

APPROVED
DEC 09 2009

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 09-279

DATE November 4, 2009

**BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

C.D. 10

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR PARK – COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS, COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF LOS ANGELES (CRA/LA), AND LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE TRANSFER OF CRA/LA FUNDS FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS

R. Adams	_____	J. Kolb	_____
H. Fujita	_____	F. Mok	_____
S. Huntley	_____	K. Regan	_____
V. Israel	_____	*M. Shull	<i>mf</i>

[Signature]

 General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the proposed Cooperative Agreement (Agreement), substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, between the Department of Recreation and Parks (Department), Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles (CRA/LA), and Los Angeles Unified School District (District), specifying the terms and conditions for the transfer of CRA/LA funds in the amount of \$270,000, to the Department and District, in the respective amounts of \$70,000 and \$200,000, for park improvements at "Ambassador Park" (unofficial name), subject to the approval of the Mayor and of the City Attorney as to form;
2. Direct the Department's Chief Accounting Employee to identify an appropriate Fund and Account into which CRA/LA funds in the amount of \$70,000 shall be deposited;
3. Direct the Board Secretary to concurrently transmit forthwith the proposed Agreement to the Mayor's Office in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, and to the City Attorney for review as to form; and,
4. Authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the Agreement upon obtaining the required approvals.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 2 NO. 09-279

SUMMARY:

On November 15, 2006, the Board approved (Report No. 06-338) a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Recreation and Parks (Department), Los Angeles Unified School District (District), and Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles (CRA/LA), executed on May 1, 2007 and setting forth the mutual goals and intentions for the development of a proposed park on a portion of the Central Region Heritage K-12 Ambassador School, which is unofficially known as "Ambassador Park" (Park) and the development of a related joint-use agreement for the Department's operation and maintenance, and shared use with District of the Park. On November 19, 2008 and July 17, 2009, the City Council took action(s) (Council File-08-2545 and Council File-09-0879, respectively) authorizing the transfer of \$270,000 in CRA/LA funds to the Department and District, in the respective amounts of \$70,000 and \$200,000 for the Park's development.

Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the proposed Agreement, the District will apply the \$200,000 towards park improvements for public and student shared use subject to the terms and conditions of a future joint use agreement between the Department and District, which shall be presented to the Board for consideration at a future time. The Department shall apply the \$70,000 toward security related improvements at the Park.

The Department's portion of the CRA/LA funding (\$70,000) shall be deposited into a project account determined by the Department's Chief Accounting Employee to be used for the installation and/or development of security related improvements or measures at the Park.

For more than thirty years the Department and District have entered into joint-use agreements involving capital improvements at schools and park sites. To date there have been over thirty such agreements ranging in scope from the shared use of pools and gymnasiums to that of fields, courts and tracks. In this particular case, the scope of shared or joint-use relates only to the Park.

The present park design includes passive park improvements including a walkway, landscaping, water fountain and certain art features. The Park measures approximately 194 feet in length and 48 feet in depth, for an approximate total park area of 15,480 square feet. The art piece will be dedicated to Robert F. Kennedy in memory of Senator Kennedy's assassination at the Ambassador Hotel in 1968. The Kennedy family has officially supported development of the park and allowed the artists creating the park's Kennedy memorial access to the family archives to perform research. The memorial art component's theme is a tribute to Senator Kennedy's "ripple in the water" speech. Contemplated as an intimate, green open space for area residents, workers and visitors, the Wilshire Boulevard Public Park is meant to also be a visual buffer between the school complex and Wilshire Boulevard. The park's landscaping elements will consist of a small palm grove, canopy shade trees, sitting areas and permeable surfaces of both grass and hardscape. Some of the seating will accommodate classroom size groups for occasional open air lectures in the park for students at the school. There will a permanent art piece attributed to Robert F. Kennedy and a permanent art piece

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 3 NO. 09-279

featuring aural history of the Ambassador Hotel and the Coconut Grove.

The park area, which is located within the boundary of the proposed new school, was determined to have a less than significant environmental impact in the EIR certified by LAUSD on October 26, 2004 for the Central Los Angeles Area New Learning Center No. 1 Project. The installation of the security improvements under the terms of the proposed Cooperative Agreement is consistent with the concept, plans and specifications for the park and would not result in any additional environmental impacts. Therefore, Staff finds that the EIR is adequate for the proposed park and approval of the Cooperative Agreement and the associated security improvements, and no additional CEQA documentation is required.

The Assistant General Manager of Operations East, the Superintendent of Griffith/Metro Region and the Office of Council District Ten concur with staff's recommendations.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The proposed Agreement will not impact the Department's General Fund as it does not commit the Department to any general fund expenditures, and relates solely to the transfer and use of CRA/LA funds for improvements to park, school, and athletic facilities; which will be part of future JUAs for use of park and school facilities.

This report was prepared by Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst, Real Estate and Asset Management.