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## Developer to include trail in plans for housing project n former San Jose railroad route

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Willow Glen Resident

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It has been nearly 10 years since trains roared down the railroad tracks through Willow Glen. The tracks have since been removed, and new plans are in place for the strip of property that stretches from Lonus Street to Broadway Avenue.

Asante Real Estate Group Inc. has purchased the \$3.3 million Union Pacific Railroad property and plans to build 14 homes on the site. The property was on the market for seven years and loosely earmarked by city representatives for the Willow Glen Spur trail.

Carey Sutton, CEO of Los Gatos-based Asante, announced his proposal during a Feb. 4 community meeting in Willow Glen. He plans to build seven detached, single-family homes on the section of property that lies between Lonus Street and Coe Avenue, and seven homes on the 60-foot wide strip of land that runs from Coe to Broadway.

The project is a planned development and allows for community input.

As the homes take shape, so will a long-anticipated trail through Willow Glen. Part of the project includes the construction of a trail that will connect Willow Glen to downtown San Jose via the Lonus trailhead. Asante will fund and dedicate the trail to the city.

The first portion of the proposed trail will span the Lonus trailhead and the city-owned railroad trestle then continue on the other side of the trestle alongside a private road that will be built for the seven Asante homes being constructed between Lonus and Coe.

As the path crosses south over Coe, it will continue alongside the properties of the planned Asante homes, crossing over four driveways along Leona Court and winding along one home's side yard, ending at Broadway.

As part of the project, the city is requiring Asante to widen Leona Court from 19 to 26 feet. There will be no street parking in front of the new homes.

While many Willow Glen neighbors had hoped that the secluded area would one day be a city pathway, not everyone was pleased with proposed trail, which they called a glorified sidewalk.

Others were concerned that the path, which ranges from 9 to 12 feet wide and will be fenced in on both sides in some areas, would create an unsafe alleyway.

Still others at the meeting thought the development was better than the alternative of having 20 homes on the land, which city zoning allows, without a trail at all.

"I think they are doing the best they can," said Jack Stallard, a Willow Glen resident since 1965.

Designs have been formally submitted, but Sutton does not anticipate construction beginning for another year.

The date for the community meeting that is required by the city has not been set yet.

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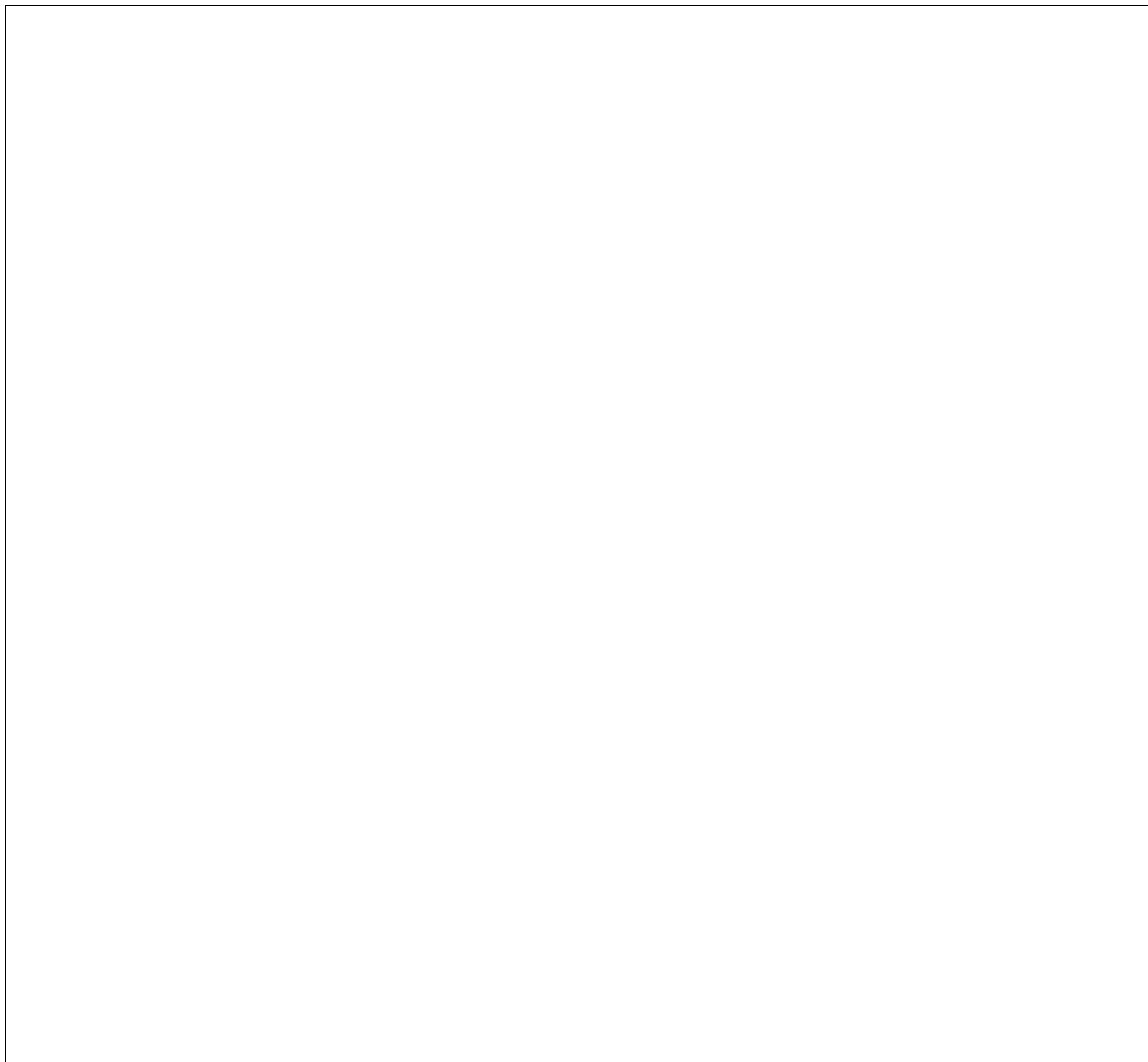


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