

From: Jomsky, Mark
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2009 10:53 PM
To: Novelo, Lilia
Subject: Fwd: Staff Report - Annandale Canyon 3.A.3.

Please prepare this as supplemental correspondence. Thanks.

Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
City of Pasadena
(626) 744-4709 (direct line)
(626) 372-6769 (cell)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "George Wilson" <pwpdaze@pacbell.net>
Date: October 18, 2009 3:37:02 PM PDT
To: "Bogaard, Bill" <bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net>, "Holden, Chris" <cholden@cityofpasadena.net>, "Robinson, Jacque" <jacquerobinson@cityofpasadena.net>, "McAustin, Margaret" <mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net>, "Haderlein, Steve" <shaderlein@cityofpasadena.net>, "Madison, Steve" <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>, "Tornek, Terry" <ttornek@cityofpasadena.net>, "Gordo, Victor" <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>
Cc: "Jomsky, Mark" <mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net>, "Suzuki, Takako" <tsuzuki@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: Staff Report - Annandale Canyon 3.A.3.

October 18, 2009

Re: Staff Recommendation 3.A.3. - Annandale Canyon Trail Funding Application

Mayor Bogaard and Members of the City Council:

It appears as though there is a small group who are supportive of turning the Annandale property into a small wilderness hiking area that may ultimately connect to other greater area hiking trails.

My wife and I request that before the Council votes on the staff recommendation that you and the Council members visit this specific Annandale area. Please observe the high fire danger and remoteness of this area that make public safety supervision highly problematic, especially with the narrow streets making emergency vehicle access and resident emergency evacuation extremely difficult.

As part of your deliberation on the recommendation we ask that you also give consideration to the following issues:

- What will be the impact to the area floral and fauna;

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- As the local streets are not the usual “residential streets” what will be the impact on the area neighborhood traffic;
- As City Departments and employees have been asked to reduce expenses and the on-going discussion of layoff potential, where will the on-going park maintenance and upkeep funding come from;
- Where will the cost of additional police patrol and fire service be funded, and how will the already stretched police and fire resources be shifted to accommodate this added service;
- How will the recently enacted Red Flag parking restrictions be applied and enforced in this area?

Some of these points are the same raised in argument against the Annandale Estates Development, but are just as valid today with respect to developing wilderness parkland in a residential area. Stressing the need for public safety cannot be overstated, especially in these economic times, nor can containing costs for “vanity” projects.

We understand that the staff recommendation is only for authority to apply for dollars to provide for a design plan for trails and support accessories. Our concern is that there is no long term City plan for this development that takes in to consideration all of the neighborhood impacts and on going maintenance costs. Our concern is also that all of the nearby residents have not had a chance to voice their desires or concerns nor to have input in to this area’s development; all of this can and should be included in a proper development plan.

We saw that last February City Council approved the purchase of the Annandale property as “Open Space”; now we see a new “Annandale Canyon Open Space Trail Access and Trail Improvements Project” that we haven’t been able to find in the current C.I.P. We see that this “project” is compatible with the Public Facilities Element but no reference to the Open Space Element of the General Plan. Will this action morph into something with a life, trajectory, and momentum all its own and result in something that area residents have to live with?

Our fear is that, if approved at this eleventh hour, an application will be submitted and possibly approved; a design will be developed and that this design will be the driver of the development rather than the planning as the driver of the design, without resident input.

We urge you and the members of the City Council not to approve the staff recommendation.

George Wilson

Woodcliffe Road