

This is a printer-friendly version. The navigation and other unnecessary elements have been removed.

Go and do

The Garden Grove City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave.

Information: City Clerk at 714-741-5040 or visit www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us.

The proposals

McWhinney: Themed hotels, enclosed water park, meeting space, shops, restaurants and entertainment

Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe: Two casinos with up to 7,500 slot machines, upscale hotels and entertainment venues

VisionMaker Worldwide: Has pitched four possible developments – Times Square, Orange County; Center Park; E-City or Harbor Walk

Park 8 Place LP: 30-story high-rise hotel; luxury condo tower, 15-story medical building, retail and 5-acre resort pool

Previous links

- [Lawyer drives Garden Grove casino plan](#)
- [500 turn up to protest casino](#)
- [How big a gamble is Garden Grove casino plan?](#)
- [Garden Grove goes after tourism market](#)
- [Garden Grove has vision for Harbor Boulevard](#)

Monday, September 10, 2007

Garden Grove casino on agenda

Council will look at four proposals tonight for designated 'entertainment hub' and zero in on one.

By DEEPA BHARATH
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

GARDEN GROVE –A controversial casino proposal from a Los Angeles Indian tribe could be voted down at tonight's council meeting, once again erasing a casino from Garden Grove's resort blueprint.

City Council members will look at four different proposals, including the casino-resort, for a 35-acre "entertainment hub" on Harbor Boulevard, a few blocks south of Disneyland. Three other developers have also submitted proposals for that site.

Council members could also cast a vote on whether to abandon the casino project.

One of the proposals is from developer Chad McWhinney, who is proposing themed hotels with 1,200 rooms; a four- to six-acre partially enclosed water park; meeting space; retail, dining and entertainment.

Another plan is from VisionMaker WorldWide, headquartered in neighboring Orange, with four possible projects – Times Square, Orange County; Centre Park; E-City or Harbor Walk – which are all themed entertainment and tourist venues.

The other developer, Park Place LP, proposes a 30-story high-rise hotel; 20-story luxury condo tower; 20-story retirement tower; 15-story medical building; a five-acre resort pool and shops.

Economic Development Director Chet Yoshizaki, who has taken the lead on marketing the city to resort developers, said he hopes to get much-needed direction from the council tonight.

His department is recommending McWhinney's project, Yoshizaki said.

"It's the most comprehensive proposal," he said. "It recommends mixed use and capitalizes on the area's tourist draw."

Also, the Colorado-based company is familiar with Garden Grove through its involvement in developing hotels now standing on Harbor Boulevard, Yoshizaki said.

Councilman Bruce Broadwater, who has put the casino issue for discussion on the agenda, said he hopes this will be the last he hears of a casino in Garden Grove.

"It's a highly unrealistic proposal," Broadwater said. "It's not going to happen, and even if it does, I don't want a casino on Harbor. I spent a good part of my political life cleaning up Harbor Boulevard."

Councilman Mark Rosen has voiced support for that project. Last month, more than 500 members from the local Vietnamese American community showed up at City Hall to oppose the casino. Critics of the Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe's proposal question how a tribe that has no federal recognition could pull off a gaming legislation at the state level.

Jonathan Stein, the tribe's chief executive officer, maintains he can make it happen. Stein said he and tribal council members will attend the meeting.

"It's an important night because the direction the council takes may determine the fate of a casino in Garden Grove," he said. "Of course, it means a lot to us because we've already put in a lot of time and effort into this project."

However, Stein said, he is encouraged by the city of Long Beach's recent interest in his project. He has also been working with the city of Inglewood.

Meanwhile, the city is trying to assemble the 35 acres on Harbor where these projects would

go, City Manager Matthew Fertal said. The city now owns only 10 out of the needed 35 acres.

"This is about setting a game plan," Fertal said of the meeting. "Once we have that, we can map out where we want to go with it."

Contact the writer: 714-445-6685 or dbharath@ocregister.com



**Unlimited Only
Messaging \$9.99
/mo.**

Keep in touch without
spending their tuition.



T-Mobile Limited Time Offer