

January 5, 2014 emails, Hartman to and from Councilor Harris

Topic: The "park" at the entrance to The Reserve

Roger Hartman <nmpops@gmail.com>

7:35 AM (0 minutes ago)

to Don, Michael, Bill, Connie, Debbie, Dick, Gary, Geneiva, James, Joe, John, Karen, Rita, Roger, Selva, Stuart

Councilor Harris,

I've had multiple calls from residents in The Reserve who are very concerned about what may happen with the green space or "park" at the entrance to The Reserve.

As I'm sure you know, Pulte has maintained the area for years at its expense, and now Pulte understandably wishes to bring that to a close. Pulte has made what I consider a generous offer to remove the vegetation that requires being watered to survive and replace it with xeric vegetation and some good southwestern rock. All of this would be at Pulte's expense.

As you know, many attempts have been made over the years to get the City to accept this area as a park and take over maintenance. None of those requests have been successful, including an attempt in the past month. There are several small and irregular-shaped City parks around town, so in that respect this area is not exceptional. We all understand that the City has a finite budget, but we'd sure like to see this area stay as it is.

I know that you live in The Reserve, and Michael Horanburg has responded to one Reserve resident that because you live there, you have recused yourself from this issue. Still, the many concerned people who live in The Reserve and who have contacted me with their concerns are your constituents, and they would really appreciate knowing that their elected City Councilor was doing what he could to help them with this pressing concern. My understanding is that you're renting. If that's correct, perhaps you might be able to involve yourself in some way since you would not have a property-owner's interest in this.

I will help spread the word of your thoughts on this by both email and posting on our web site, as I do all correspondence with your office. Thanks in advance.

Respectfully,

Roger Hartman
President, Four Hills Village Homeowners' Association

Councilor Harris' reply, also Jan 5, 2014

Don at Harrislaw

2:15 PM (4 hours ago)

to
Michael
me
Michael

Hello Roger,

Nice to hear from you.

Sorry I have not personally responded to some of your earlier emails, but December was a difficult month for me, but I understand Michael has been communicating regularly.

I do remember Jim Grout asking me about it years ago and speaking to Marty Chavez's park department and getting a very un-encouraging response. I can't speak for the current Mayor, but my experience is that he tends to be hands off about Four Hills issues I think because he is worried about perceived favoritism. I assume he is letting the recommendation of his Cabinet Secretary for the Parks Department, Barbara Baca, make the recommendation, and I understand it is not encouraging either.

I do think the Reserve area would be a very unusual park, even with the size of some of the smaller parks in the city. The City is trying to only build larger parks going forward because the cost per acre of maintenance is lower the larger the park gets. It was difficult to get the City to agree to the new Four Hills park, with will be nearly two acres, and it is currently designated as a grassless park.

I have a long term lease here on Cannonade, and the charge of spending City money to benefit my own area could still be an issue--perceptions matter.

I will see if Barbara Baca can explain her agency's position at the next council meeting. I will see if there are any unexplored options.

On other issues, let me know if you want to form some sort of committee or something to investigate options for Four Hills road. The option of landscaping both sides seems like it would be too much to justify (I am guessing it would be about a \$2 million project including plumbing, but not including ongoing maintenance) but maybe there is something more targeted and lower cost that could be considered.

I am also seeing about repaving the roads in Four Hills. I think we should be pretty high on the list by now. The City did that crack seal stuff about five years ago, and the next step should be resurfacing. Again, we have to make sure that it qualifies based on objective criteria, which I think it will.

Look forward to seeing you next Saturday.

Don



Hartman reply back to Councilor Harris, also Jan 5, 2014

Roger Hartman <nmpops@gmail.com>

6:01 PM (14 minutes ago)

to
Don
Don

Don

Thanks for the prompt reply. I appreciate that you addressed the key issues surrounding the park. I certainly understand that the Mayor would leave this to his appropriate department, and I also understand that for him as a property owner in this area and you as a lessee, both public officials, and with public monies involved, both the facts and perceptions matter. I also understand that the cost per acre to maintain a small park is higher than for a larger park and that looking forward, each park represents a life-time mortgage.

I will attend the Council meeting tomorrow. Perhaps we can visit then. I thank you in advance for whatever you can do to have this issue discussed in that forum. The more information we have and area able pass on to those most directly affected the better.

I would very much like to have a representative participate on a committee to discuss landscaping Four Hills Rd. Perhaps doing it xerically would eliminate the need for expensive plumbing installation and subsequent irrigation and maintenance which I'm just guessing is the lion's share of any cost estimate. I'm not an expert on xeric plants, but I'm confident we could find one to work with and provide input to the right group. I don't recall all the specifics, but I believe that our state delegation has secured some funding for this project as well.

Again, thanks for the reply and for coming to our annual meeting. See you there.

Regards,

Roger