

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Ann Robb, Director of Library & Recreation Services
SUBJECT: Pioneer Museum Facility Request
DATE: December 2, 2008

NEEDS: For the City Council to consider a facility request from the Pioneer Museum.

- FACTS:**
1. During the public comment period of the November 18, 2008 City Council meeting, Bob Bryant of the Pioneer Museum requested you consider discussing a facility request from the Pioneer Museum.
 2. The City Council directed that the matter be placed on the December 2, 2008 Council meeting agenda for discussion.
 3. The Pioneer Museum was formed over 35 years ago to celebrate and preserve Paso Robles history.
 4. The Pioneer Museum is an independent non-profit corporation staffed entirely by volunteers. Its Board of Directors also serves as the City Council's appointed Pioneer Museum Board.
 5. The Museum occupies City-owned buildings on City property in Pioneer Park where it displays and stores thousands of objects.
 6. The Museum corporation does not lease, nor does it insure the buildings and grounds it occupies, or its collections. Consequently the City, as the property and building owner, is responsible.
 7. The Museum verbally requested the Council discuss expansion of Museum grounds (presumably for equipment storage and/or display). The Museum's historical interest in the additional space is already being considered through the Town Centre Specific Plan Museum Master Plan.
 8. At the writing of this report, no written proposal had been received from the Pioneer Museum. Consequently, details were not available to assess the substance of the request, nor identify and analyze the legal, policy, financial, risk/liability, and operational issues that might pertain thereto.

ANALYSIS & CONCLUSION: The Economic Strategy emphasizes the importance of developing and marketing the unique heritage and history of Paso Robles. Its importance is underscored by the City Council's 2008-2011 Goals that include both the Town Centre Specific

Plan and master planning the Museum. In fact, the Museum Master Plan is a component of the Town Centre Specific Planning process. The Town Centre Specific Plan appropriately places the Museum in the larger context of Pioneer Park - its users and future, as well as its adjacency to, and potential connections to the mission of, the Paso Robles Events Center.

The Town Centre and Museum Master Planning process has been, and will continue to be, one of significant public involvement. The parties to the process expect that the Plans will consider all interests separately, as a whole, and, importantly, in context to one another. The Museum's historical interest in added space is being evaluated through the Town Centre and Museum Planning process.

Should the Council wish to accelerate consideration of a request in advance of the Town Centre and Museum Master Plan, it would be appropriate to provide opportunities for public review, especially for those who have expressed interests in the area through the Town Centre charrette and other related major planning efforts. In addition, a written proposal from the Museum is needed to determine options for the form of authorization for, and duration of, property use, the nature and extent of the use, appropriate performance requirements, collection handling protocols, security, fire/life safety, and liability/risk.

POLICY

REFERENCE: Economic Strategy, Council Goals, Town Centre Plan (draft), & Museum Strategic Plan (draft).

FISCAL

IMPACT: Unknown.

OPTIONS:

- A. Determine whether the proposal should continue to be considered with, and as part of, the Town Centre and Museum Plans, or be considered in advance thereof.
- B. Amend, Modify or reject the option above.

EL PASO DE ROBLES AREA
PIONEER MUSEUM

City Council
El Paso de Robles
1000 Spring Street
El Paso de Robles, Ca. 93446

2010 Riverside Ave. • Post Office Box 461
Paso Robles, California 93447
November 20, 2008
Phone (805) 239-4556

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
NOV 24 2008
CITY OF PASO ROBLES

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the El Paso de Robles Pioneer Museum, I would like to request permission to display various items of farm equipment in the area between the easterly wall of the Museum and the softball field at Pioneer Park. This area is not being used for park purposes at the present time. It is partially sprinkled, and partially dry ground. There is a chain link fence on the northerly boundry that is in a state of disrepair. The gate is falling off. The items to be displayed would not be motorized. There would be no maintenance of any item displayed in this area.

The time period for this agreement would be indefinite. However cancellation of this agreement could be by either party with a thirty day notice.

The use of this area for the Pioneer Museum would not conflict with any plans for the Master Plan update. As shown on the map prepared by M. Goodwin Associates Inc. this area is shown as a part of the Pioneer Museum complex.

The use of this area also would not interfere with the use of the ball field. The entrance to the bleachers is from the south of the area in question; the dugouts are entered from the ball field; and there is a fence between he ball field and the area requested by the Museum. Foul balls would not hurt the displays and they could be recovered just as they are now.

Enclosed are minutes of the last Museum Board meeting, in which the suggestion by councilman Strong was approved by the Board that I make this request at the Council meeting of November 18, 2008.

Approval of this request should be a win-win situation for all; less water usage and maintenance for the city, and the use of basically unused ground by the museum.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



B.R. Bryant,
President Pioneer Museum Board

Open:
Thursday - Sunday
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



*Preserving Yesterday
for Tomorrow
Since 1971*