

Polo Barn's fate to be decided another day

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SCOTTS VALLEY — The fate of Scotts Valley's historic Polo Barn will be decided another day.

After an emotionally charged debate Wednesday on the possibility of demolishing the barn in exchange for \$1 million from a housing developer, the City Council unanimously agreed to allow an additional 30 days to see if a deal can be made with Pasatiempo Golf Course to relocate the barn.

Lennar Homes executives agreed to work with Pasatiempo to see if the golf course would pay for moving and housing the crumbling structure, which was built in 1930 by the Marion Hollins, the woman who created the golf course.

"Personally, I think this is where the barn should go," said Gordon Jones, president of Lennar Homes Northern California. "I'm a golfer. I understand the history of Pasatiempo. I don't mind waiting another 30 days."

The barn's move and restoration would have to be paid for by the golf course, which rough estimates by city officials and Lennar put upward of \$2 million.

Whatever the outcome of the discussion with Pasatiempo, the city is still set to receive \$1 million from Lennar, an offer the company made to demolish the structure instead of save it.

In addition, the developer will build a public park at the barn site at the end of Santa's Village Road along with

40 new homes.

If Pasatiempo is unable to house the barn, it will be dismantled and the salvageable pieces can be used in other projects, Councilman Dene Bustichi said.

Pasatiempo member Jackie Heald created a new direction for the council to consider when she mentioned the golf course was interested in keeping the barn. However, no golf course representative attended the council meeting.

Councilwoman Stephany Aguilar, who wants the barn preserved in its entirety, seized the chance for the historic structure to have another life. Aguilar proposed granting the additional 30 days to allow talks with Pasatiempo.

"I don't want a token gazebo from the barn pieces," she said. "I don't want to piece meal it."

The debate over the old Polo Barn on the northern edge of town drew a crowd of 40 or so people to Wednesday's council meeting, most lobbying city leaders to save

the barn and hold Lennar Homes accountable for not preserving the building over the past few years.

Many criticized Lennar representatives for breaking the promise they made to preserve the barn in 2009 when the company purchased the Santa's Village Road property to construct upscale homes.

"Lennar made a promise," Ellen Buckingham said. "If they can't keep a promise, I don't think they should be building on that property at all. This is a historic monument."

Some residents spoke in favor of the city accepting the \$1 million to use for improving Scotts Valley's parks and youth recreational programs.

A handful of longtime residents said they were unaware the barn existed until a few months ago when the preservation debate was sparked.

"It's expensive to restore these kinds of buildings," Robert Aldana said. "The city really needs the mon-

ey. There are a lot of other things that need our attention right now."

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