

April Jacobs

From: Stephen Petzold <stephen.petzold@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 4:03 AM
To: April Jacobs
Subject: Fwd: Ad Hoc Committee on Renaming of Central Park

CAUTION - EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear April,

Please include this letter in the package for this evenings meeting of the SCV WATER Directors.

It is my intention to call in during the meeting and provide public comment for an item not on the agenda.

Steve Petzold
661-609-1739
Open Government Advocate

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Stephen Petzold <stephen.petzold@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 6:48 AM
Subject: Ad Hoc Committee on Renaming of Central Park
To: April Jacobs <ajacobs@scvwa.org>, ecolley@scvwa.org <ecolley@scvwa.org>, wcooper@scvwa.org <wcooper@scvwa.org>
CC: City Council <citycouncil@santa-clarita.com>

Dear friends at SCV WATER,

This is an explicit request that all future meetings of the AD Hoc Committee on Renaming Central Park be subject to the public notice requirements of the Brown Act. The Brown Act exception for Ad Hoc Committees does not preclude an Ad Hoc Committee from giving public notice, and allowing public attendance and participation. When in doubt, preference should be given to complete transparency.

By involving members of the City Council and/or staff in the meeting , the nature and purpose of the AHC seems to have changed from on of an advisory board.....to one of a negotiation committee . This is dangerous ground for both public agencies. City Council has not empowered any member to negotiate their written request and the sharing of any information among the members prior to or after a meeting may result in an illegal serial meeting. The Councils Norms and Procedures advises Council members to support decisions made and that they should identify opinions as their own and not misrepresent the position of the Council.

If you invite a select group of community members to participate, you should notify the public and allow their attendance and participation in the interest of fairness and equity.

It was concerning to read the interview with Director Bill Cooper in this weekend's Signal after hearing his presentation at the last SCV WATER meeting. The Ad Hoc Committee is clearly working to append the name of the park, rather than simply change the signage using the lease agreement as its guide.

It is my opinion that the Memorandum of Understanding "Joint Recognition" Page 3 should be the guide for decision making regarding changes to the Monument Sign rather than the lease agreement regarding signs. The Monument Sign is not just another directional or identification sign in the park. Its exclusive purpose is defined in the Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU has served the purposes of the Water District quite well over twenty-five years by not including the names of any natural person.

If you decide to append the name of the park you should start by amending the MOU since you are setting a precedent for the future and giving preference to certain individuals to the exclusion of others.

It is my opinion that the proposed construction of two twelve foot obelisks near the park entrance and close proximity to the gate and drive for SCV WATER may well present a health and safety hazard. Demonstrations and commemorations near this area may pose serious concerns for the agency.

Matt Stone indicated at the last meeting that the construction of the obelisks will not require prior approval of the Water Agency because they are not prohibited in the lease agreement. Yet in the cover letter to the MOU dated December 11, 1995 signed by Robert C. Sagehorn it is written "The uses of the site that will be authorized in the lease referenced in the memorandum will be for park and sports facilities together with roadway and parking only". At some point the Directors of SCV Water will have to determine whether two twelve foot obelisks memorializing two victims from the Saugus High Shooting fits within the definition of a "park and sports facility".

The City has placed SCV Water in a very difficult situation. Other options were available but in the interest of expediency the Council decided to ignore the MOU and the other options presented in the agenda packet for their September 25 meeting. The Council misled the public by taking action at the meeting after indicating in the agenda that it would be a discussion of possible options. There was no meaningful discussion at that meeting.

I close by reiterating my simple request that any future meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee for the renaming of Central Park include appropriate public notice, attendance, and participation.

Sincerely yours,
Steve Petzold
661-609-1739

Cc:Members of the Santa Clarita City Council

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