

Dick Gray

GRAND JUNCTION PLANNING COMMISSION
Wednesday - September 24, 1969 - 8:00 A. M.
CONFERENCE ROOM - CITY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Blake Chambliss, Mrs. Clinton Smith, Mrs. Barbara Hyde and Dick Stranger.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dick Gray, City Manager, Don Warner, Development Director, Ron Wine, Jack Porter and Jim Golden.

I. MINUTES APPROVED

Blake Chambliss, Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Hearing no objections, the Vice-Chairman declared the minutes of the August 20th meeting approved as written.

II. VACATION OF 9th STREET - RECOMMENDED TO CITY COUNCIL

Blake Chambliss read the letter from the Mesa County School District #51 requesting a vacation of Ninth Street between Gunnison Avenue and Hill Avenue. Mr. Ronald D. Wine, Asst. Supt. for Business and Special Services, School Dist.#51, explained the request and showed a proposed site utilization plan of the new Jr. High School. The plan is for the new building to be built on the block between 8th and 9th Streets and Gunnison and Hill Avenues, with the play fields on the block to the East, between 9th and 10th Streets, (Washington Park). The vacation of 9th Street would greatly increase the utilization of these areas by directly connecting the two blocks. The date of closing would probably be in the fall of 1970, depending upon the final construction of the building. The School District would assume the responsibility for maintaining utility easements and would provide for changes in surface drainage between the remaining streets. Ron Wine explained that consideration is being made of ways in which the activities currently housed in the TAC Building may be accommodated, and for the best possible utilization by the Grand Junction Recreation Department of existing and planned Dist.#51 physical plants. The elementary cafeteria and old gymnasium are to be used for City Recreational programs.

Jim Golden, owner of property on the Southwest corner of 9th and Gunnison, registered an objection to the request for a vacation, stating that 9th Street is a thru-street and an ideal access to North Avenue. He thinks this vacation would inconvenience traffic. Don Warner stated that 9th Street was a thru-street only from Grand Avenue south. Ron Wine said that the public had wanted the new Jr. High School to be in this downtown area location, and did the Planning Commission think it would be better to try to find a new location for the school or have the inconvenience of the closing of 9th St.

Mr. Gray stated that the City Administration feels that this is a reasonable request. The utility easements will be maintained by the School District.

Jack Porter, Architect, said that grass will be planted on the playground and more shrubs and trees planned surrounding Washington Park.

Dick Stranger said that the City should receive consideration at any time school lands are to be abandoned for school use, since there might be a need for a park or other non-profit use.

Washington Park was deeded to the School District by People's Ordinance in 1925 under the condition that it must be used for recreational purposes or it would revert to the City. This park will remain open to the public.

Dick Stranger made the motion that the Planning Commission recommend to City Council to vacate 9th Street between Gunnison and Hill Avenues. The motion was seconded by Grace Smith and passed.

III. DISCUSSION

There was a discussion of opening 6th Street from Bookcliff Avenue to Center Avenue. More study needed on this.

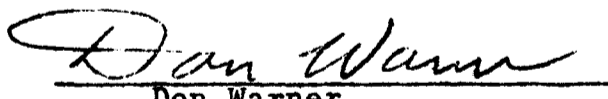
- IV. A letter from Sam Antonopoulos, owner of the Athens Motel, regarding one-way streets, specifically Rood and White, was read, discussed and put on file for further reference.

IV. RESOLUTION FROM PLANNING COMMISSION TO ACCOMPANY REPORT FROM HOUSING STUDY COMMITTEE TO CITY COUNCIL

It was decided the Planning Commission have a special meeting, 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 1st, to compile a resolution to the City Council on the Housing Study Committee Report.

V. TOUR OF LAND BY RIVERSIDE PARK

A trade of land upstream from Riverside Park for city-owned land in the Connected Lakes Area, which was proposed to the Commission by Bill Knoch, representative of the Preston Corporation, in July, was discussed. The Commission plans to tour this property after the special meeting set for next Wednesday morning, October 1st.


 Don Warner
 Development Director