

Mr. Amory Hanson
8102 Ellis Avenue
Apartment 121
Huntington Beach CA 92646

**SUPPLEMENTAL
COMMUNICATION**

The Mayoress of Huntington Beach
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach CA 92648

Meeting Date: 2-18-2020

Agenda Item No.: SS#2 (20-1423)

My Dear Madam Mayoress,

I am writing regarding Item II, the conceptual master plan for the parkland at 1706 Orange Avenue, currently known as the Michael E. Rodgers Center and previously known as the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors' Center.

On April 18, 2016, the Huntington Beach City Council unanimously voted to refer the matter of the parkland at 1706 Orange Avenue's future usage to the Community Services Commission. During that Meeting, Councilwoman Hardy suggested that the Huntington Beach Community Services Commission should hold charrette workshops to allow for a more in depth consideration of usage options for the parkland at 1706 Orange Avenue.

On September 28, 2019, a Town Hall was hosted by Mrs. Knight, the current Directress of the Huntington Beach Human Resources Department and the former Directress of the Huntington Beach Community Services Department.

As Hostess, Mrs. Knight led those who attended the town hall, including Mayor Sullivan, Councilwoman Delgleize, Messrs. McClish and Wentzel, Mrs. Kaub and myself in discussing the future usage of the Michael E. Rodgers Center.

Firstly, participants participated in a briefing on the property and the process of the Town Hall by Mrs. Knight. Then we toured the Michael E. Rodgers Center. Finally, we discussed our concerns and design proposals for future usage of the Michael E. Rodgers Center.

On November 13, 2019, the Huntington Beach Community Services Commission voted to support the park master plan, although it omitted the playground. A majority of the commissioners voted in favor of this motion. (Mayor Carchio voted no.)

I agree with the majority of the commisisoners on the omission of the playground.

Mr. Amory Hanson
8102 Ellis Avenue
Apartment 121
Huntington Beach CA 92646

According to the American Community Survey, only 10.5% of Huntington Beach is under the age of 10. More so than other cities, Huntington Beach has provided great recreational opportunities for boys. I am particularly reminded of the All Inclusive Playground at 913 Pacific Coast Highway. I am proud to live in a city that has as a slogan, "parks make life better."

There is no doubt that boys should be given opportunities for recreation. However, not every park needs to include a playground, and in my opinion, the Michael E. Rodgers Center's future usage should not include a playground. The time has come for recreational opportunities for all ages.

I have reviewed carefully the proposed blueprint for the Michael E. Rodgers Center's future usage.

I am disturbed by the proposal to tear down the Michael E. Rodgers Center, a building of great importance to this city.

Tearing down the Michael E. Rodgers Center will set a bad precedent for future historic preservation in this city. When other community centers and buildings owned by the city are proposed to be torn down, future commissioners will consider the Community Services Commission's vote on the future usage of the Michael E. Rodgers Center.

In addition, tearing down the Michael E. Rodgers Center could potentially result in Mr. Rodgers' name being removed from the site. As I have indicated previously, this is something I strongly oppose. There are those who do not share this view, and believe the site should be known as 17th Street Park. The matter of the name of the park was postponed until following the usage determination, with all commissioners present and voting supporting this decision (Professor Collins was absent.) If the building named after Mr. Rodgers is torn down, it could potentially limit ways of recognizing Mr. Rodgers at the site of 1706 Orange Avenue.

I am also concerned about the insistence of providing onsite parking for the Michael E. Rodgers Center. To provide greater open space, I believe alternatives to onsite parking should be considered, including creation of a separate parking structure or parking lot.

Mr. Amory Hanson
8102 Ellis Avenue
Apartment 121
Huntington Beach CA 92646

If the Huntington Beach City Council wishes to consider the current plan, I urge that the former playground site be remade into a different apparatus. One suggestion I urge consideration of is a tennis court. Since Tennis is a sport often played by older sportsmen, a tennis court could serve as a subtle tribute to the parkland at 1706 Orange Avenue's former status as a senior center. The presence of a tennis court would also allow those seniors who used to go the Michael E. Rodgers Seniors' Center to go to the parkland at 1706 Orange Avenue for another reason.

I thank the Mayoress and the Councilmen for their serious consideration of the parkland at 1706 Orange Avenue's future usage.

Sincerely Yours,

Mr. Amory Hanson

CC: The Honorable Jill Hardy
CC: The Honorable Patrick Brenden
CC: The Honorable Kimberly Ballenger Carr
CC: The Honorable Barbara Delgleize
CC: The Honorable Erik H. Peterson
CC: The Honorable Michael Posey

Mr. Amory Hanson
8102 Ellis Avenue
Apartment 121
Huntington Beach CA 92646