

Santa Cruz Sentinel

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Grant School's Future Undecided

More than 1½ hours of public discussion Monday by the Santa Cruz city recreation commission on how the old Grant School should be used ended with the same answer as a month ago: no recommendation yet.

Instead, the commission said it will have a public evening meeting May 18, especially for area residents, at a place to be announced to see how they feel about the matter.

A difference in feeling as to how the school itself should be

used was the main stumbling block Monday, just as it was a month ago.

One group, the Citizens Committee for the Grant School Park and Community Center, felt the building should be used for a community - recreation center. As such, group spokesmen said it could be utilized as an indoor recreational center, for such things as a break-fast program for children, volunteer day care center, tenants rights, welfare rights, neighborhood senior citizens groups and possible church counseling services.

It said that locating the offices for the Community Action Board in the school, considered last month, would not be necessary for at least a year, if at all.

The Rev. Herbert Schmidt said the building could be renovated for a community center with donated labor and mate-

rials. A petition with about 1,400 signatures supporting that concept was presented to the commission by Bill Moore.

Anthony York, 135 Belmont St., presented a petition with 400 signatures of what he said "are neighborhood residents, not of northern Santa Cruz County," that prefers the school and grounds be utilized as a recreation center per se, not as a community center, too.

He said if all of the programs previously presented were to use the site, there would be little time for the needed recreational programs.

A number of persons spoke in favor of both concepts.

Commissioner James Hammond made a motion that the school be renovated for "general uses under the administration of the city," but it died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Donald Ward then suggested a public meeting

"primarily for neighborhood residents" be set May 18 to get a feeling of what is wanted. The commission followed that procedure in developing the Garfield neighborhood park.

What a "neighborhood" is was never determined, but a six-block area was mentioned, as well as the sector between Ocean and Market Streets, and to Water Street.

The commission in 1968 passed a resolution to develop the 2½-acre site for "open space land for a neighborhood park" and the city received \$53,000 then from the federal department of Housing and Urban Development to purchase the Garfield Park and Grant schools.

The main question the commission wants answered is whether neighborhood residents want to have a community center combined with a recreation center, or a recreation center only.

Educational Goals Topic

Jene Zenner and David L. (Larry) Parrish, trustees-elect of the Santa Cruz City Schools, will discuss their educational goals for city schools Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Harbor High School library.

Their appearance will be part of Harbor's observance of Public Schools Week.