

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS II
Office of the City Clerk

City Council of the City of Napa
Regular Meeting
June 16, 2020

FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NAPA:

EVENING SESSION:

12. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEALS:

12.A. City of Napa FY2020/21 Budget Update Adoption

- Email from Jessica Ansley received on June 16, 2020.*

12.C. Polvora Card Room

- Email received from Eve Ryser on June 16, 2020. *
- Email received from Katherine Fleming on June 16, 2020. *
- Email received from Monte Martin on June 16, 2020. *

****EMAIL OR HANDWRITTEN COMMENTS WILL BE READ INTO THE RECORD BY CITY STAFF
DURING THE MEETING.***

From: [Jessica Ansley](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Please Read: Agenda Item #12 A for Tonight's Council Meeting
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:18:29 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Good Evening Everyone;

First I wanted to start out and thank all the Council Members for all the long hours, work, decisions, commitment and dedication you have shown to this City, its community members – current and future – and its future.

It is without a doubt an unprecedented time.

In the start of COVID and Shelter in Place, Napa residents found comfort in our outdoors. People took to the parks, public streets, close knit outdoor activities more than ever before.

Not only did a large segment of our population, being focused on hospitality, have time on our hands due to being out of work, we also (and many of us continue to do so) have fear of what COVID is and will be for our community.

Parks became our escape.

And so when we heard City Manager Potter announcing the dissolution and layoff of 16 of its small 34 employee department, we were shocked and hurt.

What is more for the community members of Napa than our outdoors?

There are now close to 10,000 signatures on the Save Napa Parks and Recreation petition through [change.org](https://www.change.org). Yard signs can be seen throughout town.

We heard and understand what Mr. Potter said last Monday, that as it stands, when Director Coates retires in August of this year, Parks “intact” will be moved to Public Works and Recreation “intact” to the Community Development Department and the Parks and Recreation as a department will be ELIMINATED.

But why after 26 years does this need to be the case? We’ve heard the reason is the salary savings from not filling the Director’s position – but what about an acting or interim director? How much internal savings is being had from no large scale public events? Where will we be in August? We’ve talked to many people and almost all agreed splitting up creates more work and silos.

A month ago, no one thought we would be in stage 3 ... and yet here we are; we heard that Carneros Inn was at capacity this last weekend and when we checked prices it was about: \$1,200 a night.

Why move forward and eliminate the stand-alone department after so many years? We believe that the Parks and Recreation department needs to stay a department – they are so interwoven in each other’s work, they put a name and face to the services we see as community members, and honestly? They make you all look good – because we see how hard they work and the services they provide are tangible and valued in an intrinsic way.

We recognize that there are a lot of hard choices that have been made and will be made, but we believe the elimination of the Parks and Recreation department is not one that needs to happen.

Parks and Recreation as a department is what this community deserves and is telling you it wants and needs: please listen to us.

Definition of *eliminate*

transitive verb

1a: to put an end to or get rid of : REMOVE

- Jessica, part of Save Napa Parks and Recreation group

From: [Eve Ryser](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: COMMENT TO COUNCIL FOR JUNE 16, 2020 MEETING- PLEASE READ (Agenda Item 12.C)
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:24:32 PM

[EXTERNAL]

To the City Council,

I am writing to express my firm opposition to the plan that a 24 hour card room be allowed to open at the Lincoln Ave site previously occupied by Compadres.

Though the developers possess the "golden ticket" of a grandfathered-in license for a card room, the city's position for years has been to disallow gambling establishments within our city limits. There are many good reasons to support continuing this ban.

1. While this proposal is billed by developers as "something fun for Napans to do" in our valley, I am deeply concerned that a 24-hour card room will attract gambling addicts, from within our community and well beyond, as their regular customers. According to an article from medicalnewstoday.com, "Problem gambling is harmful to psychological and physical health. People who live with this addiction may experience depression, migraine, distress, intestinal disorders, and other anxiety-related problems. As with other addictions, the consequences of gambling can lead to feelings of despondency and helplessness."
2. While a card room is not the same as a casino, I believe that the presence of gambling in our community may well create some of the same problems that casinos do in communities. An article in the Washington Post (10/30/12) states that "a plethora of social ills, including increased substance abuse, mental illness and suicide, violent crime, auto theft and larceny, and bankruptcy. The latter three all increased by 10% in communities that allowed gambling."
3. The proposed site is located on one of the main crossroads across our Valley, connecting the Silverado Trail to Highway 29. I am gravely concerned that customers from this establishment will leave that establishment inebriated, and pose a public health threat driving out of town. It is not far-fetched to Imagine a tired, bleary-eyed, frustrated, distracted gambler, who drank until 2:00 a.m.

and kept gambling, causing an accident during rush hour, or worse, injuring a child as they head straight past Napa High while students are arriving for early flight at 6:57 a.m.

4. WHY would this business be entitled to remain open past the 2:00 a.m. cutoff time for bars in our town? WHO do you think will be patronizing this establishment between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and noon? Is that behavior that, as a city council, you welcome and endorse?
5. For every customer who would occasionally enjoy gambling for fun at this establishment, how many others do you think will be regulars, who lose money they cannot afford to lose, but cannot stop?

As the leaders of our city, I urge you to reflect on the Pandora's box you will be opening in our community if you vote to allow this to go forward. We are counting on you to move our community in positive, healthy directions. That is your charge as our city council. While it may make these developers a healthy profit, adding round the clock gambling to our city will not be positive or healthy for our community. Please reject this proposal.

Sincerely,
Eve Ryser

From: [Katherine Fleming](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Re: COMMENT TO COUNCIL FOR JUNE 16, 2020 MEETING – PLEASE READ
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 8:36:12 PM

[EXTERNAL]

This is for item 12.C

Dear Napa City Council,

I submit this comment to express my disappointment that this card room is being allowed to move forward and that exceptions are being made to the Napa Municipal Code.

The approval of this card room along with the budget previously approved which is dividing the Parks and Recreation department makes the Councils priorities clear when it comes to money vs. creating a family friendly environment. It makes me sad that Napa is moving in this direction. Napa needs more community spaces, family spaces, and not more adult oriented activities.

-Katherine Fleming

From: [Monte Martin](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: COMMENT TO COUNCIL FOR JUNE 16, 2020 MEETING – PLEASE READ Item 12 C
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:05:03 PM

[EXTERNAL]

To whom it may concern,

As a long time Napa resident I am for this project. I have known Mr. Leblanc for some time and believe him to be a great addition to what Napa needs. We need things to do away from downtown where it is becoming too congested. We need upscale, quality establishments like this to send our out of town guests. As for locals, a new place out of downtown is a refreshing prospect. I have seen and heard the ideas for this project and would love to see it come to pass. Michael is a good friend and family man who only wants to add to the growth of the city of Napa. We need projects and people like this for Napa to make this transition that we are currently in.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Monte Martin
Food and Beverage Director
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Carboni's Ristorante - Bar – Market
ZenTerra Spa
12 Abbey Street
Winters, CA- 95694
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On Jun 16, 2020, at 7:32 PM, Clerk <clerk@cityofnapa.org> wrote:

COMMENT TO COUNCIL FOR JUNE 16, 2020 MEETING – PLEASE READ
Item 12 C