

★ **Roll Call Number**

Agenda Item Number
56

Date July 9, 2007

RESOLUTION to receive and file letter from the Ward 4 Mobile Home Park Committee regarding review of issues related to mobile home parks in the ward.

Moved by _____ to approve and to refer to the City Manager for action, as appropriate.

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
HENSLEY				
KIERNAN				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
VLASSIS				
TOTAL				

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

City Clerk

July 9, 2007

The Honorable Mayor
and
Members of the City Council

Re: Ward 4 Mobile Home Park Committee

Dear Members of the City Council:

The Ward 4 Mobile Home Park Committee consists of neighborhood leaders, not-for-profit human services and affordable housing providers, and interested residents. On April 12, 2007, this committee met with Council member Meyer for the first time to discuss key issues associated with mobile home parks located in South Des Moines. Through this meeting, as well as the two which followed in May and June, the committee gathered a significant amount of public input. In this letter, we would like to briefly share our thoughts with you regarding the present condition and possible redevelopment of some of the mobile home parks in Ward 4. It is our hope that you will consider these ideas and request that City staff explore options for pursuing them as appropriate.

1. **Present condition of mobile home parks**
The committee recognizes that several of the mobile home parks in Ward 4 are well maintained. Nevertheless, some of the parks are in very poor condition, particularly along busy streets like SE 14th Street, and we are concerned with the health and safety of the park residents. To the extent possible under current law, the committee would encourage City staff to continue to conduct inspections of the properties and individual units to ensure that housing is decent, safe, and sanitary.
2. **Purchase and redevelopment of mobile home parks**
Within the past year, three South Side mobile home parks have changed ownership. Such sales present an opportunity for redevelopment if a private entity (individual or group) is prepared to act. The committee believes that a private entity, rather than the City, might be best positioned to purchase a mobile home park. With sufficient capital, it could negotiate directly with the mobile home park owner and if necessary, manage the park for a number of years in order to decrease the eventual site acquisition cost for a real estate developer.


In such a scenario, the City could play an important role by offering financial incentives to interested real estate developers. The committee would recommend that City staff identify the economic tools that might be most appropriate and effective in stimulating redevelopment.

3. Relocation of mobile home park residents

Mobile home parks are small communities comprised of people of diverse ages, backgrounds, and aspirations. Thus, the redevelopment of a mobile home park is a serious matter and must be carried out with attention to the social and economic impacts that might result from a park closing. Because mobile home parks provide affordable housing to many low-income City residents, the committee would encourage City staff to work with affordable housing providers, human service organizations, and concerned stakeholders when researching ways to foster the redevelopment of a mobile home park.

Thank you for receiving this letter. We look forward to working with City staff and other interested groups as we continue to look at these issues, which though complicated, are paramount if we are to seriously work to improve the quality of life for all Ward 4 residents.

Sincerely,



Karon Booth
Co-Chair



Mel Pins
Co-Chair

Ward 4 Mobile Home Park Committee