

Review Appeal

Green space proposal fails in Brentwood

By Stephen Hines, Review Appeal Staff Reporter

Bill Akin is one relieved man.

An ardent opponent of taking on more public debt to preserve green space, he hopes Brentwood's rejection of the proposition in Thursday's referendum vote is the final word on the subject.

The green space proposal failed with 3,107 voting against and 2,868 voting for the proposal.

"We had fantastic results," Akin said.

"Common sense prevailed, and I am hoping this vote has put the idea [of raising property tax to buy green space] has been put to bed. While the voting margin was not a great margin, I believe it was a definitive margin."

Gil Hutchinson, spokesman for Citizens for Brentwood Green Space, describes their situation as being like baseball players in the third inning of a game.

"We are meeting Sunday to discuss what we do next," he said.

"I don't think anybody in Brentwood is against green space, so our mission is not going to change. I do think the large voter turnout was a statement about growth and preservation and the need to slow things down. A community can use different models to preserve green space, and we'll look at that."

The proposal to fund part of an extension of Mallory Lane was also defeated by a vote of 3,188 against and 2,812 for the proposal.

Krystal Roark, spokesperson for Brentwood South, was ecstatic.

"I've been getting calls from a lot of my neighbors, and I do want to thank other Brentwood residents who voted with us," she said.

"We hope the zoning will remain what it is, and we know of a local developer who would be interested in the property."

That developer is out of luck.

Cameron Sorenson, principal with Southeast Venture LLC, who had wanted a rezoning to develop a concept called Mallory Park, says they will proceed to develop under current zoning.

"We are disappointed that we were not able to get a better understanding of our message out," he said.

"The city lost a revenue opportunity, so it is our intention to begin developing the property under current zoning."

The approximately 125 acres of what has been known as the "Flag Pole Farm" property is zoned for light industrial on 55 acres and for residential development on 70 acres.

Southeast Venture accepts the mandate of the vote and will develop accordingly.

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