



Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: 65.

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: MAY 21, 2008

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

DIRECTOR: M. MARGO WHEELER

Consent Discussion

SUBJECT:
RESOLUTIONS:

R-28-2008 - discussion and possible action regarding Resolution in support of the project Global Green Connection Center to be located within the City of Las Vegas and authorizing the City to determine the City's participation in the project - All Wards

Fiscal Impact

No Impact

Augmentation Required

Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

This Resolution will support the development of the Global Green Connection Center project as proposed by H2Green Technologies and authorize the City Manager and staff to negotiate and determine the scope of the City's involvement as a public sector participant in the development and construction of the proposed Global Green Connection Center. The proposed Global Green Connection Center shall serve as a civic centerpiece that positively influences existing businesses and includes additional private investment supportive of the City's economic development and provides facilities attractive to the major multi-national corporations, universities, financial institutions as well as domestic and international cities and local citizens and visitors throughout the year.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve this Resolution and authorize its execution on behalf of the City.

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Resolution No. R-28-2008

Motion made by OSCAR B. GOODMAN to Hold in Abeyance to 6/4/2008

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

LARRY BROWN, RICKI Y. BARLOW, LOIS TARKANIAN, STEVE WOLFSON, OSCAR B. GOODMAN, GARY REESE, STEVEN D. ROSS; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)

Minutes:

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: May 21, 2008

DEPUTY CITY MANAGER STEVE HOUCHENS pointed out that the City has made a commitment with regards to sustainability within the community and environment. This commitment is reflective in numerous efforts, ranging from participation in the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Resolution and the City's far reaching programs in reducing gas emissions.

In many ways, the City is recognized as a leader in sustainability efforts, locally and nationally. With that in mind, the City was approached by H2 Green Technologies, LLC, with an innovative concept of a Global Green Connection Center. This resolution provides an opportunity for the City to participate with H2 Green Technologies, LLC, in purchasing the Center, thereby providing an opportunity to become a civic center for existing businesses and stimulating further business in the community.

RON POTARO and TIMOTHY BOYLE, founders and principals of H2 Green Technologies, LLC, were present. MR. POTARO stated that they firmly believe this concept is viable, exciting and will bring about changes relative to sustainability. He gave an overview of the concept and added that Las Vegas should be the epicenter for Green America, there is no permanent facility (national or international), exposition or exhibition, trade show or center to host Green. In addition, there is no focal point for the exchange of Green ideas, knowledge, research and sustainable products and services. Therefore, their proposal is to have the City of Las Vegas, along with this Global Green Connection Center, be the focal point.

Each year the plan would be to host more than 300 conferences, trade shows and meetings for participants throughout the world. In essence, the Center would be a public/private partnership. They anticipate they will be in temporary facilities within three to six months. Ultimately, a facility of approximately two million square feet will be built and used as a showroom and exhibition space to house the Connection Center.

MR. POTARO thanked TOM PERRIGO, Deputy Director of Planning and Development, for his tremendous work in assisting them through the process. He also extended thanks to MARGO WHEELER, Director of Planning and Development, and DEPUTY CITY MANAGER HOUCHENS.

Upon MAYOR GOODMAN'S query, MR. POTARO explained that he and MR. BOYLE were seeking the Council's support in partnering with them and proceeding with a resolution of intent to explore and create the Connection Center. The Mayor explained that there are others involved in the same concept and effort, such as the Springs Preserve. He also believed that the Union Park development is qualifying for a gold LEED certification, which will make it one out of only ten neighborhoods within the United States with this certification.

MAYOR GOODMAN specifically clarified with MR. POTARO that his request does not entail monies or exclusivity. MR. POTARO added that they have received letters from DR. RONALD SMITH, Vice President at UNLV, and THOMAS PIACHA, PhD, Director of Sustainability and Multi-Disciplinary Research, supporting their concept and willing to serve as their academic

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: May 21, 2008

liaisons.

The Mayor desired an abeyance to have additional briefings on this concept and H2Green Technologies' intentions prior to making such a commitment. He apologized, that he was not available for a meeting when his office was contacted by MR. POTARO. COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN supported the Mayors suggestion, as she felt the specifics are not clear as to how this center will be constructed.

At COUNCILMAN WOLFSON'S request, MR. BOYLE explained that an abeyance may create some implication of a delay but can be accommodated. He would prefer to move forward and begin working with those corporations that have merit in this concept. Should Council approve moving forward, it would only direct City staff to work with H2Green in defining the City's participation.

COUNCILMAN WOLFSON felt the Council was being placed in a tough situation, as he was just briefed over a week ago, yet there was a sense of urgency or else the project would go away. He believed his colleagues should be given the additional time necessary to further review this matter. MR. POTARO responded that they would be happy to accept the abeyance and meet with the Mayor.

COUNCILMAN ROSS was excited about the concept. However, he stressed that, when the meeting takes place with the Mayor, the scope of the City's involvement as a public sector participant be clearly defined.

COUNCILMAN REESE was concerned that the City's name would be used at will when communicating with the other partners and corporations. To assuage the Councilman's concerns, MR. BOYLE explained that he was simply quoting from the draft Resolution. He would like to be able to announce to corporations and partners that the City will entertain discussions. From these discussions, the City can ultimately decide whether or not it will participate. MAYOR GOODMAN understood the Councilmans concern and emphasized that it would be discussed in his briefing as well.

