

Friends and Neighbors,

Friends of Pine Meadow has begun a referendum drive on the Resolution approving the General Plan Amendment to change Pine Meadow from Permanent Open Space/Recreation to residential housing. We believe this is too important an issue to leave to just this council to decide. It will have a significant effect on the future of Martinez, and requires a vote of the public. We believe it will be a very bad precedent and be used as a way to undermine open space throughout Martinez in the future.

The issue is larger than Pine Meadow. This 26 acre parcel was designated Permanent Open Space/Recreation in 1973 with the full concurrence of all parties at that time. We believe changing this Permanent Open Space designation to housing without a vote of the people will have a major effect on being able to protect our open space in the future.

The entire Martinez General Plan is being rewritten under this Council, and it is crucial the Council knows whether changing Open Space to housing is acceptable to Martinez citizens. The City Council has already changed Open Space to housing for the Seeno project of 81 units above the Grace Episcopal Church. The Council also voted to rezone the Freitas Open Space to housing, but has been stopped so far.

We need to put this critical General Plan Amendment to a public vote. It is too important a precedent for all of Martinez.

We continue to hope the Council and the owners and developer can come to some agreement quickly. We have shown that the public will support Pine Meadow Park with additional property taxes. And we have identified over \$4.2M of unallocated City funds, some portion of which could be used to negotiate a purchase agreement for Pine Meadow Park.

The Mayor even conceded at the 1/21/15 meeting that the excess City reserve funds we identified existed, and that the Council was being pushed to determine how to use them. There are also other funding methods that we presented that the City has not explored.

Putting this General Plan Amendment to a public vote will tell the City Council how important Open Space is to Martinez citizens.

We urgently need your help and support to gather signatures for the referendum and to donate money to allow us to pay for printing, legal and other costs.

Donations can be sent to Friends of Pine Meadow, c/o Tim Platt, 843 Pinon Drive Martinez 94553. Friends of Pine Meadow is a Campaign Committee registered with the California Fair Political Practices Commission.

We are holding two meeting, this Tuesday and Wednesday, to train people how to gather signatures for the referendum. Come to Carrows at Nob Hill Shopping Center anytime between 6-8pm for a half-hour to pick up your copy of the referendum petition and learn how to get it filled out. Or just come to sign the petition. Or e-mail me, and I will get the information to you (please include phone number).

Time is critical. We must collect 3000 signatures of registered Martinez voters by 2/20/15. Over 200 have already been collected by our few gatherers since we started Friday, but we have a very long way to go in a very short time.

Thank you for your support.

Tim Platt
Friends of Pine Meadow