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## Residents and CSD discuss delayed park

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After years of frustration over a stalled neighborhood park, Promontory residents and the Community Services District Board of Directors opened up a dialogue to discuss their options at a special meeting last week.

Board members hoped to use the meeting to explain the park planning process to give residents a better understanding of the constraints under which directors have to work.

Last Wednesday's meeting was organized as a result of discussion between Promontory homeowner James Jory, who has been vocal about his frustrations, and new board director Tony Rogozinski.

Rogozinski, along with director Bill Vandegrift, was sworn in as a board member at the meeting.

Jory and other residents have expressed concerns over the progress of Promontory Community Park, located on Alexandra Way, off Sophia Parkway in the Promontory.

The Promontory had originally been promised a neighborhood park - a park geared towards small children within walking distance of their homes. However, due to several changes over the years, the park to date has been constructed with only athletic facilities for adults and older children. There is no playground or open space for younger kids.

"I feel like we're bearing the burden of large adult fields, but we're not getting our neighborhood features," Jory said.

Before construction began, the community park was moved from its original site and broken into three phases. Neighborhood features are part of Phase II.

When costs for the construction of Phase I exceeded estimations, CSD was forced to borrow more than \$4 million just to complete that phase. CSD does not currently have funding to proceed with Phase II.

Currently, Phase II is considered Priority III, and will likely take 10 years to completion, according to Planning Director Dianna Hillyer.

Residents are concerned that, in the time it takes to build the playground, their children will be too old to utilize it.

One option discussed was whether the community would be willing to sacrifice Phase III for Phase II and, if so, whether the Board possessed the power to make the switch.

New director Tony Rogozinski welcomed the dialogue and was pleased with the progress. "A lot has been happening over the last couple years and we want to make sure we hear your concerns," he said. Rogozinski indicated that he would be open to similar discussions in the future.

Several residents expressed appreciation for the open forum. "I do feel like tonight we are being heard, and I haven't felt that in the past," said Darrin White.

Rising costs have made construction of parks and recreational facilities difficult. CSD is hopeful the county Board of Supervisors will adopt new park impact fees, so the district can begin levying fees on new development.

Funds are also diverted to athletics, as there is a pressing need for more sports facilities in El Dorado Hills.

The board likely won't know if changes can be made to the timeline of Promontory Community Park until their budget is approved in June 2007.

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