

MINUTES

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DUARTE
REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 8, 2005**

At 5:00 p.m., a General Plan Workshop was held to discuss staff's recommended public input process for the development of the General Plan, and direction was given to prepare a citizen participant component as part of the project.

The City Council of the City of Duarte met in a regular meeting in the Council Chambers, 1600 Huntington Drive, Duarte, California. Mayor Finlay called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

- PLEDGE TO THE FLAG** Robert Cuite led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- MOMENT OF REFLECTION** A silent moment of reflection was observed.
- FITNESS WARM-UP** Rebecca Michaelis, Recreation Coordinator, led the group in a series of warm-up exercises.
- RECORDATION OF ATTENDANCE** The following were in attendance:
PRESENT: Fasana, Gaston, Paras, Reyes, Finlay
ABSENT: None
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT: City Manager George, City Attorney Slater
- ADOPTION OF AGENDA** Fasana moved, Paras seconded to adopt the Agenda, and carried unanimously.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Karen Herrera stated the Duarte's Promise Groundhog Job Shadow Day event conducted earlier in the day was successful, and announced 2005 Spring Fashion Fair on March 3, 3:00 p.m., at the Duarte Senior Center, and Friends of the Duarte Library meeting on February 15, 5:30 p.m., at the Library.
Pui-Ching Ho, Duarte Library, announced Chinese Cooking Demonstration on February 19, 2:00 p.m., at the Duarte Library.
Bill Baca announced Senator Romero is accepting nominations for outstanding women of the 24th Senatorial District, and will be available to discuss issues on February 26, 10:30 a.m., at the Baldwin Park Library.
Kristen Petersen announced Community Meeting on March 1, 7:00 p.m., at Valley View School, and stated the Agenda will be a presentation of projects to the community.
Nita Norgard announced the Reading Imagination Celebration event with Ray Bradbury on March 19, 6:00 p.m., at the Performing Arts Center, and requested City Council support of the request for \$500 financial assistance.
Jack Collins provided information about Ray Bradbury, and displayed a number of books written by the author.
- FISCAL AFFAIRS**
Paras moved, Reyes seconded to approve payment to the Southern California Edison Company, and carried with Fasana abstaining due to a declared conflict of interest.
Paras moved, Fasana seconded to approve the remainder of Fiscal Affairs. There was discussion about the warrant for Travel Teens (Northview Sacramento trip), the possibility of changing the travel dates from Fridays to another day of the week, as the State legislature is not in session on Fridays, and the possibility of setting the dates to precede a school holiday to avoid high absenteeism on the day after the trip.
Paras moved, Fasana seconded an amendment to pull the Travel Teens warrant at this time, determine if the travel dates can be changed to days other than Friday, and to provide the funding if a commitment has already been made, and carried unanimously.

Gaston stated she will follow up with the trip coordinator, and will provide the information at the next City Council meeting.

SPECIAL ITEMS

Proclamation – Rae Gordon

Mayor Finlay stated Mayor Pro Tem Paras will present the Proclamation to Rae Gordon at her going-away celebration on February 12, and extended best wishes to Mrs. Gordon for many happy and healthy years in her new home.

Plaque – Hal Firth

Mayor Finlay stated Hal Firth served on City Commissions for five years, and noted since he was not in attendance to receive the plaque, it will be delivered to him.

Recognition – Lt. Steve Biagini

Don Anderson, Director of Safety Coordination, introduced Lt. Steve Biagini, described a number of examples of his dedication and commitment during his eight years of service to the City, thanked him for his outstanding assistance, and stated he will be moving on to a new assignment within the Court Services Division of the Sheriff's Department. Mayor Finlay presented Lt. Biagini with a plaque in appreciation of his eight years of service to the City, and congratulations were extended. Jan Wight presented Lt. Biagini with a plaque from the Chamber of Commerce, and thanked him for his assistance.

Presentation – Santa Teresita Medical Center

Sister Rosario Therese provided an update on services provided by Santa Teresita Medical Center, and stated the center received its day surgery license today, and is able to perform out-patient surgeries.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Reyes moved, Fasana seconded to approve the Consent Calendar, as follows, and carried unanimously.
Approve Items A, B.

CITY MANAGER

Award of contract

Employee compensation study

Mike Yelton, Assistant City Manager, provided a staff report about the employee compensation study, and answered questions from City Council pertaining to other bids received, previous study cost, other cities using the service, and the inclusion of ranking information in the future.

Fasana moved, Paras seconded to award the contract to Nash and Company for an employee compensation study in an amount not to exceed \$17,000, and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary contract documents, and carried unanimously.

2004/05 mid-year budget report

Yelton presented a detailed staff report about the mid-year budget projections, and summarized the general fund revenues, expenditures, other City funds, Redevelopment Agency, and proposed budget amendments.

There was discussion concerning lighting and landscape districts, Town Center fund, buses, cost of land sold, Quimby fees, City Attorney fees, and other options to reduce code enforcement legal costs.

Fasana moved, Gaston seconded to receive and file the 2004/05 mid-year budget report and to approve the corresponding budget amendments, and carried unanimously.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The following spoke about items not on the Agenda:

Chris Russo – Website cost.

Harb Thind – Federal, State, trade deficit.

ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Request – \$500 financial support Friends of the Duarte Library (Finlay)

Mayor Finlay stated the Friends of the Duarte Library have requested \$500 in financial support for the Ray Bradbury event to be held March 19, 6:00 p.m., at the Performing Arts Center, which is lieu of the One Book, One Town support request.

Fasana moved, Paras seconded to approve the request from the Friends of the Duarte Library for \$500 to support the Ray Bradbury event, and carried unanimously.

Request – Research options to prevent deer impaling on spiked fencing (Finlay)

Mayor Finlay stated on Mt. Olive Drive in Bradbury, deer have come down from the hillsides, leapt over fences, gotten caught on the spiked fences, and have eventually died, noted although the Duarte Municipal Code addresses this issue, it is not retro-active, stated she thinks this should be looked at, and noted at the pool, a railing could be placed on top of the spiked fence, as this could become a liability issue.

City Manager George stated he will work with staff and the City Attorney on this matter.

REYES: 1) Inquired about the outcome of the youth organization meeting; 2) Thanked staff, business community, and sponsors of the Job Shadow Day event; 3) Stated he had seen a notice of completion of landscaping from Caltrans pertaining to the sound-walls, and asked for additional information; 4) Thanked Dr. Friedman for conducting the City of Hope community meeting and for his commitment to the neighbors; and 5) Wished all a Happy Chinese New Year.

GASTON: 1) With regard to the youth organization meeting, stated seven organizations participated, the cost of fields needs to be studied further, and noted Ed Houlemarde and Mr. George are meeting with the School District; 2) Requested that John Steelesmith from the Edison Company be formally recognized for his retirement; 3) Stated the services for Victoria Duarte Cordova were touching; 4) Welcomed Donna Georgino back; 5) Congratulated all participants in the Duarte Talent Show; and 6) Thanked Mayor Finlay for her commitment and for serving as Chair of the National League of Cities Program Committee.

PARAS: 1) Stated the Talent Show was great and the Education Foundation did a tremendous job; 2) Stated a variety of professionals are working with those involved in the Fiddler on the Roof musical; and 3) Stated she is a new aunt, and congratulated her brother and sister-in-law on the arrival of their son.

FASANA: 1) Agreed with the previous comments made about the Talent Show and City of Hope meeting; 2) Congratulated the Elks Club on the opening of its facility; 3) Stated the carpool lane on the 10 Freeway was extended last week from Baldwin to the 605 Freeway; 4) Requested a report about the feasibility of considering limits to connect to the septic system for new developments with more than two dwellings in areas not covered by the sewer system; and 5) Stated he understands that the soundwall on the north side of the freeway will proceed to construction without additional noise studies.

FINLAY: 1) Stated while traveling around the State, she met graduates from Duarte High School; 2) Thanked the City of Hope for hosting the neighborhood meeting; 3) Stated Groundhog Job Shadow Day was a great event; 4) Stated the Duarte Talent Show was great, and noted the entire production was handled by students; 5) Stated it is great to have Donna Georgino back, and 6) Stated she received a phone call about signage pertaining to parking along Huntington Drive, and will look into it.

ADJOURNMENT

Fasana moved, Reyes seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m., and carried unanimously.

Mayor Margaret Finlay

ATTEST:

City Clerk