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Club Square parking lot on CRA agenda

Other clubs may join Elks in hiring attorney to preserve use of property

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Originally posted on May 16, 2006

A key piece of downtown real estate in Cape Coral's plans for redevelopment has neighbors lining up to keep it a parking lot.

At least one club among those surrounding the 20,400-square-foot parking lot at Club Square hired an attorney who has filed a motion to have a judge dismiss a legal action by the city about control of the parking lot.

The Club Square neighbors could have an unlikely ally in their desire to quash the city's legal action. The Cape Coral Redevelopment Agency's executive director said she also thinks the city should drop its action.

"The city doesn't have to sue," said Kuehn. "We could just pay Avatar to change the use allowed on the land it dedicated as a parking lot."

Centrally located in the redevelopment area, Club Square could be a real anchor for a downtown where both residents of future condominiums and visitors could park in a free garage and then stroll among shops, walk to work and have dinner in a fine restaurant at the end of the day.

Kuehn plans to ask the redevelopment agency board to recommend the city drop its legal actions at the agency's 5:30 p.m. regular meeting today in City Hall.

Clubs at the square are preparing to proceed with their own attorney or hire Robert B. Burandt, the Cape Coral Elks Lodge 2597 attorney, to block the city.

The Cape Coral Power Squadron could join with the Elks and use Burandt, said Daniel Tuffer, Cape Coral Power Squadron administrative officer. It would be financially prudent to use one rather than multiple attorneys.

THE REDEVELOPMENT AREA

The redevelopment area covers Cape Coral's downtown from Tudor Drive to the west along both sides of Cape Coral Parkway to the Cape Coral Bridge at the east. A section runs north along Del Prado Boulevard to Southeast 44th Street.

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