

APPROVED
MAR 03 2010

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 10-058

DATE March, 3, 2010

**BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

C.D. 14

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: **ARROYO SECO PARK - HERMON PARK - INSTALLATION OF SCULPTURE**

R. Adams	_____	J. Kolb	_____
H. Fujita	_____	F. Mok	_____
S. Huntley	_____	K. Regan	_____
V. Israel	_____	*M. Shull	_____

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten signature: Kevin Regan (for)]
General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Rescind the conceptual approval of the 'Dog-Ami' project granted in Board Report No. 09-215 due to the applicant withdrawing that application; and,
2. Grant conceptual approval for the installation of two sculptures at Arroyo Seco Park – Hermon Park.

SUMMARY:

Hermon Park is a sub-area of the larger Arroyo Seco Park. The dog park at Hermon Park is a valued community asset. The Friends of Hermon Dog Park, a local support group for this park area, was successful in obtaining a Public Works Community Beautification \$10,000 Grant from the City of Los Angeles for the installation of a public art project.

On August 12, 2009, the Board granted conceptual approval for the "Dog-Ami" project which was proposed for this beautification grant (Board Report No. 09-215). However, The Friends of Hermon Dog Park subsequently withdrew the "Dog Ami" application, intending to select a different sculpture for the park.

The selection process for the new artwork began in September, 2009, with a call for artists. After an afternoon site walk-through, 21 unique projects were submitted for consideration. The final decision was made on January 23, 2010, after interviews with two finalists by a Selection Committee. That committee was comprised of the Friends of Hermon Dog Park Board of

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Directors, local artists, and artist consultant, gallery owner, public arts advocate, local high school art student, community advocates, local art teacher, and local school principal. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the City's Office of Community Beautification and the Department of Recreation and Parks, who provided input but did not vote on the final outcome.

The selection committee selected El Sereno artist Ismael Cazarez and his project "River Dogs" to be funded with the Community Beautification Grant. Cazarez, who has been creating art for more than 40 years, earned his Master's Degree in studio arts in 1982 at California State University, Los Angeles. He began as a muralist in the 1970's, but now does mostly sculptural works.

"River Dogs" will portray two slightly larger-than-life dogs sculpted completely from natural river rocks. The artist grinds the rocks to fit together like puzzle pieces so that there are no gaps between them. Each stone is glued into rebar connected to a rebar skeletal infrastructure. Different size stones create the eyes, ears and other body parts, coloring and texture. Each sculpture will have an anti-graffiti coating. (See Attachment A)

One dog is positioned to play, the other dog's front legs are stretched up onto a boulder with a regal pose. The artist locates the installation at the top of the grassy knoll above the Hermon Dog Park near the Avenue 60 side, giving definition to the Hermon Dog Park area. The natural river rocks, iconic to the Arroyo Seco area, will be collected by the artist from a variety of locations throughout California symbolizing how the love of dogs can bring communities together.

The committee found Cazarez's work to be unique, innovative, honoring of the community, and low maintenance.

Pursuant to Los Angeles Administrative Code section 22.109, "River Dogs" proposal will need to be presented to, and approved by, the Cultural Affairs Commission.

As with all public art installations, safety is a primary concern. It is possible that the sculpture proposal may need to be modified through the community outreach process or through Department input. Modifications to the proposal may include sculpture size, material, and/or installation. Any modifications to the proposal would be detailed in a subsequent report to the Board.

Should the Board wish to remove the sculptures in the future, compliance with State and Federal law requiring prior notice to the artist would be required. (See California Civil Code section 987)

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Staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11 (6), of the City CEQA Guidelines.

The Councilmember of the District 2 and Griffith/Metro Region staff have no objection to this project at Hermon Park in the Arroyo Seco Park.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

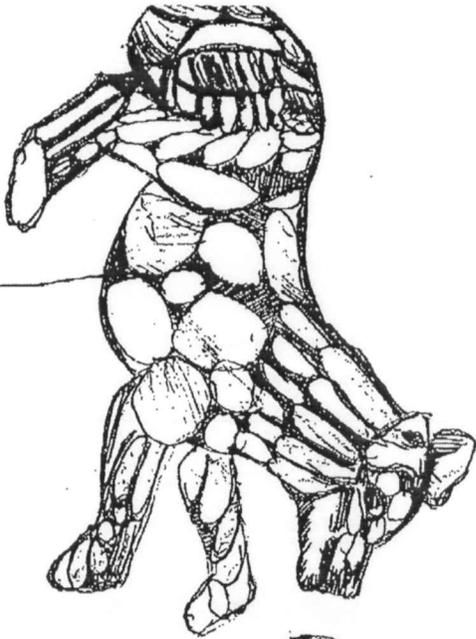
Installation of these items will have negligible impact on the Department's General Fund, as the cost of the sculptures will be funded by the Beautification Grant. Required maintenance for the upkeep of the sculptures will be the responsibility of the Friends of Hermon Dog Park. An agreement addressing issues regarding installation and required maintenance of the sculptures will be developed by staff and brought back to the Board for approval.

Report prepared by Camille Walls, City Planner, and Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning and Construction.

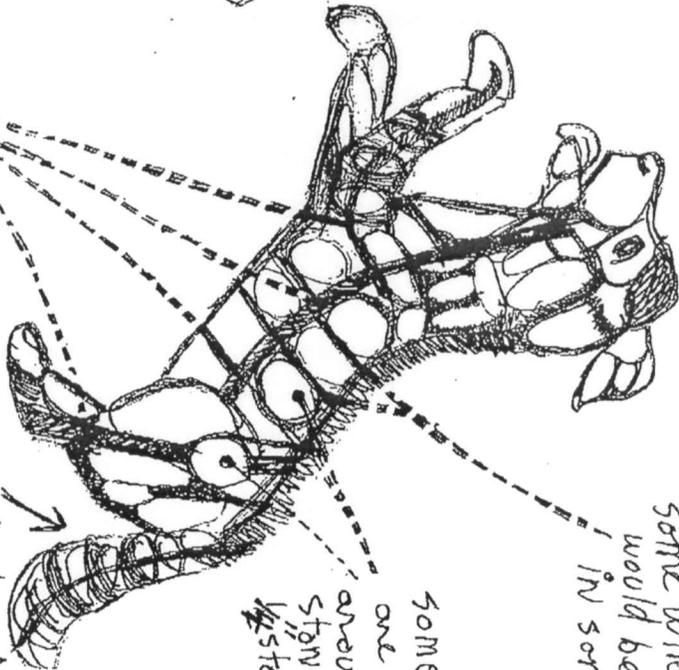
"River Rock dogs"

Attachment A

Cement to hold stones together sealing the inner steel structure



Steel Armature in side → out side River Rocks exposed



some wire mesh would be used in some sector

some rocks, one wrapped around a row stone with steel rebar

Steel Rods in the middle of drilled for

Jamal Hagan
2009