. 04-09

Adopted **Resolution No. 04-09**, a resolution of the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency, Lancaster, California, authorizing the acquisition of County Tax Defaulted Properties and declaring the public purpose thereof (Tax Deeded Parcels Contract Number 2652.)

RCC 3. RESOLUTION NO. 05-09

Adopted **Resolution No. 05-09**, authorizing the acquisition of County Tax Defaulted Properties and declaring the public purpose thereof (Tax Deeded Parcels Contract Number 2653)

RCC 4. EL DORADO MASTER VISION PLAN

Concurred with the vision plan and directed staff to commence with the planning, environmental and redevelopment processes necessary to implement the El Dorado Master Vision Plan.

RCC 5. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH RBF CONSULTING

Authorized a Professional Services Agreement with RBF Consulting to develop the Columbia Neighborhood Specific Area Vision Plan in an amount not to exceed \$66,946.00 for Phase I. The Columbia Neighborhood is bounded by 20th Street East to 30th Street East and from Avenue J to Avenue K.

RCC 6. CONTRACT WITH MOULE & POLYZOIDES AND URBANISTS

Approved the contracts with Moule & Polyzoides Architects and Urbanists for the preliminary design of the Downtown Specific Plan area for a cost of \$167,000, and for the preliminary design of the Lancaster Museum and Arts Gallery (LMAG) for a cost of \$63,000; authorized the City Manager, or his designee, to sign all documents.

RNB 1. ACQUISITION OF OPERATING AND USE COVENANT AND RESTRICTION COVENANT

This item was heard late in the evening and Chairman Parris had excused himself from the meeting.

The Economic Development Director presented the staff report regarding this matter.

Vice Chairman Smith stated that Mr. Clutter is committed to going green and he has received authorization to build a public facility for CNG for the Hondas that he will be selling and this is a big asset to the City.

The City Manager stated that the City couldn't be prouder to propose this partnership; they have done everything they said they were going to do; they have been here for this City and the City is very fortunate to have this caliber of individuals to partner with.

On a motion by Agency Director Mann and seconded by Agency Director Sileo, the Redevelopment Agency authorized the Executive Director or his designee to execute an agreement regarding Acquisition of Operating and Use Covenant and Restriction Covenant regarding Clutter Motors, Inc. DBA Lancaster Honda located at 43226 Drivers Way, Lancaster, Ca. 93534 (APN 3125-024-037), by the following vote: 3-0-0-2; AYES: Mann, Sileo, Smith; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Marquez, Parris.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Mann, the City Council approved the Council Consent Calendar, with the exception of Item Nos. CC 8 and CC 9, which were pulled for separate discussion and action, by the following vote: 4-0-0-1; AYES: Mann, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Marquez

CC 1. ORDINANCE WAIVER

Waived further reading of any proposed ordinances. (This permits reading the title only in lieu of reciting the entire text.)

CC 2. MINUTES

Approved the Redevelopment Agency/City Council Regular Meeting minutes of April 28, 2009.

CC 3. WARRANT REGISTER

Approved the Check and Wire Registers (April 12, 2009 through April 29, 2009) in the amount of \$6,050,197.88.

CC 4. MONTHLY REPORT OF INVESTMENTS

Accepted and approved the March 31, 2009 Monthly Report of Investments as submitted.

CC 5. PRIME DESERT WOODLAND TRAILS – PHASE II

Approved the finding that the nature of construction for the Prime Desert Woodland Trails Phase II project required the use of skilled laborers. This project was not appropriate for the employment of at-risk youth as required by the Youth Employment Goal as established by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District; the administering agency of Proposition A; and the 1992 and 1996 Safe Neighborhood Parks bond measures.

CC 6. INTERIOR STREET TREES FOR MAINTENANCE

Accepted the interior street trees for maintenance by the City for Tract No. 061225, located on the southeast corner of Lancaster Boulevard and 30th Street East, Owner: KB Home Greater Los Angeles, Inc.

CC 7. MONUMENTATION WORK

Approved the monumentation work for Tract No. 061033, located on the southwest corner of Avenue M and 30th Street West, Owner: Pinnacle Quartz Hill I, LLC.

CC 8. Item Nos. CC 8 and CC 9 were heard late in the evening and Mayor Parris had excused himself from the meeting.

Addressing the City Council on Item Nos. CC 8 and CC 9:

Nicole Parsons – Opposed to the approval of these two items; concerned about recharge water; tank systems; funding.

On a motion by Council Member Sileo and seconded by Council Member Mann, the City Council approved Item Nos. CC 8 and CC 9, by the following vote: 3-0-0-2; AYES: Mann, Sileo, Smith; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Marquez, Parris.

ACCEPTANCE OF STREETS FOR MAINTENANCE

Approved the developer constructed streets and accepted the streets for maintenance by the City for: Site Plan Review No. 00-03, located at 2443 West Avenue I, Owner: Lewis B. Young; Site Plan Review No. 07-16, located at 43112 15th Street West, Owner: Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc.; Tract No. 48534, located on the southeast corner of Avenue H-8 and 35th Street East, Owner: K. Hovnanian Forecast Homes; and Tract No. 54366, located on the north side of Avenue K-8, approximately 667 feet east of Challenger Way, Owner: Richmond American Homes of CA.

CC 9. COMPLETED WATER SYSTEMS

Approved the completed water system installed by the developer for Site Plan Review No. 00-03, located at 2443 West Avenue I, Owner: Lewis B. Young.

CC 10. RESOLUTION NO. 09-35

Adopted **Resolution No. 09-35**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, amending Resolution No. 06-231, establishing a classification plan and salary schedule for the classification of Information Technology Manager.

CC 11. PWCP NO. 08-031

Awarded **Public Works Construction Project No. 08-031** – 45th Street West and Avenue K Signal, to ANM Construction & Engineering in the amount of \$643,813.00 (plus a 20% contingency); authorized the City Manager, or his designee, to sign all documents; appropriated \$850,000.00 to Account No. 261-16TS014-924 in Fiscal Year 08/09 and increased estimated revenues in Account No. 261-3301-100 by the same amount. This project is designed to install a traffic signal, widen a portion of the road, and construct public right-of-way improvements.

CC 12. SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH THE HOUSING RIGHTS CENTER

Approved the Sub-Recipient Agreement between the City of Lancaster and the Housing Rights Center to provide fair housing services to the residents of Lancaster for the 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year.

CJPH 1. AGREEMENT FOR SALE OF REAL PROPERTY BETWEEN THE LANCASTER REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND NO CURVES, L.P.

This item was heard late in the evening and Mayor Parris had excused himself from the meeting.

It was the consensus of the Redevelopment Agency/City Council to accept the staff recommendation to cancel this public hearing and direct staff to re-notice it for a future meeting date.

PH 1. HOMELESS PREVENTION & RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM (HPRP) GRANT

This item was heard late in the evening and Mayor Parris had excused himself from the meeting.

Vice Mayor Smith opened the Public Hearing.

The Housing Director presented the staff report regarding this matter.

The grant monies will provide financial assistance and services to either prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless or to help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized.

PH 1. HOMELESS PREVENTION & RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM (HPRP) GRANT (continued)

Addressing the City Council on this matter:

Diane Grooms – Discussed financial issues of many families in Lancaster; displacement of students when they miss school; all parties lose out when this happens; importance of long term benefits; encouraged the City to use the funds in new ways.

Hearing no further testimony, Vice Mayor Smith closed the Public Hearing.

On a motion by Council Member Sileo and seconded by Council Member Mann, the City Council approved the Substantial Amendment for the Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program grant pursuant to Title XII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, by the following vote: 3-0-0-2; AYES: Mann, Sileo, Smith; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Marquez, Parris.

PH 2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) 2009 PROGRAM YEAR ACTION PLAN

This item was heard late in the evening and Mayor Parris had excused himself from the meeting.

Vice Mayor Smith opened the Public Hearing.

The Housing Director presented the staff report regarding this matter.

Hearing no further testimony, Vice Mayor Smith closed the Public Hearing.

On a motion by Council Member Sileo and seconded by Council Member Mann, the City Council approved the proposed projects described herein for the City of Lancaster's 2009 One-Year Action Plan application to be submitted to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, by the following vote: 3-0-0-2; AYES: Mann, Sileo, Smith; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Marquez, Parris.

PH 3. GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 05-01 AND ZONE CHANGE NO. 05-01 AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF AVENUE K AND 60TH STREET WEST-22.32 ACRES

Mayor Parris opened the Public Hearing. The Planning Director presented the staff report regarding this matter and clarified that this item was before the City Council for approval of amending the zoning.

**PH 3. GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 05-01 AND ZONE CHANGE NO. 05-01
AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF AVENUE K AND 60TH STREET
WEST-22.32 ACRES (continued)**

Addressing the City Council on this matter:

In favor of the project:

Shirley Ball – many in this area cannot drive; she has a mobile scooter; would be very pleased to ride scooter to new shopping area, no hassles in finding parking; people with children would be able to walk and enjoy the shopping.

William Ball – tired of driving 6 miles to get somewhere; tired of gas prices; fighting for parking spaces; proposed shopping center would be ideal; don't need more empty houses; important to have more commercial development at this time.

David Sinclair – consistent with land use to make this a commercial zone; this helps to balance a mix of uses; citizens advisory group recommends this change; important to have a sense of community; he has met with the opposition, they are good people and we just agree to disagree on this issue.

Dennis McWilliams – great for the City; will create jobs; many of his friends are out of work and look forward to working on this project.

Josefin Klassim - important to have shopping within walking distance; could then walk with her children to the stores; improvement to the environment; recently relocated from Sweden – would like to see this improvement.

Brian Van-Tuyl – this project would be great for the City; he is looking for work and this project will help.

Michael Parker – project will bring a good revenue source to the City instead of building more homes that could remain empty and cause blight.

Trevor Zinner – agrees with everyone who has spoken; this project will bring jobs to the area; having shopping close by would be very nice.

Caleb Cincis – important to have shopping on the west side; he works in construction this project brings some job security; this will affect thousands of people and will be good for community.

Michael Rasmussen – this is a good project; watched what Palmdale has done; this will be good for the environment and community.

**PH 3. GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 05-01 AND ZONE CHANGE NO. 05-01
AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF AVENUE K AND 60TH STREET
WEST-22.32 ACRES (continued)**

Addressing the City Council on this matter:

In favor of the project:

Nick Guiler – commuted to LA for 9 years; with this growth, this will bring more business and hopefully he can someday work close to home, in the Antelope Valley.

Douglas Champagne’ – project will bring accessibility without driving; important to have commercial development on the west side.

Janice Niblack - strongly supports the center; commercial developments are needed on the west side; this will create jobs; convenience of shopping will be great.

Connie Whearm – lives within walking distance of the proposed center; this will allow her to shop close to home, drive less; encouraged the Council to approve the zone change.

Arturo Whearm – project will bring jobs; sales tax to the City; encouraged the Council to approve the zone change.

Shelton Bush – lives in area; this project would be nice to offer shopping that is close; he is a member of the union and many members are unemployed; could put these people to work and help the economy.

Richard Sturm – lives in the area; this project will create jobs; shopping convenience; important improvement to the area; walking for the children; this would be a nice addition to the area.

David Salcedo – lives in the area; balcony overlooks the project; great view of the poppy fields; negative increase of traffic; protection aspect in neighborhoods will be good; looking forward to having businesses close by; looks like a neat project.

**PH 3. GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 05-01 AND ZONE CHANGE NO. 05-01
AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF AVENUE K AND 60TH STREET
WEST-22.32 ACRES (continued)**

Addressing the City Council on this matter:

In opposition of the project:

Nicole Parsons – represents the efforts of Antelope Valley 32 in regards to global warming; project cannot be approved under CEQA guidelines; there is no mitigation; culture of this area is one of a country town.

Paul Jennings – reviewed established businesses in the area of Avenue G; should have changed the General Plan years ago; do not throw a big box store into a mix of residential; Lowe’s does not have a commitment to the area at this time.

Judith Marshall – concerned with the trash and littering at this area; these types of projects bring this trash which is scattered by the wind; home improvement stores are a magnet for day laborers and panhandlers.

Cleo Goss – this center is not a mall; limited type of stores; how many customers will actually shop there; economy reflects that people will not spend money on home improvements.

Joshua Hlopko – shopping centers ruin neighborhoods; find a different location; already too many vacant homes in the area; center will become a ghost town; harmful for the area.

Gerry Wolf – lives in the area; agrees with the opposition; over 1000 people have signed petitions in opposition; already close enough to necessary facilities, yet far enough away from a business district; negative environmental issues.

Richard Hecker – commercial development is important but issue has always been where the centers should be located; people buy homes in good faith believing they are buying in an area for residential; what is the social good, what is the benefit.

Mike Scott – respect for the proponents, however everyone will be combating traffic; will not be a relaxing area; offered several rebuttal statements to people in favor of the project.

Amelia Jennings – do not consider changing from residential to commercial; will end up with a City that looks like a ghost town; economy is bad; home values will drop if this project is approved.

Hearing no further testimony, Mayor Parris closed the Public Hearing.

PH 3. GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 05-01 AND ZONE CHANGE NO. 05-01 AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF AVENUE K AND 60TH STREET WEST-22.32 ACRES (continued)

Council Member Sileo – discussed when the City undertook the revamping of the General Plan; lack of commercial locations in west Lancaster; horrible housing problem; City does not exist in a vacuum; it would be great to have commercial development at 70th St. West or 90th St. West, but it makes sense to have commercial development on 60th St. West. One corner is zoned commercial and has been for years because there is a need; the corner the City is looking at is close to an existing residential area; must look at - is it worth it to the City as a whole to approve this and what will the benefits be. The City must look at the imbalance between jobs, commercial and housing; if no housing were to be approved in the next 20 years, the City would still need more commercial development. This is not the forum to work out the details – tonight’s decision is about location and the positives outweigh the negatives.

Council Member Mann – stated that as a Planning Commissioner for years, he and the Commission were faced with making decisions based on appropriate land uses; the City Council will continue to make tough decisions that maybe someone was not willing to make eight or ten years ago; decisions were made long ago to zone a significant portion as residential. The City must look toward what is good for the community not just today but for eight or ten years from now. When looking at land use maps and what is going to be proposed – it looks like 60th St. West and Avenue K is a node for commercial development that needs to take place; understands the frustration of some of the citizens; previous leadership dropped the ball, however he feels he is tough enough, and smart enough, to stand up here and take a stand. Appreciates everyone for being at the meeting; there were years of frustration during the General Plan process – very small turnout of citizens; people were misled about what has taken place historically. The decision is not about what stores go in; just about the zoning. 60th St. West is a major corridor for north and south and this is the best location to front commercial development; wants everyone to understand his feelings and the Council is faced with the responsibility of making a decision to put commercial in a residential area; developers must do their best to mitigate the impacts to the neighborhood.

Vice Mayor Smith – Important to have a sense of community; discussed a book which referred to close knit, tight communities and that sense of community. How do you create clusters of community in an ocean of land; trying to create this; should have been changed in the General Plan years ago; the Planning Commission just finished up the General Plan; must plan for the future; referred to close shopping; running into friends at nearby shopping areas and building a sense of community. Every decision is based on what is good for the larger community as a whole; always a tough decision; the City needs more commercial development; when the economy picks up, homes will be booming.

PH 3. GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 05-01 AND ZONE CHANGE NO. 05-01 AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF AVENUE K AND 60TH STREET WEST-22.32 ACRES (continued)

Mayor Parris – The responsibility of this decision is the Council’s; not aware of the issues from ten years ago; not fair to people who live near developments; if there was some way to make this all fair, he would, but must recognize the importance of building a City and he hopes that when the Conditional Use Permit is presented, everyone will be satisfied; hopes that it will improve housing. He stated that this is tough and unfair, the decision falls on the shoulders of the Council and decisions need to be made for the City as a whole – a population of 150,000.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Sileo, the City Council adopted **Resolution No. 09-36**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, certifying the final environmental impact report, adopting required environmental findings, adopting a statement of overriding considerations, adopting the mitigation monitoring program for the proposed project, and amending the General Plan land use designation on the subject property from UR (Urban Residential, 2.1 – 6.5 dwelling units per acre) to C (Commercial), by the following vote: 4-0-0-1; AYES: Mann, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Marquez.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Sileo, the City Council introduced **Ordinance No. 923**, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, rezoning the subject property from R-7,000 (Single Family Residential, minimum lot size 7,000 square feet) to CPD (Commercial Planned Development), by the following vote: 4-0-0-1; AYES: Mann, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Marquez.

RECESS: Mayor Parris called for a recess at 7:40 p.m.

RECONVENE: Mayor Parris reconvened the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

It was the consensus of the City Council to discuss Item Nos. CA 1, CA 2 and CA 3 together as one.

- CA 1.** Discuss and take action on renaming James C. Gilley Park facilities and the creation of a park monument to honor Antelope Valley American Heroes who have fallen in the line of duty.
- CA 2.** Discuss and take action on renaming the Lancaster National Soccer Center Facilities.
- CA 3.** Consideration of renaming James C. Gilley Park.

CA 1, 2, 3. PARK AND FACILITIES DISCUSSION (continued)

Discussion from Council:

Vice Mayor Smith – stated that he would like to see a park in central Lancaster as a memorial to American Heroes and citizens who have risked their lives in the line of duty. Name the park: American Heroes Park; include a memorial to the Rowell family within the park; the family has made many contributions and they will be honored.

Council Member Mann – believes there is some synergy between himself and Vice Mayor Smith; when looking at the build-out of a downtown area – it is either supported and flourishes or it is left to die. The downtown area has not been properly supported in the way the City is evolving and having a downtown park and having it emulate the City of Lancaster; whether they are contributors as pioneers or people under the umbrella of war and strife, he is now reflecting on people who go to war in the name of freedom; people who work and live here who put their lives on the line every day and putting a name on this park to represent this City would be good. He is very aware of the contributions of the Rowell family; has a close relationship with the family; disappointed that the adobe home was torn down; believes it was historical; referred to other historical sites in the country that are not in good condition and the same respect should have been given to the Rowell home. There has been some positive, constructive discussion regarding the naming of a park and when the land is donated, calling it specifically Rowell Park, this could be a disservice to other families who have donated and made contributions to this City as well. He would like to find a middle ground; have the first memorial honor the Rowell family – this is important.

Vice Mayor Smith stated that he agreed and that staff is already working on something and are ahead of the game; this will take some planning but he is sure the wishes of the family will be met.

Addressing the City Council on this matter:

Darlene Peterson – bad idea to name the park Gilley Park; do not name the park after a person; community at large should have a choice; should not be rushed; honor all of them.

Star Moffatt – opposed to naming the park – Gilley Park; should be named after the Rowell family; dedicating a section of park is not good enough; there should be a preservation ordinance on the books.

Scott Pelka – opposed to naming the park – Gilley Park; name it after former City Manager, Bob LaSala, as he did more for the community than anyone.

CA 1, 2, 3. PARK AND FACILITIES DISCUSSION (continued)

Gary Burgess – if monument is installed, shop at home, give the award to local artists or businesses; in favor of keeping the name of Lancaster National Soccer Center, as it implies greatness; important to keep the name Lancaster in the title; against naming a center after anyone; opposed to naming the park, Gilley Park.

David Paul – no greater joy than respecting the law; education of men, women, children, sick and poor; Memorial Heroes Park is great name; but many came back in body, not in spirit – recognize and honor a homeless Veteran in the park.

Bob Alvis – the name of American Heroes Park belongs in a venue such as the Jet Hawks Stadium; important to name the park Rowell Park, the family gave so much; discussed the contributions of the Rowell family members.

John Manning - this is a big issue; impression in this City is that the people have no control or say; difficult problems; people are here because they have felt disenfranchised for too long; when you make a mistake – be man enough to stand up and admit it and correct the mistake; Lancaster is lagging; name it Memorial Park; what about other families such as the Lanes' and Goddes'; this is a quality of life issue; make it a primary name – very important.

Wendy Rowell-Burke – came from Anchorage, Alaska to assist in the goal of preserving the family history; many families have helped to build Lancaster; presented a history of her family and their contributions.

Dayle DeBry – Director of the West Antelope Valley Historical Society; this was not originally about changing the name of the park; the Society was okay with this until the Rowell home was destroyed; losing our history day by day; house was on a register of historical homes and torn down without notice; very disturbing what is done in the name of progress.

Council Member Sileo stated that he is both an old timer on the City Council and one of the members that named it Gilley Park. He is also a new timer, having moved to the area around 1982. He contacted Mr. Gilley to find out how he felt about all of this and Mr. Gilley stated that it would be a great honor to have a park named after him, but felt that the Council should do what is necessary to move the City forward. Council Member Sileo stated that he did not understand the importance of a City Manager until he sat on the Council; a City Manager has a job to do, must do it well and also survive political reality. A good City Manager creates a strong economic base and Mr. Gilley did this and survived the issues. He was brought back; worked hard to grow a City; it is a huge City, in a vacuum, and he brought retailers and developers out here. Mr. Gilley kept this City afloat; there are public facilities, and he was a star at redevelopment.

CA 1, 2, 3. PARK AND FACILITIES DISCUSSION (continued)

Council Member Sileo stated that when you sit up here and see what actually goes on with bringing things to citizens; Mr. Gilley was the right man and was excellent at his job. Having a park named after Mr. Gilley would have been the last gem in his crown. Mr. Gilley is okay with changing the name and the difficult decision is what to name the park. There are many families in this valley that have similar backgrounds as the Rowell family and he hopes the Council can craft a name for the facility to honor this valley. American Heroes Park is great, important to honor these people; but also need to honor pioneering families as well.

Mayor Parris stated that it is wrong to take something away from someone; resents Dr. Manning saying that this Council is not representing this community; over 25 people on different commissions and for Mr. Manning to make that announcement – it may be the belief of the company he keeps but not the belief of the business community. This Council puts in many hours; 69 percent of the people approve of how this City is being run; what occurred over a year ago is not of his concern; all he can do is work at getting people involved in this City; if it doesn't meet his satisfaction he does not care and does not care for people coming from Palmdale to state this. The current City Manager is doing ten times the job that Mr. LaSala ever did.

Mayor Parris stated that Mr. Warford of the AV Press suggested that the soccer center be named after Mr. Gilley. He stated that he looks at everything from a legal aspect; does not know the Rowell family; not going to take a name that ten people like; likes the historical society being involved; encouraged them to engage with the City rather than be adverse; consider having a committee come up with some name options to present to the Council for discussion; he likes the Vice Mayor's idea but also sees that as not having to make a hard decision. He has a problem with naming it Rowell Park; not sure this is appropriate; there are other families to consider; what about Aviation Heroes Park; what about Antonovich Park, as Supervisor Antonovich is responsible for so much in the Antelope Valley. There are many options and he stated that he is not sure this issue would have ever come up if not for the fact that there is a group of people who dislike, and have a vendetta against, Mr. Gilley. When dealing with all the other issues in this City; changing the name of a park is a distraction and he wishes that people were more involved in the serious battles rather than the naming of a park.

Council Member Mann suggested that a group of volunteers come up with some names and let them decide.

Mayor Parris stated that he is not in favor of giving the difficult decisions to a group of volunteers.

CA 1, 2, 3. PARK AND FACILITIES DISCUSSION (continued)

Vice Mayor Smith stated that there are a lot of people that the park could be named after; there is a memorial on the boulevard to honor space; recently lost a test pilot; soldiers are coming back injured; deputies die in the line of duty; a committee will come back with ten different recommendations; he wants to put this to rest; make a decision tonight; people have saved lives; appreciates the pioneers of the valley, but this park ties into the Aerospace Walk of Honor; a lot of pioneer families here; there are a number of issues; would like the Council to focus on many other important things facing this City. The crime rate has dropped, important to keep an eye on the target; rather than let this fester, name it American Heroes Park; The Rowell family will be honored in a section of the park; there are no memorial names for other families, but this can be done with this park; not necessary to have a citizens committee.

Council Member Mann stated that he would still be in favor of a committee to give a few names; broaden it; then let the Council decide; this will be in keeping with the policy that the Mayor has established.

Mayor Parris suggested that the names for a committee come back at the next Council meeting, then two weeks after that, the committee would offer the names.

Vice Mayor Smith stated that the Council has already received input; Council is smart enough to make a decision; important to decide this evening and move on. The Council needs to focus on the many other issues facing this City.

Mayor Parris stated that the historical society feels disengaged; important to at least hear from them and engage them.

Council Member Sileo stated that he is alright with a committee to oversee the renaming of the park, however, the Vice Mayor makes a good argument; American Heroes ties into the downtown area and aerospace.

A motion was made by Council Member Mann and seconded by Mayor Parris to appoint a committee to come up with potential names for the park to present back to the Council, by the following vote: 2-2-0-1; AYES: Mann, Parris; NOES: Sileo, Smith; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Marquez. **Motion failed.**

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Sileo to change the name of James C. Gilley Park to American Heroes Park, by the following vote: 3-1-0-1; AYES: Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: Mann; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Marquez. **Motion passed.**

CA 1, 2, 3. PARK AND FACILITIES DISCUSSION (continued)

A motion was made by Mayor Parris and seconded by Council Member Sileo to change the name of the Lancaster National Soccer Center to the James C. Gilley Lancaster National Soccer Center, with the understanding that the branding would not change, by the following vote: 3-1-0-1; AYES: Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: Mann; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Marquez. **Motion passed.**

Further discussion took place regarding the Park naming policy; involving citizens in the policy; selecting a committee of individuals to work on the policy; integration of how to implement naming within American Heroes Park; creation of a Park monument; look at a way to determine the criteria for recipients; critical to keep the City's brand; consider naming of different fields; facilities.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Mayor Parris, the City Council approved moving forward with the creation of a Park monument for the American Heroes, look at forming a citizens committee for input on how to do this; give staff direction as to what is desired for the creation of American Heroes Park, by the following vote: 4-0-0-1; AYES: Mann, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Marquez. **Motion passed.**

RECESS: Mayor Parris called for a recess at 9:20 p.m.

RECONVENE: Vice Mayor Smith reconvened the meeting at 9:31 p.m. and stated that Mayor Parris needed to be excused from the remainder of the meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

None

CITY CLERK / AGENCY SECRETARY ANNOUNCEMENT

The City Clerk provided the public with the procedure to address the City Council/Redevelopment Agency regarding non-agendized items.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Addressing the City Council at this time:

David Paul – supports a facility for a medicinal marijuana clinic; this is very important.

Edward Schroeder – went to the movies; almost got hit by a car because traffic lights change too fast for handicapped people; make the light slower; intersection of Valley Central Way and Avenue I.

Melanie Coker – medical marijuana clinic in Quartz Hill has been allowed by Los Angeles County; they do not have a permit; do not want the negativity messing with what she wants to do in Lancaster.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (continued)

Addressing the City Council at this time:

Victoria Zavala – important to consider taxing and regulating medicinal marijuana; this will be on a ballot in the future; wants to bring access to the Antelope Valley; wants this on the agenda as soon as possible; needs to advocate and bring awareness.

Vice Mayor Smith explained the process for placing something on the agenda; must be sponsored by a Council Member; staff must research and write a report; contact a Council Member and if they want to sponsor the item, direction will be given.

Council Member Sileo stated that before he would even consider this, he would need to see factual reports from reliable medical journals.

Erick Byarushengo – a person can drive all over this City and find more than enough space to put a supercenter; a lot of land is available; drive all over this valley and you will not see one school close to a supercenter – it just shouldn't be done.

Mike Scott – plan was to re-zone land across the high school in Quartz Hill; there will be an increase in crime and traffic; building supercenters does not protect citizens; more opportunity for students and citizens to become victims of crime; theft of automobiles from the high school; the worse will be using children as a shield for a fleeing criminal.

Chantel Scott – discussed the 2030 General Plan; create recreational opportunities and training opportunities; park will create close knit community; the City needs to buy back the land from the developer and have a park – developer can go elsewhere; why should school and students pay.

Thomas Coyle, Jr. – he is a medical marijuana patient; needs facility up here; must travel for miles to get his medicines; it is recognized by the State of California; in support of a facility for this; patients need help; unfair not to be considered.

Jason Zink – stated that his nephew was hit by a car at Endeavor Middle School (uninjured); there are no sidewalks in this area; public safety needs to be No. 1; listed several eye-sores in Lancaster that should be taken care of.

Vice Mayor Smith requested that Mr. Zink email him a list and he will look into this.

David Castro – medical marijuana patients need support; speaking on behalf of all patients; he himself suffers seizures and the marijuana truly helps his condition.

Cleo Goss – presented a map; pointed out proposed developments and all the undeveloped land where these developments could be built.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES
MAY 12, 2009

COUNCIL REPORTS

None

COUNCIL / AGENCY COMMENTS

None

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m. and announced that the next regular meeting of the City Council/Redevelopment Agency would take place on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at **6:00 p.m.**

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

GERI K. BRYAN, CMC
CITY CLERK/AGENCY SECRETARY
Lancaster, CA

R. REX PARRIS
MAYOR/CHAIRMAN
Lancaster, CA

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

I, _____, _____ of the City of Lancaster, CA, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original City Council/Redevelopment Agency minutes, for which the original is on file in my office.

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, CA on this _____ day of _____, _____.

(seal)
