

Neighbors don't want park upgrades

By Dana Yates
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF

There is plenty of money for improvements at Davey Glen Park in Belmont, but neighbors are ready to say "no thank you" to upgrades — opting instead for the open space to which they are accustomed.

The Davey Glen park property was given to the city as part of a deal a few years ago that allowed the construction of a nearby condominium complex. The property has mature trees and only about one third of the property could be improved because its slope.

The city has approximately \$450,000 set aside for improvements at the park, which sits in the Central Neighborhood. The City Council considered last night using a small portion of that to draft conceptual designs to make it a "passive park" — with picnic tables and light landscaping.

However, residents who showed up at a November meeting argued against a passive park. Neighbors of the park would rather it stay completely open space and, without any contrary opinions, the council is considering reallocating the money to another park.



Christine Wozniak

Other residents have launched a letter-writing campaign to get funding allocated to improvements at Semeria park. Some of those residents spoke on a separate agenda item at last night's council meeting.

If most residents near Davey Glen do not want the improvements and councilmembers are receiving three

to four e-mails a day from residents who want improvements at Semeria, than the money should be used where residents welcome it, said Councilwoman Christine Wozniak.

She added that money should later be set aside for future park improvements in the Central Neighborhood.

Central Neighborhood Association President David Long urged the council to postpone any decision by 90 days, allowing him time to send a newsletter to neighbors regarding the situation. The extra time will ensure a greater response from the large neighbor-

hood. The last meeting attracted 36 residents.

Long recognizes that "not all open space should become park space" although the neighborhood is "woefully underparked."

If it is the neighborhood's wish to leave the park as it is right now, Long advocated the money be set aside for improvements at any other site that may become a park in the future.

The council chose to follow Long's recommendation. It will not conduct its own survey of residents as suggested by Mayor Warren Lieberman.

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Dilapidated park getting makeover

By Dana Yates
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF

A 1-acre park in Belmont's Central neighborhood is getting a lot of attention after residents and city officials made it a top priority to improve the often overlooked area.

The Belmont City Council will vote Tuesday to consider hiring a landscape architect to design improvements. The city has \$450,000 available for the design and construction of park improvements there, according to a report issued Friday.

The city obtained the 1-acre par-

cel on Davey Glen Road during the housing development project of 1 Davey Glen Road. The site was dedicated as a future park site and in 2006 the council ranked the Davey Glen park project as their top priority.

Central neighborhood is actively pushing for a passive park with benches and picnic tables. Residents of the neighborhood recently participated in the revamp of the Belmont kiosk site, on Alameda de las Pulgas near the Congregational Church of Belmont. Residents and officials

“planning on constructing a dog park in the near future. We have plans and specifications nearly complete and we will be going to bid in the spring. The park will be a part of the Centennial Way project, which will be a three-mile bicycle and pedestrian pathway,” she said.

Ranals explained that according to their latest blueprint, the path will run from Orange Avenue in the north to the South City BART station and that the dog park would be adjacent to the other parks, north of the Boys & Girls Club.

From there, the kids will see the dogs playing with their owners, it will be love at first sight, they'll beg their parents for their own dogs and the cycle will begin anew.