

★ Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

58C

Date September 13, 2010

Communication from Ed Conlow, President, Waveland Park Neighborhood Association, regarding sale or transfer of City property on Observatory Road to Russ Parks.

Moved by _____ to _____

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
GRIESS				
HENSLEY				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
MOORE				
TOTAL				

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.

MOTION CARRIED APPROVED

Mayor

City Clerk

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September 9, 2010

TO: Mayor Cownie and Members of City Council
FR: Ed Conlow, President, Waveland Park Neighborhood Association Board
RE: Sale or transfer of city property on Observatory Road to Russ Parks

At the Waveland Park Neighborhood Association (WPNA) board meeting on September 1, Waveland Park's past president Davis Huston suggested that WPNA engage the city and Mr. Parks in discussions regarding some issues that could be advantageously handled at the same time as the possible sale or transfer of city property to Mr. Parks.

The WPNA board previously voted in support of Mr. Park's current plan to construct townhouses on Observatory Road. Accordingly, by raising these issues my intention is not to delay or obstruct, but to use the possible sale or transfer of property as an opportunity to deal with some lingering concerns related to Cummins Woods.

By raising these issues, WPNA's primary interest is to enhance the functionality of Cummins Woods, which is consistent with WPNA's neighborhood action plan and which the WPNA board believes is also consistent with the city's goal of promoting parks and public spaces within the city. I am not certain if these issues are best discussed as part of the property sale/transfer process, rezoning process, or through some other process.

Issues include:

1. As an alternative to having Mr. Parks purchase city property west of his property on Observatory Road, would it be possible to do a land swap so the city could obtain property along the northern border of Mr. Parks' current property, and have that city's newly-obtained property become part of Cummins Woods?
2. As part of this process, would it be possible to situate an entrance and pathway to Cummins Woods from Observatory Road?
3. If there is a sale of property, could the proceeds be designated for improvements to Cummins Woods?
4. Can we limit light pollution in the new townhouses, in consideration of proximity to the Drake Observatory?
5. Some WPNA residents, and/or the WPNA board, may seek assurances that additional development (beyond the six townhouses) is not possible at some future date. (Ancillary to these discussions, to help block any possible future development of Cummins Woods, the WPNA board may seek a permanent conservation easement for Cummins Woods, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.)
6. Some WPNA residents, and/or the WPNA board, may seek assurances that certain aspects of the natural environment around Cummins Woods are protected as much as possible.
7. As a separate but related issue, would the city be able to transfer some golf course property west of Cummins Woods (property not used by golfers) to Cummins

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Woods, to facilitate efforts to develop a perimeter trail or other public use for Cummins Woods?

I don't know if this is an exhaustive list of all issues related to the sale of property to Mr. Parks. I can't say that there won't be other issues that crop up during the rezoning process. Thank you for your consideration.