City Council Regular Meeting June 28, 2006 Agenda Item No. 16

Email Correspondence (12) Voicemail Transcription (1)

Received by the Public Regarding
The Morrison Park Improvement Project

Kimberly Rodrigues

From: Greg Ramirez

Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2006 10:42 AM

To: Kimberly Rodrigues

Subject: FW: Morrison Park Tennis/Basketball court project

fyi

Greg Ramírez City Manager

City of Agoura Hills 30001 Ladyface Court Agoura Hills CA 91301 (818) 597-7311 (818) 597-7341 Greg@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us

----Original Message----

From: louann lin [mailto:louannl@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2006 10:41 AM

To: Denis Weber

Cc: Harry Schwarz; Dan Kuperberg; bkoehler@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us; John Edelston; Ken Berkman; Greg Ramirez;

Amy Jones-Brink; Kurt and Kari Menslage; David Silverman **Subject:** Morrison Park Tennis/Basketball court project

My name is Louann Linder and I live in the Morrison/Southmeadow homes in Agoura Hills.

I am very much against the proposed changes to Morrison Park.

I think everyone knows that once this greenspace is gone, it is gone forever...never to return. We will lose a beautiful, open space that we all share and come together with our families. This is about removing a small park that hundreds now enjoy and replacing it with concrete. Morrison Park is a refuge for all who want a calm, wonderful place to escape to. Every day people enjoy using this priceless resource as a safe-haven for our children. We may agree or disagree about whether the proposed plan is necessary, but the common denominator is that this is a loss of a parkland that so many of us enjoy now...Siphoning off Morrison Park for other purposes is not what we need...because things have changed in the last 20 years and it is apparent that many would suffer from this unwanted plan.

We look forward to ensuring an open dialogue so that the community will not be alienated from the Morrison Park Tennis/Basketball court project.

> - Hal Roseman

Kimberly Rodrigues From: Monday, June 12, 2006 2:36 PM Sent: Vanessa Manolatou To: FW: Please Reject the change of Morrison Park from a Passive Park to an Active Park... Subject: ----Original Message----From: Greg Ramirez Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 4:38 PM To: Kimberly Rodrigues; Amy Jones-Brink Subject: FW: Please Reject the change of Morrison Park from a Passive Park to an Active Park... And on and on.... ----Original Message----Daniel Kuperberg [mailto:dkuperbe@co.la.ca.us] Sent: Fri Jun 09 15:52:14 2006 Hal Roseman Greq Ramirez Re: Please Reject the change of Morrison Park from a Passive Park to an Subject: Active Park... Dear Mr. Roseman, I appreciate your comments. I am sure you know Thanks for this email. these are plans we have been working on for many years and have recently approved the plans. However, the Council will be looking at this issue again in June when we examine the bids submitted for the work requested, and I'm guessing you'll want to formally share your views with us then. By cc-ing City Manager Ramirez on this email, I'm sure that he will make sure you are notified when the Morrison Park Improvements issue is next on our agenda. Dan Kuperberg Mayor Pro Tem ---- Original Message -----From: "Hal Roseman" <hal.roseman@cheetah.com> To: <dkuperberg@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us> Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2006 3:13 PM Subject: Please Reject the change of Morrison Park from a Passive Park to an Active Park... > Dear Mayor Pro-Tem Kuperberg, > I have recently heard about the proposed change at Morrison Park > which would convert it from a passive park to an active park. > While I am in favor of local tennis courts, I believe that it > is in the best interests of our community to put these new > features at the nearby Forest Cove Park instead. My daughters > and I love to walk or ride our bikes to Morrison Park. It is > a great local getaway for a peaceful and relaxing afternoon. > Changing it to an active park would ruin the relaxing and > quiet nature of that local jewel. I invite you to visit it > today. You are likely to see parents and grandparents there > with small children. You might also catch some local students > from LCMS reading a book near a tree. Why can't we keep the > only passive park in the area? Why does it have to change? > Please see to it that the tennis courts and basketball courts > be put in at Forest Cove Park, perhaps in the upper park area. > Thank You.

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> 30440 Sandtrap Drive

> Agoura Hills, CA 91301

> 818-889-2168

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> [This E-mail scanned for viruses.]

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Kimberly Rodrigues

From: Ken Berkman

Sent: Friday, June 02, 2006 9:09 AM

To: Greg Ramirez; Kimberly Rodrigues; Amy Jones-Brink

Subject: RE: FW: Morrison Ranch Park

I received this too. Amy set up a meeting for next Friday at 10 with them (and me). On her day off! Trooper!

----Original Message----

From: Greg Ramirez

Sent: Fri Jun 02 06:50:27 2006

To: Kimberly Rodrigues; Ken Berkman; Amy Jones-Brink

Subject: FW: Morrison Ranch Park

Fyi

----Original Message----

m: Johnny Gyro Karate [mailto:gyro1@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Thu Jun 01 22:53:41 2006

To: Greg Ramirez

Subject: Morrison Ranch Park

Dear Mr. Ramiriez,

My husband and I have lived in the Agoura Hills area with our three children for more than 20 years. We not only live in the beautiful and friendly area of Morrison Ranch, but our children attend Las Virgenes schools and we own a business that began in Agoura Hills 12 years ago. This is a community that we treasure and enjoy so much! We have thought of our need for a larger home as our kids have grown which would require us to leave our wonderful neighborhood and we just cannot do it! Morrison Ranch is our home!

Morrison Ranch Park is a beautiful, quaint park as it stands and it offers a great variety of family enjoyment from grassy areas to run and play as well as playground equipment and tables that afford family get-togethers and parties for all ages. To take away this "homey" feel of the park to add concrete for basketball courts and tennis courts would be such a shame. This is a hometown park that is a place to escape from skate parks and sport parks which serve their purpose and yet, a simple park has it's place and it's value, as well. My husband and I would be deeply disappointed to see "time march on" destroying the simplicity of this lovely, green corner which epitomizes the family lifestyle that Agoura Hills promotes and I strongly doubt that we are alone in our feelings. Basketball courts and tennis courts will surely bring citizens from outside the local neighborhood drastically changing the dynamics of the park.

The problem that concerns me the most is not just the large change that the park will undergo with the basketball courts and tennis courts, but rather, all of the residents that I have spoken to that know nothing about this change. Let the community know and be aware of the proposed changes and I would suspect that you will receive much resistance to the idea. As a community leader, whether the resistance is welcome or not, the community is entitled to their voice.

I implore you to reconsider these changes and leave this lovely park as is. At the very least, open up the subject for discussion so that you can get a feel for what the community wants and how they view these changes. Beautiful green grass is at a premium and it is disappearing at break neck speed. We are making room for buildings and strip malls and the concrete contractors love it, but...I truly think Agoura Hills residents deserve a lovely park without concrete foundations literally poured over the grass roots of this city. Young children who frequent this park will not use the basketball courts or the tennis courts - let the young ones have a place to be children and a park bench for parents to sit on as they gaze at their kids playing in the sand and on the grass. Save the concrete for the parking lot, please!! I respectfully submit this heartfelt plea for the reconsideration of the changes pending for Morrison Ranch Park and also to properly notify the homeowners of said changes. Thank you for your time and kind response.

* Repectfully submitted by Noel and John Gyro Potter, Emerson Court residents, Agoura Hills.

Kimberly Rodrigues

From:

Greg Ramirez

Sent:

Friday, June 02, 2006 1:47 PM

To: Subject:

Kimberly Rodrigues FW: Morrison Park

Fyi

----Original Message----

From: Aristotle_Qutami@Countrywide.Com [mailto:Aristotle_Qutami@Countrywide.Com]

Sent: Fri Jun 02 13:32:25 2006

To: Ken Berkman; Greg Ramirez; Amy Jones-Brink

Subject:

Morrison Park

Dear City Council Members,

My family and I recently learned of the plans to add a basketball court and tennis courts in Morrison Park. We are not only residents of Morrison Ranch but our house is located adjacent to the park on Forest Cove. I was raised in Agoura, attending Lindero Canyon Middle School and Agoura High School. As such, I have visited and continue to visit the park almost on a daily basis, and have enjoyed use of the park since it was first established.

We're opposed to and saddened by the planned "improvements." I find it difficult to articulate just how much visitors to the park enjoy the open field where you're planning on constructing the courts. People of all ages use the field to play soccer or just kick around the ball. Some children use the space for T-ball practice or football practice, and others to run around and play tag. Parents (including my wife and I), walk their children in the park and enjoy the openness as well as watching so many of the activities the field is used for. Many people, including myself, grab a beach chair and sit in the field to enjoy the sunshine or to read a book. Other people use the field for morning Tai Chi and stretching exercises.

The point is to show you how many activities we enjoy at the park. Your plans to construct courts will prevent us form enjoying those activities and limit the use of the space to people who play basketball and tennis. As you know, there are so many other areas within just a couple of miles where people can play basketball and tennis.

Please reconsider the plans to take a very difficult to find open space, where so many activities are enjoyed, and limit the use of that space to 2 sports, for which a multitude of facilities already locally exist.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and please keep us informed of any forums in which residents will have the opportunity to voice their opinions.

The Qutami Family

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Vanessa Manolatou Kimberly Rodrigues From: Monday, June 12, 2006 2:36 PM Sent: Vanessa Manolatou To: FW: morrison rancha passive park Subject: ----Original Message----From: Greg Ramirez Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 4:37 PM To: Ken Berkman; Amy Jones-Brink; Kimberly Rodrigues Subject: FW: morrison rancha passive park And another.... ----Original Message----Daniel Kuperberg [mailto:dkuperbe@co.la.ca.us] Sent: Fri Jun 09 15:53:16 2006 tal shmargal; Denis Weber; hschwartz@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us; Dan Kuperberg; bkoehler@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us; John Edelston Cc: Greg Ramirez Re: morrison rancha passive park Subject: Dear Shmargal family, I appreciate your comments. I am sure you know these are plans Thanks for this email. we have been working on for many years and have recently approved the plans. However, the Council will be looking at this issue again in June when we examine the bids submitted for the work requested, and I'm guessing you'll want to formally share your views with us then. By cc-ing City Manager Ramirez on this email, I'm sure that he will make sure you are notified when the Morrison Park Improvements issue is next on our agenda. Dan Kuperberg Mayor Pro Tem ---- Original Message -----From: tal shmargal <mailto:agmon44@yahoo.com> To: dweber@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us ; hschwartz@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us ; dkuperberg@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us ; bkoehler@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us ; jedelston@ci.agourahills.ca.us Sent: Saturday, June 03, 2006 1:57 PM Subject: morrison rancha passive park We have been Agoura resident for the last ten years. We strongly object to the proposal to change our passive park. The only change that this park need is a structured toilet and a water fountain.

Please leave the park as green and enjoyable as it is Sincerely

Naftaly shmargal Rina shmargal

30282 Belmont ct, Agoura-Hills

From: Daniel Kuperberg [dkuperbe@co.la.ca.us]

Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 3:54 PM

To: Rick Markovitz; Denis Weber; Harry Schwarz; Dan Kuperberg; bkoehler@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us;

John Edelston; Ken Berkman; Greg Ramirez; Amy Jones-Brink

Subject: Re: Morrison Ranch Park - Against Planned changes

Dear Mr. Markovitz,

Thanks for this email. I appreciate your comments. I am sure you know these are plans we have been working on for many years and have recently approved the plans. However, the Council will be looking at this issue again in June when we examine the bids submitted for the work requested, and I'm guessing you'll want to formally share your views with us then. I'm sure that our staff will make sure you are notified when the Morrison Park Improvements issue is next on our agenda.

Dan Kuperberg Mayor Pro Tem

---- Original Message -----

From: Rick Markovitz

To: <u>dweber@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us</u>; <u>hschwarz@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us</u>; <u>dkuperberg@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us</u>; bkoehler@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us; <u>jedelston@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us</u>; <u>kberkman@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us</u>;

Greg@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us; ajbrink@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us

Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2006 11:28 AM

Subject: Morrison Ranch Park - Against Planned changes

Dear Officials,

I am writing to express my concerns over the changes under review for Morrison Ranch Park. My understanding is that there are plans to change the park by adding 2 basketball half-courts and tennis courts, among other changes.

I use the park frequently during baseball season to practice fielding with my son and I frequently see other people using it for athletics like soccer. The green area is conducive to many more activities and utilization than would be accomplished with a field of concrete for tennis and basketball. There are enough readily available tennis courts. It's a really nice space to just hang out in and walk through.

My biggest concern is that the area just isn't large enough to sustain this planned change and we'll end up with a concrete field not being used for the intended purposes. I would also like to know why this has suddenly become an issue without any apparent notification.

Green is good. Passive parks play a vital role in the community with their open structure and flexibility.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Rick

RICK MARKOVITZ

consultant: marketing > entertainment > technology

t. 818-421-3334

rmarkovitz@charter.net



From: Kimberly Rodrigues

Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 2:37 PM

To: Vanessa Manolatou Subject: FW: <no subject>

----Original Message----

From: Greg Ramirez

Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 4:35 PM

To: Ken Berkman; Amy Jones-Brink; Kimberly Rodrigues

Subject: FW: <no subject>

Fyi

----Original Message----

From: Daniel Kuperberg [mailto:dkuperbe@co.la.ca.us]

Sent: Fri Jun 09 15:55:45 2006

To: karbasion Cc: Greg Ramirez

Subject: Re: <no subject>

Dear Sholeh Karbassioon,

Thanks for this email. I appreciate your comments. I am sure you know these are plans we have been working on for many years and have recently approved the plans. However, the Council will be looking at this issue again in June when we examine the bids submitted for the work requested, and I'm guessing you'll want to formally share your views with us then. By cc-ing City Manager Ramirez on this email, I'm sure that he will make sure you are notified when the Morrison Park Improvements issue is next on our agenda.

Dan Kuperberg Mayor Pro Tem

---- Original Message -----

From: karbasion <mailto:Karbasion@charter.net>

To: dkuperberg@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 8:30 AM

Subject: <no subject>

Dear Mr. Kuperberg;

I have been a residence of Morrison Ranch for the last 12 years. We live on Oakvista Ct. across from the Morrison Ranch park. My family and I have enjoyed this park for the past years. We are sadden to hear that there are plans to change this park into a tennis and basketball court.

One of the reason we bought a house across from this park was the setting of this beautiful park. Our kids have enjoyed playing on the swing and we had numerous picnics at this park.

We strongly are against changes to this park and were not aware of any plans to develop this park. My neighbor stopped by last night and told us about plans to change this park and wer were shocked.

We need to stop this project. Please let me know what we can do to stop this project.

Best

Sholeh Karbassioon 818-991-5214 29917 Oakvista Ct. Agoura Hills, CA 91301

From: Jennaleh918@aol.com

Sent:

Jennalens rowadi.com

🥋 Sei

Sunday, June 11, 2006 10:34 PM

To:

Denis Weber

Cc:

Dan Kuperberg; Harry Schwarz; John Edelston; bkoehler@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us; Greg Ramirez; Ken

Berkman; Amy Jones-Brink

Subject: Morrison Park planning

Dear Agoura Hills City Council Member,

I have lived in my home on Hempstead Drive for 22 years now. Since the Morrison Park was created some years ago I have enjoyed the calm, pleasant environment built there. It has really been a neighborhood park. It's great to walk the paths and see the children playing and people just relaxing on the grass. I have always been vehemently against the building of basketball courts and tennis courts at this park. I know it will change the entire climate of our lovely serene setting. I was pleased that it was delayed years ago and always quietly hoped it just wouldn't happen. So please consider the neighbors wishes and do not destroy the simple yet peaceful setting we already have.

Thank You

Joanne Goldsmith 5739 Hempstead Drive Agoura Hills, Ca.

From:

Amy Jones-Brink

Sent:

Wednesday, June 14, 2006 6:32 PM

To:

Vanessa Manolatou

Subject: FW: Morrison Ranch Park

...X

From: Doug Easton [mailto:dougeast@ix.netcom.com]

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 9:42 AM

To: Greg Ramirez; Denis Weber; Harry Schwarz; Dan Kuperberg; 'Bill Koehler'; John Edelston; Ken Berkman;

Amy Jones-Brink

Subject: Morrison Ranch Park

Dear Sirs,

We were disturbed to hear of the proposed plans to install tennis and basketball courts at Morrison Ranch Park. Both of our daughters play in this park with their friends and we feel that the proposed development will change the whole family atmosphere that this park currently enjoys. This is one of the few parks left with an expanse of flat grass and once lost our community will never regain this asset.

Thank you for considering our opinion in your final decision.

Regards,

Doug and Kirsty Easton

From: Ken Berkman

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 11:34 PM

To: Vanessa Manolatou

Cc: Greg Ramirez

Subject: FW: tennis and basketball courts

Another, Vanessa...thanks.

Ken

From: Julie K [mailto:jmkmk@charter.net] Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 9:49 PM

To: Denis Weber

Cc: Harry Schwarz; Dan Kuperberg; bkoehler@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us; John Edelston; Ken Berkman;

dsilverman@dslextreme.com; Greg Ramirez **Subject:** re: tennis and basketball courts

I live across from Morrison Ranch Park and had just hear on June 7th about the proposed new tennis and basketball courts... Atleast twice a week I almost get hit coming out of my cul de sac by cars speeding by.....I'm very concerned for my 11 year old

son who rides his bike over there..... I know it will now become a hang out for older boys and there will be a lot more traffic to worry about....

I'm most concerned as when I moved here from NY a few years ago, I chose this area because of the nice, quiet park across the street. There are other parks that are already being utilized for sporting games; why do it here?

Please consider our request not to put in tennis and basketball courts in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Julie Kraschinsky 29907 Oakvista Ct Agoura HIIIs 818-874-1452

From: Ken Berkman

Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 4:02 PM

To: Vanessa Manolatou

Cc: Greg Ramirez; Amy Jones-Brink

Subject: FW: Morrison Ranch Park

Another one, Vanessa. Thanks.

Ken

From: KCarm22@aol.com [mailto:KCarm22@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 3:49 PM

To: Denis Weber; hschwartz@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us; Dan Kuperberg; John Edelston; bkoehler@ci.agoura-

hills.ca.us; Ken Berkman; Greg Ramirez; Amy Jones-Brink

Subject: Morrison Ranch Park

Dear City Council Members, City Engineer, City Planner and Recreation Manager,

I was recently made aware that the City is planning to move forward in building tennis courts and a basketball court at Morrison Park. I have been a long time resident of Morrison Ranch and a past <u>Director of the Morrison Ranch Homeowners Association</u>.

There seems to be little support for this improvement by me or many of the homeowners in Morrison Ranch. During the 4 years that I served on the Board for <u>MRHOA</u> we were not approached or surveyed as to our interest in this project. I personally would have opposed the project and although <u>MRHOA</u> would likely not have taken a position, my guess is most individual members would not have been in favor.

I presently enjoy the park as it is, and in particular the area that the tennis courts are planned. My son flies his remote control planes and other aerial projects that he comes up with. We like it the way it is!

Respectfully,

Kenneth A. Carmona 29646 Meadowmist Way Agoura Hills

From: Ken Berkman

Sent: Monday, June 19, 2006 7:26 AM

To: Vanessa Manolatou

Cc: Amy Jones-Brink; Greg Ramirez

Subject: FW: Don't Change Morrison Park

Hello Vanessa, hope you had a great weekend. Here's another Morrison email for our list, thanks.

Ken

From: Jennifer Oliver [mailto:jboliver5@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 8:53 PM

To: Denis Weber; Dan Kuperberg; Harry Schwarz; John Edelston; bkoehler@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us; Greg Ramirez;

Ken Berkman; Amy Jones-Brink **Subject:** Don't Change Morrison Park

To all of those concerned:

At a recent visit to the Morrison Park, we were informed of the planned construction that is pending. As dedicated park visitors we feel our opinions should be heard. To be clear, we OPPOSE the proposed changes to the park.

First of all, we were dismayed that none of this information had been brought to our attention. We were fortunate enough to overhear other parkgoers discussing the changes and were shocked that this could all happen without us knowing.

As parents of a 2 year old, we are at Morrison Park at least once a week and probably much more than that. We have loved it's playground and most importantly, abundance of beautiful grassy areas to picnic, play ball, walk our dog, or just hang out on. We love that it's not overgrown with too much equipment or facilities. Our only complaint about the park in its current state is that there are no restrooms.

As recent as February, we even had our daughter's 2nd Birthday Party at Morrison Park. The partygoers were amazed at the beauty and simplicity of the park and have raved about it ever since.

The addition of basketball courts, tennis courts, etc. will change the entire ambience of the area. Small children will feel overcrowded and outnumbered amongst basketball games and tennis matches. There are plenty of other parks in the area that offer such amenities and it would be a shame to lose this sanctuary for dog owners, small children and those who just want a large grassy area to play on. There is nothing better than being at the park and seeing children (and adults) practicing their soccer skills, tossing a ball around, taking golf swings, hitting baseballs or waling their dogs on the grass and pathways. Where else is there such space to do so?

In closing, we ask that you reconsider the proposed changes to Morrison Park and consider those of us who love the park as it is. Save the money and the time and simply add restroom facilities and you will have a lot of happy parkgoers.

Concerned Park Neighbors,

Brian and Jennifer Oliver jboliver5@sbcglobal.net

June 21, 2006 Voicemail transcription Eugene Lewis Emerson Court, Agoura Hills

Hi. I'm not sure if this is the correct number to leave this message. If it's not, if you could please direct this to the appropriate people, it would be greatly appreciated. There is action for three courts, tennis courts, to be put into Morrison Ranch Park. There is, it has been approved, I understand, in the budget, and work was, I guess, to be scheduled for those to be put in ultimately. I am a resident who has waited 21 years to have those three courts put in. We have lived here our entire time. We have no tennis courts in this community at all except for the nine at the High School. It is a shame that we do not have facilities in this neighborhood. The courts are welcome. I understand there are a few disgruntled parents who are trying to save that little piece of grass, God knows for what. Nobody ever uses that park anyway. There is tons of grass open in Forest Cove which is directly across the street, and to have these parents squash this project after 21 years is ridiculous. I would like this message directed, please, to our City Council and/or the City Manager and anyone else who is involved in this action, to know that there are people out there who welcome this project and think it is a, finally, a great thing that the City has stepped up to put up these kind of facilities in our City borders so that we don't have to constantly run to play tennis at the Oak Park. Again, my name is Eugene Lewis. I'm at (818) 707-3760, and I am a resident of Emerson Court which is right next to that park. Thank you very much. Bye.