

Arvada City Council Meeting, September 16, 2013

Notes taken by Susan Shirley

Notes from City Council Meeting, September 16, 2013: Please note the last item. I think it is potentially one of the more interesting items covered, but it's cloak-and-dagger so it's hard to say at this point.

Bob Fifer was absent, out of town on city business.

Bob Dyer was given a mention for being an inductee into the initial Arvada West Hall of Fame.

Ed Perlmutter was in attendance and said he'd been on a flood damage tour w/the governor and others, in a Blackhawk helicopter. While out they had occasion to actually rescue several people & animals. He says resources will be made available to Arvada and other areas for flood relief.

Blues and BBQ raised \$25,000 in their better housing project, which was presented to Habitat for Humanity. They will be able to participate in the build in October which will feature an appearance by Jimmy Carter.

Mr. Ray, the Assistant City Mgr., was thanked for taking charge during the first days of the heavy rains. He addressed several of the problems encountered by Arvada as well as several disasters averted. He said Arvada was within 90 minutes or 2 hours of exhausting potable water supplies & going to a boil water order. However, nimble action and some ingenious solutions on the part of key personnel saved the day.

Mr. Ray stressed an important point, which is that Arvada currently has sufficient water supply for normal drinking and sanitation uses, but NOT for irrigation, etc. and asks that we not overuse water over the coming week, but conserve as much as is possible.

Mr. Ray said that it appeared that the Ralston Central Park improvements saved dozens, if not hundreds of homes.

For more info on the flood aftermath & conditions we were directed to Arvada.org.

Geoff Bruce then spoke, first thanking the city for enforcing smoking bans in and around Olde Town. He then talked about growth, and said that at current rates of growth it is only a matter of time until everything will be covered in apartments, which cannot go on indefinitely. He pointed out how the city employees created order out of the chaos of the flood, and suggested the city council consider doing the same with respect to growth.

Nancy Young addressed the council on the subject of McIlvoy Park. She outlined the numerous times she has requested information about the shrinkage of the park by a half-acre, but has not been given answers. Neither the city nor the design review committee have supplied the answers Ms. Young was promised repeatedly. Mayor Williams requested a written reply to Nancy from Mark Devin. Mr. Devin emphatically insisted he has given her answers but will supply a written reply this time.

Kathryn Wallace spoke about the proposed salary increase to Maureen Phair. She said she is "disturbed" by Ms. Phair's abysmal record of communication with the city of Arvada (at which time Mayor Williams interjected that Maureen Phair doesn't work for the city but for AURA) and Kathryn reiterated that she is appalled at the idea of a pay increase for Ms. Phair, who is already making a six-figure salary with little to show for it.

Renee Nelson next returned to the subject of McIlvoy Park. She said that a public easement and revocable permit is not the correct use of a public park, and is contrary to the terms of the will which left the park to Arvada. (Later on in the meeting, Mayor Williams took a moment to point out how frequently "these sorts of things happen.")

The resolutions were passed unanimously.

Next was an overview of the traffic signals grant being applied for or received from, DRCOG for some inadequate signals along Ralston Road.

Discussion about the Conns Electronic store followed. Arvada staff recommends approval of the measure; Mark Devin said it can revitalize the Arvada Marketplace at 52nd and the Wadsworth bypass. Stan Dyer mentioned during the course of the discussion that that part of the property, which was a Home Base store, has not generated ANY sales tax for over a decade. The sales tax rebate is for air conditioning (HomeBase used a swamp cooler,) electricity upgrade to bring up to sufficient levels of electric going into the building, some rebuilding of the facade, and roof repair. Conns, a customer-centric electronics store, has been around since 1937 in its present form and has about 66 locations, but this will be its first in Colo.

Upon adding this tenant, Arvada Mktplace will be only 5 percent vacant.

Shelley Cook asked if the air conditioning will be high efficiency, and the developer, Alan Ginsberg, said that all their properties strive to be as environmentally efficient as possible. Mayor Williams said he hears rumblings that an electronic store is a thing of the past, can this one be viable? Ginsberg pointed out that a large proportion of the stores' offerings are "white goods," washer-dryers, refrigerators, etc., and the Mayor said that with the expected growth there will certainly be a demand for those items.

The resolution for the sales tax rebate passed 6-0.

The request by Panera for rezoning at 64th and Yank passed 6-0.

CP-2013-002, a resolution to adopt the Comprehensive Plan as the "3-mile plan" passed 6-0. This is about the three miles outside current boundaries, when annexed, using the comprehensive plan requiring sense of place, ability to service properly, and ability to be integrated on a land use/parks & recreation basis.

Next was a presentation about Arvada's Sister City, Jinzhou, China. There will be a workshop about that, December 9.

The resolutions relating to the Wieland requests for rezoning passed 6 to 0.

Next were five applicants for city funding for social services: Senior Resource Center, Jefferson Center for Mental Health, Caring Clinic, Archway House, and Hope House. Each laid out the services they provide for the community. The council will review the applications and revisit the matter.

Rachel Zenzinger brought up a meeting called Council in Your Corner, October 8 at the Indian Tree Golf Club. She said there will be opportunities for public input.

October 14 will be a city council meeting with incumbents of council appointed boards and commissions.

The final item, other than a discussion of rainfall tallies, was the following: a motion to appoint a "special judge" for a "municipal matter." There was no additional discussion. The vote, the only non-unanimous vote of the evening, was 5-1, with Shelley Cook casting the dissenting vote.