

Council . . .

(Continued from front page)

acres.

Phase two of the project, to come before the Planning Commission sometime in October, proposes a six-lot subdivision for single family homes on the remaining 1.25 acres of the property designated as the Palm Terrace.

Public opposition to the project, including a contingent of Native Americans led by tribal elder Grant Smith, focused particularly at the Sept. 19 meeting on discovery of a previously unknown archeological site containing Native American artifacts between 600 to 1,000 years old, on lots one and two of the 12-lot site. No burial remains have been found on the site.

Native Americans at the meeting said they could no longer "sit in the back," and allow others to "speak for us," regarding the disposition of land Europeans took from Native Ameri-

cans, including the tribes residing in Sebastopol and surrounding areas.

Area residents opposed to the plan also continued to express concerns about the destruction of wildlife habitat, creating a foothold for further development of land around the Laguna, and disruption of the ecologically "sensitive" area they claim the project will cause.

Some community members have suggested the property owners donate the land for erection of a Native American cultural center.

Others suggested the community and city raise about \$1.5 million to purchase the land from the property owners, thereby halting any further development in the area.

"Give us time," said Native American Joann Campbell, who is among those claiming ancestors buried somewhere on what was once the Walker Ranch, a 4,000-acre parcel surrounding the Laguna, where large numbers of Native Americans once

lived.

"We came into this late, we need time to get together with others ... to try to build something there. I have many relatives in Sebastopol ... wouldn't it be wonderful one day to gather there for one of our family reunions," said Campbell.

In response to a request from City staff for direction in drafting the resolutions for approval or denial of the project, Magnie said she could not support approval because of concerns that Dorns and others might be correct in the assertion that changing the project does not overcome the "cumulative" impact of the development on the Laguna.

"I stand firm with the original findings in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that the project will have cumulative and visual impacts on the Laguna that cannot be mitigated," she said. Given that and the "cultural" significance of the site to Native Americans, Magnie said she favors delaying a

decision.

"If at this eleventh hour there could be a softening of our hearts and our position to allow further investigation of public acquisition of this land, I support that," she said.

Levy agreed, saying he is "sorry" the City "cannot seem to afford" to stand its ground in court.

Agreeing to phase one of the development as a means to settlement of a lawsuit, is "a sad day for the citizens of Sebastopol, but a good day for the lawyers," Levy said.

"The only over-riding consideration for this project is the fact that we're dealing with money. This subdivision has no respect for the land. It doesn't do anything for the city, the Laguna and the Native Americans," he added.

Foley, the lone vote in support of the development proposal prior to the landowners' lawsuit, expressed satisfaction with the settlement agreement which brings the Council to the "end

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of the trail — in a 13-year process."

The Council and the developers have benefited from the "eloquently articulated reverence for the land," presented by Native Americans, Foley said. "I believe we will, in fact, see that land and the people who lived on it and died on it are treated with due respect. I believe this is far more than just any old subdivision. It has come a long way and does, in fact, show more respect than any of the other projects considered."

Crump said it would be "unfair, to say the full weight of the question" of whether the descendants of early European settlers actually owned land taken from Native Americans "falls on this Council, this property owner and this city. It is not a solution for this Council to take this land or even buy it from this property owner and give it to someone else. ... it is important to respect the property owners' rights as well."

Crump said he has always

been in support of a community effort to buy the land for preservation.

"I do not approve of this (development plan) because of the threat of litigation ... I support it because I believe the property owner has a right to develop it," Crump said.

Roventini, who initially voted against the development, said "is there anyone in the room that isn't living on property that was taken away from Native Americans. ... do I single out Mr. Young and say you're it, Mr. Young, you picked the wrong piece of property ... If we're going to demonstrate greater sensitivity" for Native American values it should be demonstrated on "every house anybody in this community lives in.

"If we don't move forward with this project as it was negotiated out of court, some judge will ... It may end up before some judge who doesn't know Palm Terrace as we do," Roventini said.