

**CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

October 19, 2005

CALL TO ORDER: 4:33 P.M.

ROLL CALL: **COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Mayor Michael L. Montandon
Mayor Pro Tempore William E. Robinson
Councilwoman Stephanie S. Smith
Councilman Shari Buck
Councilman Robert L. Eliason

STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Gregory Rose
City Attorney Sean McGowan
City Clerk Karen L. Storms
Planning and Development Director Jory Stewart
Public Works Director Jim Bell
Strategic Planning Director Eric Dabney
Assistant City Clerk Anita Sheldon

VERIFICATION: Karen L. Storms, CMC
City Clerk

BUSINESS:

1. **DISCUSSION AND/OR DIRECTION REGARDING STREET AND DEVELOPMENT DESIGN STANDARDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES TO FACE 60-FOOT COLLECTOR STREETS AND RELATED ADJACENT REAR-ACCESS LOTS.**

Assistant Public Works Director Kelly Chuma stated Staff had been directed to explore the question of whether or not houses should front on 60-foot collector streets. She stated the appearance of a road affects driving behavior and provided several examples, such as trees, bike lanes and buildings, which narrowed the roadway and tended to make drivers slow down.

Assistant Director Chuma emphasized if the roadways in North Las Vegas were going to be improved, it was necessary to review the current design standards for streets which were built to minimum Clark County standards. As a result, developers built to minimum development standards without providing pedestrian friendly, aesthetically pleasing roadway corridors or safe areas for children.

Assistant Director Chuma stated the City's current code encouraged developers to face homes on 60-foot streets. Also, the current code did not require perimeter landscaping when the homes face the 60-foot streets which would allow developers to avoid creating and funding a Homeowners' Association or Landscape Maintenance Association. Assistant Director Chuma stated this type of design forced more traffic on the collector streets due to the fact every lot included a driveway and failed to provide edge conditions that define a safe roadway.

Based on an informal survey conducted by Staff, residents stated they would like to take a walk after dinner and enjoy their community. They wanted to feel the fresh air, use aesthetically attractive trails, be a part of a recreationally active community and engage with their neighbors. They also desired to feel safe and live in a visually attractive neighborhood. The residents surveyed stated they wanted to feel good about their community and wanted to walk safely to the neighborhood stores. They also commented they wanted streets that were designed for people, not just for cars, and streets that were friendly to all users.

Assistant Director Chuma stated in order to do a better job for the community, the City needed to change its current mindset by building master-planned streets to new community standards. Developments must be built to provide pedestrian-friendly, aesthetically-pleasing and safe roadway corridors and continued in other non-master-planned neighborhoods. Assistant Director Chuma further stated the key to accomplishing these goals was to design the streets to make North Las Vegas the "Community of Choice". The adjacent development must pattern itself in conformance to the new community standard for planned roadways and contribute to the success of the roadways. She presented some photographic examples of roadways in California that provided alternative solutions that might work for the streets in North Las Vegas.

Assistant Director Chuma requested Council approve a new and improved 60-foot collector street which used the same right-of-way of 60 feet but installation of a landscape buffer was proposed for the back of curb and the sidewalk, five feet on each side, which would narrow the driving surface by ten feet. An added benefit was that this change would meet the new Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

The next step would be to develop street design standards adjacent to development which supported and enhanced planned roadways, such as rear or side-lot access, alleys and decreased front yard setbacks. Assistant Director Chuma emphasized the importance of approving only those developments which comply with the City's vision and not allow developments to compromise the planned roadways with excessive driveways or other intrusions into the roadways.

In summary, Assistant Director Chuma stated houses should face out on 60-foot streets with changes to the street design standards and changes to adjacent development design.

Councilwoman Smith expressed frustration with the presentation and stated the changes to the street design standards were discussed for many years and felt houses should not face out on 60-foot streets. She stated these problems had been present for the past eight years and questioned why there had been no solutions until now. Councilwoman Smith also questioned why the landscaping setbacks had not been installed as required on the 60-foot streets. Assistant Director Chuma responded the landscape requirements were part of the development standards and were attached to the property adjacent to the street. Councilwoman Smith maintained the current projects need to be reviewed as to where the houses were being faced, as well as the landscaping requirements.

Public Works Director Jim Bell responded Staff was requesting revision of the approval in the preliminary map stage which was not currently required. He felt developers had discovered a way to get around the landscaping requirements due to "holes" in the existing ordinance. Director Bell suggested the driveways be pulled off the collector streets during the approval process of the tentative maps. Assistant Director Chuma stated Staff wanted to require compliance with the new standard allowing a landscape buffer to be situated between the back of curb and the sidewalk for the tentative maps that were currently coming in for approval.

Planning and Development Director Jory Stewart advised when the problem was identified a year ago, Staff immediately began looking at the tentative maps in the context of the surrounding developed properties, as well as properties that had been approved with lots facing the street. She suggested in the instances where the houses already faced the 60-foot street, some of the street-calming designs could be employed.

Mayor Montandon asked who would be responsible for the cost of the maintenance of the five feet of landscaping between the sidewalk and the back of curb. Director Bell responded the development standards provided for the landscape on certain roadways and was usually maintained by a Landscape Maintenance Association or a Homeowners' Association.

Director Bell conceded some of the examples in California were more sophisticated in their approach but felt the City should lean toward that goal. He advised at one time he had suggested a Landscape Maintenance Tax District to the Homebuilders Association but they chose not to support the program. The existing Special Improvement District (SID) law should also be reviewed to determine if some of the components utilized by California could be applied in North Las Vegas. Director Bell felt better mechanisms were needed for the maintenance of lighting and landscaping.

Mayor Montandon agreed with the comments made by Director Bell and directed Staff to return to Council with recommendations for street-calming devices, as well as a vehicle for funding the maintenance.

Councilman Buck advised she had received several phone calls from concerned homeowners whose houses faced high-speed roadways. She stated she would like to seek an immediate remedy for those streets, such as speed bumps or speed humps, to slow down the traffic. Councilman Buck stated she would not be in favor of having houses face 60-foot roadways if it caused a safety problem.

Director Bell responded the houses could face the streets if the driveways and hazardous components, such as parked cars, were eliminated from the walkway. He felt this did not have to be done on both sides of the street but just on one side to be effective.

Councilman Buck reiterated her concern about the existing problems and finding immediate solutions. Director Bell responded there was currently no budget for traffic-calming remedies but the problem was an issue being discussed by the Traffic & Parking Committee. He felt speed humps were not a preferred solution because they would hinder emergency vehicles. Councilman Buck stated speed humps were placed on other streets in the Valley and there did not appear to be a problem.

Mayor Montandon commented the only solution for the existing houses facing 60-foot streets was to develop a budget package for traffic-calming purposes. For new streets a combination of a new street design and modifications to the development standards would have to be formulated along with a funding mechanism. Director Bell concurred with Mayor Montandon's comments.

ACTION: DISCUSSION HELD; STAFF DIRECTED AS FOLLOWS:

1. ACCEPT THE CURRENT STANDARD WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT DRIVEWAYS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED ON 60 FOOT WIDE STREETS.
2. DEVELOP A SOLUTION AND BUDGET TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS ON STREETS THAT ALREADY EXIST.
3. IDENTIFY WHO WILL FUND MAINTENANCE OF LANDSCAPING

2. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FORMATION OF A CULTURAL ARTS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND DIRECTION TO STAFF TO CONDUCT A COMMUNITY-WIDE CULTURAL ARTS SURVEY.

Strategic Planning Director Eric Dabney explained Staff had been directed to research the formation of a Cultural Arts Advisory Committee. After identifying several cities with successful and well-established art programs and examining those programs, it was discovered there were several structures in place dependent on the needs of the particular city. Director Dabney advised the structures varied from advisory boards and committees, commissions and, in some cases, local arts councils. He mentioned some of the annual events sponsored by the City of North Las Vegas, such as Tastes 'n Tunes, the Balloon and Fair Show, the Courtyard Concert Series in the Parks and others, all without the benefit of a Cultural Arts program.

Director Dabney stated some of the typical arts programming found in other entities consisted of visual arts, such as paintings, sculpture, murals, etc., and was developed to accept donations from philanthropic sources or as a way to support local and national artists. This program was subject to First Amendment challenges and required a Public Art Policy and commission to govern acquisition.

The second type of programming offered by other governmental entities was cultural arts which supported the cultural and performing arts. This type of program also provided educational programs in conjunction with various ethnic and cultural groups to provide an additional form of community outreach.

The last form of arts program discovered was a mixture of both cultural and visual programs called hybrid and would be dependent upon the type of commitment and money invested.

Some of the responsibilities that would be assumed by the members of a Cultural Arts Advisory Board were the following:

1. Advise the City Council with respect to all matters concerning arts programming, including suggested legislation and the allocation of funds in support of the arts.
2. Make recommendations with respect to the creation and updating of a Cultural Arts Municipal Plan.
3. Propose methods to encourage private initiative and participation in the fields of art.
4. Encourage an awareness of the value of the arts to the quality of life in the City for its residents and visitors.

5. Serve as a liaison between the arts community, the general public and the City Council with respect to matters concerning the arts.
6. Consult with, support and advise arts organizations and individuals with respect to the coordination and development of the arts in the City.
7. Establish the priorities necessary to achieve the City's cultural programming goals in concert with the public and private sectors.
8. Develop plans and proposals for submission to the City Council for the purpose of encouraging the City to seek state, federal and private funds for the support of the arts.
9. Encourage the highest possible standards in the development and presentation of artistic programs.

Director Dabney suggested membership for the Cultural Arts Advisory Board should consist of representatives of the cultural arts community, business and education communities, as well as the general public.

Director Dabney recommended that Staff be directed to conduct a community-wide survey to assess the City's cultural arts needs. This survey would be presented for Council review by February 15, 2006 and the results validated by March 1, 2006. Director Dabney stated Staff would work with the City Clerk and the City Attorney's office to prepare an ordinance or a resolution to create the Cultural Arts Advisory Board. Upon its creation, Staff would work with the Board to formulate goals and objectives for a cultural arts plan by June 15, 2006.

The cost of conducting the survey was estimated to be approximately \$1000 to cover postage and printing of surveys. Parks and Recreation Director Mike Henley offered to provide some of his Staff to assist with the surveys. Director Dabney listed several advantages to conducting a community-wide survey, such as identifying the needs and desires of the community, helping the City to better define its role in providing and funding cultural arts programming for its citizens and conforming to one of the goals of the Visioning 2025 Strategic Plan.

ACTION: STAFF TO MOVE FORWARD

PUBLIC FORUM

Harvey Ferber, 1504 Lazy Hill Ranch Way, North Las Vegas, stated he would like to have Lawrence Street be the first street to have the traffic-calming measures discussed in Item No. 1.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:39 P.M.

MOTION: Mayor Montandon

SECOND: Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson

AYES: Mayor Montandon, Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson, Council Members Smith,
Buck and Eliason

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

APPROVED: December 21, 2005

/s/ Michael L. Montandon
Mayor Michael L. Montandon

ATTEST:

/s/ Karen L. Storms
Karen L. Storms, CMC
City Clerk