

Changes coming for ECD

Theresa Worthington

Desert Valley Times

The Mesquite Economic Development Commission will be facing some changes with the new year, members heard during Wednesday's meeting.

Bryan Dangerfield will leave to head up the city's recreation and parks department and Aaron Baker will take his place as interim economic development director.

Also, the Mesquite City Council will look today at the possibility of privatizing the EDC, either in part or completely.

The move to privatize the commission will be a big step, which may give the commission greater power to help the city by freeing it from bureaucracy and government protocol. Commission members have raised concerns in the past that they are not able to make the difference they would like, feeling as though they do a lot of talking without the action.

Privatizing the commission may change this.

"There are things that a private commission can do that a public one cannot," said Kurt Sawyer, acting city manager. "You can make deals as a private organization without waiting for city council, freeing up companies from council scrutiny," and getting the ball rolling on bringing in companies faster.

Baker presented some models for consideration.

"We could continue as is, (functioning) underneath the governing body," said Baker. "Then there

• See ECD on A3



David Bly / Desert Valley Times

Lighting up the neighborhood

The Carl Sechrest home on Harrier Lane (above) is ablaze with a display that includes 38,000 lights that dance and twinkle in time to music, leaping arches, a six-foot star and lighted figures. The lights are controlled by 144 computer channels, with with song custom-programmed by the Sechrests. It took about 12 hours of programming for each minute of music. The music can be received on car radios at 91.7 FM. In the photo below can be seen part of the display assembled by the Highland Fairways community. The display can be seen at Pioneer Boulevard and Redd Hills Parkway.



Zoning items on city agenda

Desert Valley Times

There are four — count 'em — four zoning items on tonight's city council agenda, which give almost a nostalgic feel to the regular meeting.

It has been a while since council has reviewed multiple zoning items during a meeting, something that was commonplace before the economy hit the skids.

Tonight council members will consider approval of two conditional use permits (CUP), amendments to a development agreement and an extension of time for a tentative map case.

Council will look at granting a CUP to allow a child-care facility in the general-commercial (CR-2) zoning district at 560 W. Mesquite Blvd.

All of Me Childcare and Development, LLC is requesting a child-care facility use, which is listed as a CUP in the CR-2 zoning district.

The applicant is proposing to occupy an existing 4,700-square-foot single-family structure. Initially the applicant is proposing a day-care facility for 51 children that could be increased to 71 in the future. However, the applicant anticipates that not more than 25 children will be at the facility at one time. Facility hours would be 5 a.m. to midnight, Monday through Sunday.

• See COUNCIL on A3

Golf Fore Kids tournament raises \$40,000 in toys, cash

For the Desert Valley Times

Participants in the seventh annual GolfForeKids Tournament held Thursday at four valley golf courses donated \$40,000 worth of toys and cash.

The event attracted 440 golfers who donated enough balls, trucks, dolls and games to fill two large trailers. Among the piles of toys were 108 bikes and scooters.

Four courses donated their facilities for the event: Falcon Ridge, Conestoga, Canyons, and Palms. The Casablanca Special Events Center was donated for the luncheon, prizes, and raffle. Adding in those donated services brings the total contribution to about \$90,000, according to tournament officials.

Bill Moore of Mesquite played at The Palms. He has participated in four of the events.

"It's just a good thing to do for the kids," said Moore. "This isn't about golf, but rather about helping the kids here."

Gloria George, also of Mesquite, played for the second time.

"This is fun and it's Mesquite," said George. "I have worked for the ReMax Long Drive for 12 years and this was a natural. This is what Mesquite is all about.

Look how many people are here.

"I have never regretted moving to Mesquite and this event is among the reasons why I love this city. It is so representative of what Mesquite does for everyone around it. This city is always reaching out to help others. It's simply fun here."

Mesquite Mayor Mark Wier said the event is priceless. He said seeing the looks on the faces of the kids who receive the gift is something that no one forgets soon.

"It's really something when you see the gifts delivered," said Wier. "There is not a dry eye in the room. These people have done a fantastic job especially considering that this started on one golf course. In fact, I would have to say this is the finest charitable golf tournament in the country. It's truly amazing."

The toys are first used to fill the needs of the local Salvation Army Angel Tree program which will provide Christmas gifts for 600 children this year. The remaining toys are distributed between the Littlefield-Beaver Dam area and the Moapa Valley, which helps bring Christmas to about another 200 children. The raffle raised



Photo submitted

Members of the police and fire departments unload toys donated at the Golf Fore Kids tournament.

\$3,500 which will be donated to the Shop With A Cop program. The tournament accounts for about half of the yearly Shop With A Cop budget.

The first Golf Fore Kids tournament was held in 2005 at Falcon

Ridge Golf Course. What started as a simple idea has multiplied into a staple for the community at Christmas time.

Members of the local police and fire departments helped to load, unload, reload, and distrib-

ute the toys. The Virgin Valley High School Interact Club helped with handling the toys, serving the lunch and cleaning up the tent.

• See GOLF on A3

FIND IT ONLINE

Stay current on what's going on with updates and news by visiting our Web site, www.dvtonline.com.



INDEX

Business & Finance..... C1
 Classified Ads.....C6
 Health & Living.....D1
 Obituaries.....A5
 Opinion & Comment.....A4
 Sports & Recreation.....B1
 Service Directory.....C6

© 2011 Desert Valley Times Vol. 16, No. 99

HOME DELIVERY

If your newspaper has not been delivered by 11:30 a.m. on Tuesdays & Fridays please call 346-7495.

50%
DISCOUNT

Extended thru 12/29/11

Pay With Your Points!

MESQUITE GAMING RETAIL OUTLETS

GOLF

• Continued from A1

The week also included nearly 100 members of the Golf Writers of America who gathered in Mesquite. Writer Greg Miles of Golf Chicago participated in the Golf Fore Kids event.

Miles said writers journeyed to Mesquite after their event had been held in Scottsdale, Ariz., for the past nine years. He also praised the Golf Fore Kids event.

"I was impressed in many ways," said Miles.

"First, by its organization – the timely placing of 440 golfers at four different courses. Then, collecting and centralizing all the

toys in one spot for display by the time of the luncheon; hats off to those committee leaders who spearheaded the event.

"Second, I marvel at the generosity of the participants (toys) and the sponsors (prizes); never have I seen a raffle with so many winners.

"This was truly a total community effort. And not to be forgotten was the fine weather and the fun had by the golfers."

The golf schedule continues in Mesquite with the return of the Nevada Open Wednesday through Friday at The Palms and Casablanca courses. More information can be found by visiting www.nvopen.com.



Photo submitted

Volunteers help haul toys donated to the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program.

COUNCIL

• Continued from A1

The city planning department states that conditional uses are generally compatible with permitted land uses in a given zoning district, but require individual review of their location, design and configuration to address any issues that may need to be mitigated.

Surrounding neighbors are Sun Valley Plaza across the street to the north, the Rising Star subdivision to the south and Samurai 21 and a vacant lot on either side of the site.

The applicant has said playground areas will be fenced with at least a four-foot high fence. No play areas will be permitted in the front yard. The project location is on a site that has existing off-street parking. The applicant is proposing to use the eight existing parking stalls on site for loading and drop-off. However, that doesn't conform to city code parking standards, which require one space per employee plus one space for every five children and one off-street loading for every eight children. The site would require 19 parking stalls, based on 51 children and three employees and doesn't account for additional children in the future.

Staff believes the parking requirements are excessive, since the children themselves do not drive. There is only a need for drop-off spaces and parking for employees. The extended hours of operation allow children to be staggered within the 19 hours of operation, making current available on-site parking sufficient to

meet use demands.

Staff is recommending approval of the CUP. The item includes a public hearing.

Council will consider a bill amending a development agreement between the city and LB Properties, Inc. (Highland Vistas planned used development) by revising the affordable housing section.

The agenda item includes second reading of the bill and a public hearing.

LB Properties wants to amend the affordable housing section of its development agreement with the city because the company said the economic downturn has negatively impacted nearly every sector of the economy since the development agreement was signed.

Specifically, LB Properties wants to eliminate the requirement to include restrictive covenants or deed restrictions with respect to the first sale of units in the affordable housing subdivisions.

The section states:

"The affordable housing units must be owner occupied and remain the primary residence of the initial buyer for a period of 18 months from the date of the original sale.

"The affordable housing units may not be leased or rented by the initial buyer/owner for a period of 18 months from the date of the original sale except under extraordinary circumstances."

LB Properties also wants to eliminate the requirement the company limit the sale of the affordable housing units to one unit per buyer.

The restrictions were put into place to prevent speculative purchasing and flipping of housing units.

"Basically, they were to help prevent investors from coming in and buying up the below-market housing units and either selling them for a profit or renting them out," according to the planning department's analysis. "Both scenarios would work to prevent median income households from being able to buy affordable homes."

City planners, recognizing that the collapse of the housing market has dramatically changed the real estate market in Mesquite, is asking if there is justification to remove the requirement for deed restrictions and if the same objectives can be met through the use of covenants and conditions rather than deed restrictions. Planners also ask if deed restrictions place Highland Vistas at an economic disadvantage.

The third zoning item is consideration for an extension of time for the tentative map case for the previously-approved Desert Ridge Phase I subdivision, containing 94 lots on nearly 20 acres located at the intersection of Canyon Crest Blvd. and Gold Water Alley in the Canyon Crest PUD.

The tentative map will expire Jan. 8, 2012 unless the extension is granted. Staff is recommending approval. The item includes a public hearing.

The last zoning item is consideration of a CUP to permit construction of two assisted living facilities at the parcel located at 780 Second South St. in the gen-

eral-commercial (CR-2) zone.

The applicant, Stewart Enterprises of St. George, is seeking approval to construct the facilities on a one-acre parcel. Stewart Enterprises also is seeking a parcel map division of the parcel into two lots and architectural and site plan review approval for the proposed buildings.

Public, quasi-public and institutional facilities and uses are listed as conditional uses in the CR-2 zoning district.

Staff is recommending approval.

In other action, council will discuss and possibly take action on privatizing the city's economic development department and provide revised direction to staff regarding the award of the request for proposal for outdoor advertising services for two community gateway signs and four community event signs.

Council will hear a presentation by BLT Lincoln County Land, LLC regarding plans for future development of property on the northern half of Flat Top Mesa, located in Lincoln County

Council also will consider adoption of three resolutions:

- A resolution adopting a memorandum of understanding between the Mesquite Police Department and the State of Nevada, Office of the Attorney General.
- A resolution adopting a mosquito abatement cooperative agreement between the city and Southern Nevada Health District.
- A resolution to oppose the Arizona Department of

Transportation's request to toll the Arizona segment of Interstate 15.

Council will review and take possible action on a software purchase from Computer Software Inc. for business licensing and building permitting functions, an agreement with M2ComSys, Inc. to provide transcription services to the city, approval of the street lane index and road mileage report for public roads within the city's maintenance jurisdiction, possible approval of a gaming license and slot route operator license for Jett Gaming, LLC (doing business as Terrible's) and approval of a restaurant with bar license for Matthew John for Peggy Sue's, located at 380 N. Sandhill Blvd., subject to favorable fingerprinting results.

Giving you something to think about, not telling you what to think.

Desert Valley Times
dvtonline.com
The Desert Valley Times Online

ECD

• Continued from A1

is the private organization, but the city staffs it and provides the funding; then there are public/private partnerships ... both parties pay into it (for) the greater good; there are private organizations (requiring) annual contributions from members; there is a private organization with shareholders; and then there is the for-profit organization, where a company is formed.

"These are some of the models which will be discussed by the city council, and the pros and cons of each."

Public/private models balance the needs, providing buy-in from the community while still maintaining local jurisdictions through public participation, whereas total privatization would mean little-to-no public sector input, he said.

David West of Reliance Connects pointed out that privatization would give members and employees the freedom to advocate for incoming businesses without the conundrum of stepping over ethical boundaries set

by being public figures.

It will not happen overnight, however.

The hope is, said Baker, that in the next few months, a steering committee would be formed to find the best fit for Mesquite. That core group would be able to research various models, defining details that would suit the area and creating and presenting their ideas to the council on what direction they feel would work.

Regardless of structure, said Baker, it will not work without considering the community as a whole, defining the boundaries of the group and being willing to communicate and work with other sectors, such as the Chamber of Commerce.

"In order to have a successful organization," he said, "it is important to have the right structure, but even before that is the proper mission statement."

He has asked that the commission members think on what the mission should say, and suggested that the group give a clearly stated objective.

Dangerfield and Baker invited members and the public to come to council meetings to voice their concerns regarding the proposition.

The commission went over what had been discussed and done the past year, including launching the Mesquite Means Business portion of the city's website as well.

We want to make you a loan...
...Because Money Doesn't Grow On Trees.
\$100-\$1000
Courtesy Loan
50 S Arrowhead Ste E
Mesquite NV 89027
702-345-7510

Christmas Sale
25% off Entire Store*
3 Days Only 15-16-17
10am-5:30pm
Southwest Spirit
561 West Mesquite Blvd. 346-6959
*Excluding Indian Jewelry & Tribal T-shirts

IT'S BACK!
2 SUITS..
FOR JUST \$250
Large selection of suits including 2-pants suits.* Perfect for missionaries and business men. Limited time offer.

Men's TIES
3 for \$25

Men's SLACKS
\$29.99

Adrian's
628-4223 • Mon - Sat 10am - 7pm
435 N 1680 E • West of Red Cliffs Mall • St. George
*Available Sizes: Shorts 36-46, Regulars 36-52, Longs 38-52