



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Adopt Resolution Accepting Recommendations from the Animal Shelter Task Force Approving Site Location for the New Animal Shelter at Lodi Avenue and Guild Avenue

MEETING DATE: March 20, 2002

PREPARED BY: Terri Arbuckle, Animal Services Officer

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council accept recommendations from the Animal Shelter Task Force approving site location for the new Animal Shelter at Lodi Avenue and Guild Avenue.

BACKGROUND:

The Animal Shelter Task Force was created by the Lodi City Council September 2000 in order to provide short and long-term recommendations regarding the City of Lodi Animal Shelter. After extensive research and many meetings, the

Task Force presented to Council recommendations for those solutions. Funding has been appropriated for several of the short-term solutions and the Task Force is currently focusing on the development of a new shelter. Several City staff members, along with three members of the Task Force, are currently working with architect George Miers to develop the schematic design for the facility. Essential to the development of that design is the selection of an appropriate site. The Task Force, by a six-to-one vote (exhibit A), recommends the City designate the Lodi and Guild Avenues site (approximately 2.5 acres) as the most suitable location.

FUNDING: None

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Arbuckle
Animal Services Officer
Staff Liaison to the Animal Shelter Task Force

Attachments

APPROVED: _____

H Dixon Flynn - City Manager

EXHIBIT A

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor Pennino and members of the Lodi City Council
FROM: Lodi Animal Shelter Task Force
DATE: March 8, 2002
REGARDING: Shelter Site Selection

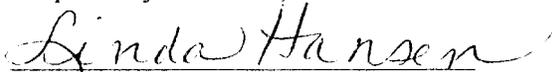
At the February 13, 2002 meeting of the Lodi Animal Shelter Task Force, a 6 to 1 vote was taken favoring the Guild Avenue site for the new Lodi Animal Shelter.

After much consideration a majority of the Task Force felt this site was the most appropriate and best met the needs of Lodi Animal Services. The site is presently ready for construction and the size is adequate for the proposed shelter.

The Guild Avenue site further offers good access for traffic including shelter staff responding to calls for service, and adequate parking will be available for staff and public needs.

We want to update the Council and again thank our City Council members for your continued support of the Lodi Animal Shelter Task Force.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Sunday Hansen

For the Lodi Animal Shelter Task Force

Shelter Site Selection - Dissent

The only way an animal leaves the Lodi Animal Shelter alive is with a person, through adoption (22% of cats, 32% of dogs in 2001) and, to a much lesser extent, through redemption (4% of cats, 28% of dogs.) Adoption, without aggressive, city-wide spay/neuter education and heavy community participation will never achieve the balance necessary for a no-kill community. Remember: the community (not the shelter) generates the high number of unwanted pets, and only the community can reduce that number.

I cannot recommend the Guild site, because I believe that locating the shelter in a heavy industrial zone on the eastern border of a town that is growing to the west will be detrimental to the community participation necessary to lower the number of deaths due to pet overpopulation. Experts and statistics support my position - locating a shelter in the midst of the community increases, in some cases even doubles, the adoption rate.

Some of the shortcomings of the Guild site can be overcome, but it will require the expenditure of modest amounts of money on operating costs. Lodi is very fortunate to currently have a most qualified and dedicated animal control staff and shelter volunteers, who between them run an internet site and monthly news ads to boost adoptions above and beyond their animal control and care responsibilities. An additional staff position and operating funds dedicated to community participation events, education, and marketing is of critical importance to the goal of no-kill.

I fear, however, that Lodi's track record of having the lowest "cost per capita" for animal services in all of San Joaquin County, and being lower only than Stockton in "staff to animals taken in" and "staff to population served" ratios, will persist. Lodi's shelter expenditures rank far lower than that of Sonoma and Napa "wine country" shelters (see, Task Force Report, Regional Shelter Survey). City officials have repeatedly stated their commitment to making Lodi a no-kill city.¹ Whether these are more than just words will be seen in future funding decisions.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan J. Pixler
Lodi Animal Shelter Task Force

¹ Police chief "absolutely committed" to no-kill goal (6/99); City stated its "goal to dramatically reduce need to euthanize animals and to find good homes for every adoptable dog & cat (Res. 99-90); City stated it "will cooperate in every possible way to accomplish the no-kill goal" and makes its "resolution to move city toward no-kill goal." (1/19/2000)

RESOLUTION NO. 2002-57

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTING
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ANIMAL SHELTER TASK FORCE
APPROVING SITE LOCATION FOR THE NEW ANIMAL SHELTER AT LODI
AVENUE AND GUILD AVENUE

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WHEREAS, the Animal Shelter Task Force was created by the Lodi City Council in September 2000, in order to provide short and long-term recommendations regarding the City of Lodi Animal Shelter; and

WHEREAS, after extensive research and meetings, the Task Force presented several recommendations; and

WHEREAS, funding has been appropriated for several of the short-term solutions and the Task Force is currently focusing on the development of the new shelter, and is currently working with an architect to develop the schematic design for the facility; and

WHEREAS, essential to the development of the facility design is the selection of an appropriate site; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force therefore recommends that the City Council approve the site location for the new Animal Shelter at Lodi and Guild Avenues, which consists of approximately 2.5 acres.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council does here approve the site location for the new Animal Shelter at Lodi and Guild Avenues.

Dated: March 20, 2002

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I hereby certify that Resolution No. 2002-57 was passed and adopted by the Lodi City Council in a regular meeting held March 20, 2002 by the following vote:

- AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Hitchcock, Land, and Nakanishi
- NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None
- ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Howard and Mayor Pennino
- ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None


SUSAN J. BLACKSTON
City Clerk