Santa Cruz Buys Parcel For A Park In The Beach Flats

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The city has bought the vacant triangular parcel at Raymond and Leibrandt streets in the Beach Flats area for a park.

The Santa Cruz City Council Tuesday approved the contract to pay $94,000, plus escrow fees, for the property. Payment is to the trust estate of the late William V. Hollingbery.

The action culminated a battle begun two years ago by neighborhood residents for the city to provide a park and other amenities in what was generally conceded to be a pocket of urban decay.

The city has allocated substantial sums from its federal Housing and Community Development Act grant for expenditure in this area over a three year period to effect housing rehabilitation, development of a park, and other improvement projects.

The action came just a day after the city Parks and Recreation Department had approved a playground for the Uhden - Park Place area of Beach Flats, a project separate from the park project.

In other substantive business Tuesday not reported previously by The Sentinel, the City Council took the following actions:

FEES - The City Council adopted revised fee schedules for building, electrical, plumbing and mechanical permits, with Councilmen Larry Edler and John Mahaney dissenting.

Mahaney pointed out that construction is down and that perhaps city revenues from permits are down for that reason. "The idea seems backward. It seems that we are increasing our fees because we are not covering the building department budget.

Peter Katzlberger, Santa Cruz planner whose department includes the inspection services, said the city also seems to be undercharging.

The fee increases are not the same across the board: permits at the lower end of valuation will increase less than permits for larger projects.

Were the increases applied to the 1979-80 budget year, Katzlberger reported, the $24.4 million in valuation would have increased the inspection fees from $140,965 to about $232,000.

RIMS - The City Council tabled a proposed contract for the Rental Information and Mediation Service after the neutrality of the Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce in disputes between landlords and tenants had been questioned by Councilman Michael Rotkin.

Rotkin contended that RIMS had to be impartial in its mediation services and he said he could not accept that the CofC is neutral and that it should not be so labeled. The CofC has a representative on the RIMS board.

Mike Vasser, newly elected president of the RIMS board, said the previous designation by the board of the CofC as a neutral will be reconsidered at a directors' meeting.

"Who's the chamber's representative?" Councilman Bert Muhly asked.

He was told: Mannie Shaffer.

Muhly laughed and asked, "He's a neutral?"

Then came the tabling.

DISCRIMINATION - The City Council tabled also an amendment to the recently adopted ordinance that bans discrimination against pregnant women and/or their children in rental housing.

The amendment would have upheld pre-existing contracts safeguarding "adults only" provisions for some housing. But this was questioned by David Cone of the Santa Cruz Housing Action Committee and by Councilman Bruce Van Allen.

A substitute amendment was proposed by Van Allen and will be studied for consideration at the next council meeting. In some cases, the City Council was told by Associate City Attorney Neal Anderson, Van Allen's measure clears up ambiguities in the proposed amendment.

Van Allen's amendment would prevent a majority of tenants from voting existing tenants out because of children.

The city has allocated money from its federal Housing and Community Development Act grant for expenditure in the Beach Flats area over a three year period to effect housing rehabilitation, development of a park, and other projects.