

AGENDA BILL

Agenda Title: Resolution Concerning Cooperation with Friends of the Petaluma River to Renovate and Program the Historic Livery Stable as a River Heritage Center, and Directing Staff to Develop appropriate implementing Agreements.

Meeting Date: May 4, 2009
Meeting Time: 7:00 PM

Category: Presentation Appointments Consent Public Hearing Unfinished Business New Business

Department:
Parks & Recreation

Director:
Scott Brodhun

Contact Person:
Scott Brodhun

Phone Number:
778-4380

Total Cost of Proposal or Project: N/A

Name of Fund:

Account Number:

Current Fund Balance:

Amount Budgeted: N/A

Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council take the following action: Adopt the Resolution Concerning Cooperation with Friends of the Petaluma River to Lead Efforts to Renovate and Program the Historic Livery Stable as a River Heritage Center, and Directing Staff to Develop Appropriate Implementing Agreements.

1. First reading of Ordinance approved unanimously, or with unanimous vote to allow posting prior to second reading
2. First reading of Ordinance approved without unanimous vote: Ordinance has been published/posted prior to second reading; see Attachment _____
3. Other action requiring special notice: Notice has been given, see Attachment _____

Summary Statement: The Historic Livery Stable was relocated to its present location several years ago. The Recreation, Music and Parks Commission authorized a sub-committee, under the leadership of the Museum Board, to proceed with planning for its renovation. The sub-committee was not able to complete a renovation or operational implementation plan, and except for the outstanding project that resulted in construction of Steamer Landing Park, including site plans for the area surrounding the livery stable, the project has not moved forward.

Friends of the Petaluma River approached the Commission in 2008 seeking City support for a renewed effort to plan for the renovation and programming of the structure and area. Thanks to the efforts of the Friends group, and with the support of the Parks and Recreation Department, a leadership and planning committee was formed and has worked toward development of a vision for renovation and programming of the facility and site.

Funding necessary to implement a plan must, in all likelihood, be solicited from granting agencies. Adoption of the attached resolution would recognize and support the ongoing effort and leadership of the Friends of the Petaluma River to help realize and maximize the historic and recreational potential of the Historic Livery Stable and McNear Peninsula. As well, the resolution provides direction to staff, and a general framework for further, cooperative efforts between the Friends of the Petaluma River and City staff to seek funding, make capital improvements, and provide maintenance and programming to preserve and enhance the Historic Livery Stable and related facilities for the greater Petaluma community.

Attachments to Agenda Packet Item:

1. Resolution
2. Project Description from Friends of the Petaluma River

Reviewed by Finance Director:

Reviewed by City Attorney:

Approved by City Manager:

James Hood
Date: 4.27.09

RL
Date:

[Signature]
Date: 4-27-09

Rev. # *F0011* | Date Last Revised:

File:

CITY OF PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 4, 2009

AGENDA REPORT

FOR

RESOLUTION CONCERNING COOPERATION WITH FRIENDS OF THE PETALUMA RIVER TO RENOVATE AND PROGRAM THE HISTORIC LIVERY STABLE AS A RIVER HERITAGE CENTER, AND DIRECTING STAFF TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENTS.

1. **RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt the Resolution Concerning Cooperation with Friends of the Petaluma River to renovate and program the Historic Livery Stable as a River Heritage Center, and directing staff to develop appropriate implementing agreements.

2. **BACKGROUND:**

The Historic Livery Stable was relocated to its present location on McNear Peninsula several years ago. Subsequent to the relocation, the Recreation, Music and Parks Commission authorized a sub-committee, under the leadership of the Museum Board, to proceed with planning for its renovation and operation. The sub-committee was not able to complete a renovation or operational implementation plan, and except for the outstanding project that resulted in construction of Steamer Landing Park, including site plans for the area surrounding the livery stable, the project has not moved forward.

Friends of the Petaluma River approached the Commission in 2008 requesting authorization to lead a renewed effort to plan for the renovation and programming of the structure and area. Under the leadership of the Friends group, and with the support of the Parks and Recreation Department, a leadership and planning committee was formed and has worked toward development of a vision for renovation and programming of the site.

Funding necessary to implement a plan must, in all likelihood, be solicited from granting agencies. Adoption of the attached resolution would recognize and support the ongoing effort and leadership of the Friends of the Petaluma River to help realize and maximize the historic and recreational potential of the Historic Livery Stable and McNear Peninsula. As well, the resolution provides direction to staff and a general framework for further, cooperative efforts between the Friends of the Petaluma River and City staff to seek funding, make capital improvements and provide maintenance and programming to preserve and enhance the Historic Livery Stable and related facilities for the greater Petaluma community.

3. **DISCUSSION:**

It appears that Friends of the Petaluma River are the key advocacy group who are best positioned to partner with the City in moving this unique and important project forward. Subsequent to garnering the support of the Recreation, Music and Parks Commission (RMPC) to lead a planning effort, the Friends organized a planning team, held monthly meetings, began a process to develop a mission and vision, hosted various activities on-site, and have provided periodic updates to the Commission. A comprehensive and detailed report on Friends activities relative to the project was provided to the RMPC in February, at which time Friends indicated their readiness to engage as project leaders. In

March, the RMPC reviewed details and key points of a potential agreement framework, and expressed unanimous support for moving the partnership and project forward.

The key components for a cooperative framework have been developed by Friends Executive Director, David Yearsley and the Parks and Recreation Director. Among such points are mission and vision statements, as well as expectations relative to the role of the City and Friends, as follows:

- Recognition that Friends of the Petaluma River are cooperating with the City on efforts in support of the restoration, renovation and programming of the Livery Stable as a River Heritage Center.
- A mission statement; *Through the practice and teaching of maritime, agricultural and outdoor heritage skills, connect current and future generations to the history, resources and wonders of the Petaluma River and its adjacent sloughs, marshes, and farmlands.*
- A vision statement; *Create a place on the shores of the Petaluma River to house interpretive displays, host interactive programs, and hold events that feature the Petaluma River's natural resources and highlights the area's cultural history.*
- Vision initiatives that include;
 - Promote understanding of the Petaluma River and its benefits to the community through river heritage related displays, programs & events; interactive classes; programs and stewardship activities; and collaboration with other groups, businesses & agencies.
 - Improve River access, recreation, tourism and educational opportunities with boat docks, tours, outdoor heritage programs and programs that highlight river related practices, industries and traditions, and by providing structured and unstructured outdoor opportunities for all ages.
- Key contributions of the Friends that are anticipated, and that would be detailed in particular project implementation programs and agreements would include:
 - Organizing, coordinating and developing a project steering committee to assure involvement by stakeholders and to assure appropriate feasibility and concept planning for consideration by City staff and appropriate decision makers.
 - Identifying potential funding sources for planning and project implementation, and in cooperation with City staff pursuing funding as opportunities become available.
 - Assisting in organizing events and holding City-approved pilot programs to increase public awareness, test ideas, raise funds and connect with interested individuals, groups and agencies that can help realize the vision.
 - In cooperation with the City, conducting approved feasibility, concept and strategic planning, efforts and developing a restoration plan for the Livery Stable that assures the appropriate preservation of its historic elements, as well as future maintainability and usability of the Historic Livery Stable.
 - Providing periodic status reports to the Recreation, Music and Parks Commission.
 - In cooperation with the City and subject to all applicable laws, ordinances and regulations, facilitating and coordinating the labor, materials and supplies necessary to restore and renovate the Livery Stable.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPACTS:**

The City is not in a financial position to undertake on its own the effort necessary to realize the vision for the Historic Livery Stable, nor does the Parks and Recreation Department have sufficient staffing or resources to displace its ongoing duties to prioritize the vision for the Historic Livery Stable and McNear Peninsula. It is oftentimes beneficial to develop partnerships to undertake community projects such as this. During the current time of fiscal and economic stress, development of partnerships may be the only method available to move such efforts forward.

There are no funds budgeted or resources allocated to this project. The Friends of the Petaluma River represent a community group well suited to cooperate with the City in this endeavor. The proposed collaboration represents an opportunity to make progress on a project that has been unable to move forward, and that under current conditions, would not likely be prioritized for completion by the City.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING COOPERATION WITH FRIENDS OF THE PETALUMA RIVER TO RENOVATE AND PROGRAM THE HISTORIC LIVELY STABLE AS A RIVER HERITAGE CENTER, AND DIRECTING STAFF TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENTS.

WHEREAS, the City of Petaluma owns the Historic Livery Stable on McNear Peninsula, a facility that is intended for community leisure, cultural and family activities; and

WHEREAS, Friends of the Petaluma River, a section 501(c)(3), non-profit community corporation supporting Petaluma River access, understanding and stewardship, proposes to take a leadership role in creation of a River Heritage Center in partnership with the City of Petaluma and other community volunteers and entities; and

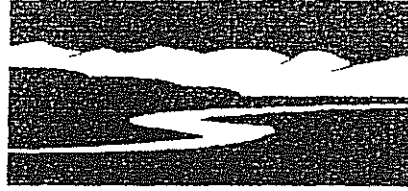
WHEREAS, the Recreation, Music and Parks Commission requested that the Friends of the Petaluma River convene a group charged with planning for restoration and programming of the Historic Livery Stable; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Livery Stable requires attention, maintenance and restoration, and the City of Petaluma does not presently have sufficient resources to provide for planning, restoration and programming of the Historic Livery Stable without the cooperation and assistance of other groups and organizations that share the City's vision for the Historic Livery Stable and McNear Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation, Music and Parks Commission, after having been provided periodic updates of progress, unanimously gave its support for ongoing cooperation between the City and the Friends of the Petaluma River for restoration and programming of the Historic Livery Stable and recommends that the City Council join in supporting such a partnership and directing staff to develop appropriate implementation of such cooperation;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Petaluma hereby:

1. Supports ongoing cooperation between the City of Petaluma and the Friends of the Petaluma River for programming of a River Heritage Center on McNear Peninsula and the future restoration and renovation of the historic Livery Stable thereon; and
2. Authorizes and directs City staff to coordinate with the Friends of the Petaluma River and to provide program and project oversight including, periodic updates to the Recreation, Music and Parks Commission; and
3. Authorizes and directs City staff to develop appropriate implementation agreements with the Friends of the Petaluma River and others, to maximize the potential benefits of cooperation between the City and Friends of the Petaluma River for the entire Petaluma community in support of practice and teaching of maritime, agricultural and outdoor heritage skills, connecting current and future generations to the history, resources and wonders of the Petaluma River and its adjacent sloughs, marshes, and farmlands, and creation of a place on the shores of the Petaluma River to house interpretive displays, host interactive programs, and hold events that feature the Petaluma River's natural resources and highlights the area's cultural history .



Friends of the Petaluma River
Celebrate and Conserve

A River Heritage Center for Petaluma

A key part of Friends of the Petaluma River's mission is to promote river related education opportunities and to increase public connection to the River; thus the concept of a River Heritage Center in Petaluma. It is an idea that we have been promoting for several years. The concept of using the historic livery stable on McNear's Peninsula, adjacent to downtown Petaluma, as headquarters for such a project has generated important community and regional interest. The Petaluma Museum Association, the Petaluma Trolley Project, and the San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park and many business and political leaders have offered their support.

The initial vision includes several related components.

- Establish interactive programs that will engage people of all ages with the River, its natural resources and cultural history, such as:
 - Small boat programs
 - Sporting heritage lore
 - Agricultural history & skills
 - River resources & industry information
 - Native American history & practices
 - Natural resources information
 - Celebrate Petaluma as a gateway to the "wetlands empire"
 - Events to educate, entertain and attract people to the site
- Restore the historic Livery Stable and create exhibits with art and artifacts relating to Petaluma's diverse cultural heritage and waterborne history

As Petaluma refocuses downtown development to embrace its heritage as a "River City" this concept is not only timely but will ultimately gain a broad measure of community appreciation, support and use.

David Yearsley – Director
 Friends of the Petaluma River

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