

CLOVIS VETERANS MEMORIAL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A special meeting of the Clovis Veterans Memorial District Board of Directors was held on March 11, 2019 at the City of Clovis Council Chambers. Chairman Tom Wright called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM followed by the flag salute.

Chairman Wright
Director Watnick
Director Flach
Director Frantzich
Director Rice

1. Public Presentations

Council Member Ashbeck read a proclamation for National Safe Place Week for March 15-27th in Clovis, in conjunction with the Fresno EOC. Joe Martinez, EOC Manager, thanked Clovis for the proclamation.

2. Agenda Items:

a. City: Update on Landmark Commons

Renee Mathis, Planning and Development Department, reviewed the background of the Landmark Commons project. The site is the future home of the Fresno County Regional Library, Clovis Senior Center, and the Clovis Transit Center.

The Senior Center is increasing in size from 11,500 sq ft to approximately 29,000 sq ft. Clovis Transit Hub will be approximately 7,200 sq ft. Fresno County Regional Library will be approximately 20,000 sq ft and are currently soliciting public feedback regarding the elevations and architectural plans.

Staff is evaluating the option of postponing construction of the Third Street roundabout, as it was not determined as a requirement until 2039. This would be a cost savings, there was negative community feedback, but the City would ensure that there are high visibility cross walks.

Council Member Mouanoutoua asked if the funds for the roundabout could be utilized for a different function, Ms. Mathis stated it is earmarked for the project but could be used for other items such as trail maintenance.

b. City: Update on Downtown Parking & Parking Agreements between City and CVMD

Andy Haussler presented regarding the parking of Old Town. In 1970 the vacancy rate of Old Town was 50%, and the Clovis Community Development Agency and BOOT was created to increase downtown businesses. 2,059 parking spaces are currently available and open to the

public in down town Clovis. This was done through partnerships- including with the Clovis Veterans Memorial District, American Legion, Railroad Realignment, etc.

In 1995, the City, CCDA, and CVMD entered into an agreement to develop parking in the area, and expand the plaza between the Clovis Veterans Memorial District and the law school. Mr. Haussler reviewed the 1995 MOU.

In 2004, the District added 64 stalls around the 'Ricci Building.' This parking is open to the public. In 2007, the City developed the water tower lot to create another 150 stalls. In 2013, the 1995 agreement was amended to allow the District to add the solar structures and install 58 additional stalls. It transferred full ownership to the District, and restated that the parking must be public and priority for parking.

Mr. Haussler presented the additional efforts that the City is undergoing to ensure that parking is not an issue moving forward, including a study of downtown Clovis.

Council Member Bessinger asked what the area would be covered in the parking study, Mr. Haussler stated it would cover all of Old Town Clovis. He asked also if the unutilized funds for the roundabout could be utilized to purchase the courthouse and build a parking lot, Renee Mathis stated that she believed it would not be acceptable.

Mr Bradford, Clovis citizen and veteran, presented and stated that he is worried that the Clovis Veterans Memorial District wants to take the parking lot and that senior center can't park in the lot. He is concerned that the parking will not be available for seniors. Chairman Wright stated that we are having the meeting to clarify misconceptions such as this. He stated that the goal is to utilize the parking when events are not happening at the Senior Center. Chairman Wright stated that he has concerns regarding the changes and updates to the Landmark Commons being made and not communicated with the District, after the District has committed time and resources to develop architectural plans to complement the new senior center at the 299 Clovis Ave location- recently named the Flume House. Chairman Wright stated that the District has always supported the Senior Center and makes a monetary contribution of \$40,000.00 per a year to the center.

Chairman Wright would like to have discussions regarding a firm commitment from the City to utilize District parking for District only events at specific times.

The City staff stated that coordination with the City and the District is being done to ensure that the lot is open when the Senior Center is not being utilized. Luke Serpa, City Manager, stated that this is something that the staff can handle on their level. It was stated that the City Staff need to adjust permanent signage to state public parking when the facility is not utilized and take down the barricades when the facility is not open.

Mr. Richie, Clovis citizen and Veteran, stated that there are 53 stalls and more than 53 seniors in the facility. He stated that on the weekends the senior center is closed and therefore the parking can be open. He believes that during the times when the senior center is not open the public could utilize the parking.

Public comments were given from people from the Senior Center. Including the fact that they are grateful for the Senior Center and are concerned regarding the parking situation and losing parking. It was clarified that parking is not being taken away from the Senior Center.

c. **CVMD: Memorandum of Understanding between the City and District regarding parking at 299 Clovis Ave.**

City Council and the District determined that this item was taken care of in agenda item A and B.

d. **CVMD: Memorandum of Understanding between City and District regarding parking on 4th Street**

City Council and the District determined that this item was taken care of in agenda item A and B.

e. **CVMD: Senior Center Parking on 4th Street**

Patrick Deluca, Clovis citizen and veteran, active member of the senior center. He asked the council why multi level parking is not an option. He stated that the Senior Center in Landmark Commons will not have sufficient parking.

The Landmark Commons complex will have approximately 153 stalls, which is determined by California Code. The entrance will be on the North side of the building, near the parking stalls.

f. **CVMD: Proposed Roundabout on 3rd Street**

City Council and the District determined that this item was taken care of in agenda item A and B.

g. **CVMD: Landmark Commons Senior Center**

City Council and the District determined that this item was taken care of in agenda item A and B.

3. **Board Items:**

Council Comments:

Mr. Mouanoutoua thanked the guests for the evening. He stated that the MOU states that the District must maintain the solar lot for public parking. He thanked the staff for holding this discussion and being able to come to an agreement.

Mr. Jose Flores stated that at one point Old Town Clovis was dead, but having a parking problem shows growth and development.

Ms. Lynn Ashbeck stated that staff can compact all the MOUs and improve signage. She stated it might be a good idea to designate the Senior Center stalls for seniors at all times. Mr. Serpa stated his concerns but that it could be looked into. She stated that some great ideas were brought up by the community.

Mr. Drew Bessinger thanked staff for the presentation and the Memorial District for being present for the discussion.

Mayor Bob Whalen stated that when it comes to Old Town parking people who work in Old Town should utilize the water tower. He asked that the Memorial District ask its guests to utilize CVMD parking.

Board of Directors Comments:

Chairman Tom Wright stated that he would like to see the MOUs reviewed and a new agreement is come to and everyone is on the same page. He stated that the 299 Clovis Ave. parking still needs to be addressed.

Director Watnick stated he appreciated the opportunity for us to come together. He stated that he believed that water tower parking area was Clark's not City and therefore signage should be improved. He stated that he would like staff to look into a trolley service from the water tower parking.

Director Flach stated that the presentations were well done and answered his questions. The handicapped parking issue was brought to Director Flach and addressed at the District's board meeting last week.

Director Frantzich stated that Clark Intermediate is a problem for parking, and perhaps a joint meeting with the City of Clovis, Clovis Veterans Memorial District, and Clovis Unified School District board may be necessary.

Director Rice stated that we can educate the community to assist with the parking problems.

City Manager Comments:

Luke Serpa stated that this is the way that Clovis handles issues. He will move forward with coordinating with District Staff.

CEO Comments:

CEO Rios stated that the Central Valley has the largest amount of Veterans in the State of California. He stated that we should not look at the need for handicap stalls based on age, but that many young veterans come home and also need handicap stalls. He stated that the community is doing something right, and it is demonstrated through our growth. He is looking forward to further communication with City staff to address the issues presented this evening.

4. Adjournment

With no further business the Board adjourned at 8:15pm.

Reviewed by
Lorenzo Rios
CEO

Approved by
Director August Flach
Board Secretary