



CITY OF ORLAND STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 5, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council

FROM: Pete Carr, City Manager

SUBJECT: Undeveloped City Property 517 Walker Street (Discussion/Direction)

City Council will advance its consideration of potential utilization of City land on Walker Street immediately east of the railroad tracks.

BACKGROUND:

Following the City's joining Bee City USA in 2016 and self-proclaimed designation as "Queen Bee Capital of North America" in 2017, a group of local apiarists working on the dream of establishment of a honeybee museum refocused its plans to Orland. That group, organized as Honeybee Discovery Center (HDC), now an established 501(C)3 tax exempt non-profit organization, operates under the direction of an independent board of directors. The City has been supporting and participates in HDC activities, as well as with the parallel "Queen Bee Capital Committee."

The City Council on December 17, 2018 approved purchase of $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of bare land on Walker Street between 5th Street and the railroad tracks (address: 517 Walker Street) with the statement, "The land is envisioned as having economic and community development value as a community center / visitor center / museum site." Minutes from that meeting record:

"The property is planned for future development as a museum and visitor center... The cost to purchase the property is \$110,000. Council agreed this is a good investment for the community."

City Council heard an update on HDC progress November 16, 2021, during which the HDC Board reaffirmed its intention to use the site for a future museum. To date the City has not entered into a lease agreement for the land with HDC, and it now appears that HDC may be refocusing its discovery center vision to an alternate location outside Glenn County. If this becomes reality, the City will need one or more alternate options to best utilize the site.

Meanwhile, a Clean California grant application is pending that would fund establishment of a conceptualized "Pollinator Park" on the site, providing vegetation, pedestrian walkways and seating, and outdoor plaza-type gathering space. Electric vehicle charging infrastructure is also proposed for a portion of the property.

DISCUSSION:

With or without approval of the Pollinator Park grant, Council should consider options and preferred alternatives for this key-location property. An artist's sketch of the originally envisioned park concept is presented for consideration. Ideas recently suggested include city hall facilities, parking, and recreational amenities.

Attachments (2):

- A. Aerial site depiction (see below)
- B. Pollinator Park conceptual layout

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss options and identify preferred uses of the site as back-ups to the HDC plan.

FISCAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATION:

N/A at this time.

