

CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM

DEPARTMENT: Library

AGENDA DATE: March 25, 2008

CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: CAROL BREY-CASIANO (543-5413)

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: District 3

SUBJECT: ORDINANCE

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

To approve a resolution that:

The City Manager be authorized to approve the recommended site for the new Cielo Vista Branch Library as was evaluated, determined and recommended by the City Engineer and Mijares-Mora Architects.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

In July of 2007 the facility housing the Cielo Vista Branch was sold by the City of El Paso for \$1.3 million. The Library Director was instructed to find a new site using only the proceeds from the sale, and subsequently proposed a partnership with El Paso Community College to renovate space near the EPCC Administrative Services Center. The Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association opposed this plan and the City Council subsequently rejected it.

City Engineering hired Mijares-Mora Architects to complete a site assessment for the new Cielo Vista Branch. Following a meeting with the Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association on October 11, 2007, City Engineering directed Mijares-Mora Architects to assess only Vista del Valle Park as a site location for the new Branch Library. In their Assessment Report dated Nov. 2, 2007, Mijares-Mora reviewed two sites within the park and recommended "Site A" on Hawkins between Gazelle and Darlina Streets.

Site "A" was recommended for the following reasons:

- ◆ This site has greater visibility than other sites considered;
- ◆ Access to the Library facility will be off Hawkins and not a residential street (Darlina);
- ◆ The Library building and parking lot will serve as buffer between Hawkins and playing fields;
- ◆ This site allows for greater flexibility, allowing for an increase in the size of the facility during original design and/or allowing for future expansion; and
- ◆ The new Branch facility will have higher visibility and presence, encouraging greater use by existing Library users and new patrons.

City Engineering and Library Staff, as well as Deputy City Manager Debbie Hamlyn, met with representatives from the Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association on February 27, 2008 to present the Assessment Report. At that time the Chair of the Library Committee, Jesse Sanchez, presented a third proposed site he labeled "Site C," directly adjacent to the Multi-Purpose Center. There are several reasons why this site would not be acceptable, most notably that there is not sufficient space for the Branch Library and that parking will be inadequate.

The Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association held its regular meeting on Thursday March 13, 2008 where a presentation about the new Cielo Vista Branch was made by Debbie Hamlyn, Alan Shubert and Carol Brey-Casiano, outlining the sites considered for the Branch and clarifying why Site A was recommended. Mr. Jesse Sanchez then gave a presentation promoting the Site "C" he recommends. Over 60 people attended the meeting, with 88% of those present at the meeting voting in favor of the City's proposal.

The Friends of the Cielo Vista Library also support the new site, as we hope to provide some space for them in the new Branch Library. With Council approval of the proposed site, we will be ready to move forward with design of the new Cielo Vista Branch Library, which will total 7,000 – 8,000 square feet.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

Yes, as noted above, the City Council approved the sale of the building housing the old Cielo Vista Branch at 8929 Viscount on July 17, 2007.

City Council then rejected the plan to renovate a space owned by the El Paso Community College for a new Branch Library in August 2007.

On February 5, 2008 City Council approved the reprogramming of an additional \$1.5 million to create a budget for the new Cielo Vista Branch of \$2.8 million.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

Funds are available from the sale of the 8929 Viscount facility in the amount of **\$1,274,564** – **Funding:** Dept ID: 31250204; Accounts: 508016 (\$109,768) and 508022 (\$5,000) and 508024 (\$29,000) and 508026 (\$55,000) and 508027 (\$1,043,796) and 508051 (\$32,000) TOTAL of \$1,274,564.; Fund: 27503; Class 31000.; Project: PLI08001

Plus reprogrammed funds in the amount of **\$1,500,000** – **Funding:** Dept ID: 99331117; Accounts: 508016 (\$176,500) and 508027 (\$1,323,500); Total of \$1,500,000; Fund: 27263; Class: 31000; Project: PCP08L101

= a total of **\$2,774,564.**

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

Enter appropriate comments or N/A
N/A

*******REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*******

LEGAL: (if required) Mark Shermutt **FINANCE:** (if required) _____

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Carol A. Brey-Casiano

(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)
Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: [Signature]

DATE: 3/19/08

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CITY CLERK DEPT.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, There is a great need for a Branch Library in the Cielo Vista neighborhood as there has been no library branch there since July 2007; and

WHEREAS, The City Engineer and Mijares-Mora Architects evaluated, determined and recommended the site on Hawkins in Vista Del Valle Park between Darlina and Gazelle Streets; and

WHEREAS, City Council has approved \$2,774,564 for the construction of a new Cielo Vista Branch Library in the Cielo Vista Neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, The site proposed for the new Cielo Vista Branch Library is on Hawkins Boulevard, in Vista Del Valle Park between Darlina and Gazelle Streets; and

WHEREAS, The proposed site was approved overwhelmingly by the Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association on March 13, 2008;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

That the City Manager be authorized to approve the recommended site for the new Cielo Vista Branch Library as was evaluated, determined and recommended by the City Engineer and Mijares-Mora Architects. (District 3)

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2008.

CITY OF EL PASO

Joyce Wilson
City Manager

ATTEST:

Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

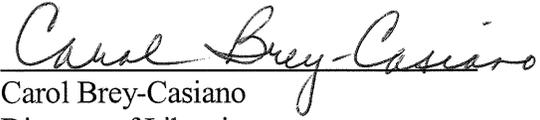
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APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Mark Shoosmith
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Carol Brey-Casiano
Director of Libraries

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Alan Shubert, P. E.
City Engineer

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