

APPROVED
SEP 23 2010

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 10-248

DATE September 23, 2010

BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 1

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: LINCOLN PARK – INSTALLATION OF PLAQUES TO COMMEMORATE
THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE

R. Adams	_____	F. Mok	_____
H. Fujita	_____	K. Regan	_____
S. Huntley	_____	*M. Shull	<u><i>[Signature]</i></u>
V. Israel	_____		

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved *[Signature]*

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Approve the installation of commemorative plaques in Lincoln Park as described in the Summary of the Report and waive Board policy;
2. Approve the wording of the commemorative plaques, as described in the Summary of this Report, and their placement in the Parque de Mexico section of the Lincoln Park; and,
3. Direct staff to install the plaques as indicated.

SUMMARY:

Lincoln Park is located at 3501 Valley Boulevard in the Northeast Los Angeles community. This facility is a 42.81 acre park which includes a recreation center, senior center, pool, lake, and skate-park. The southwest corner of the park, separated from the main body of the park by Main Street, is an area known as El Parque de Mexico.

El Parque de Mexico is a commemorative area of Lincoln Park that was dedicated to promote the surrounding community's cultural heritage and demonstrate goodwill between the United States and Mexico. The pantheon of busts and statuary at El Parque de Mexico is a gallery of memory for the heroes of Mexican independence and liberty. Brief ceremonies sponsored by the Comité Mexicano Cívico Patriótico are held each year on Mexican Independence Day (September 16), Cinco de Mayo (May 5) and Dia de la Revolucion (November 20) in honor of these individuals.

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Sixteen works of public art memorialize important Mexican national figures such as Emiliano Zapata and Father Hidalgo. These works of public art are a part of the City's permanent art collection and each display describes, in both Spanish and English, the individual's contribution to history.

The Comité Mexicano Cívico Patriótico, in conjunction with the Consulate of Mexico, is requesting permission to install plaques commemorating the Bicentennial of Mexican Independence within El Parque de Mexico. As with the other displays within the Parque, the text of the plaque would be in English and Spanish for a total of two unique plaques. Each plaque would be made of bronze and sized 22" high by 33" wide. Please see Exhibits A and B for the proposed plaque text. The Comité Mexicano Cívico Patriótico will be responsible for the cost of the plaques in addition to installation and maintenance expenses.

Existing Recreation and Parks policy regarding memorial plaques, adopted October 18, 1995 (Board Report No. 416-95) is that they be in English, manufactured of bronze, with a maximum size of 12" x 18". To ensure design consistency within Parque de Mexico the Councilmember of the First District has introduced a Motion requesting that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners waive the existing plaque policy and allow new plaques at Parque de Mexico to be the same size as existing plaques within the Parque de Mexico and that these new plaques be allowed to be placed in both English and Spanish. This Motion applies to the currently proposed Mexican Independence Bicentennial Plaques as well as to potential future plaque installations within Parque de Mexico. Please see Exhibit C for a copy of the Motion (Council File No. 10-1455).

This plaque proposal was presented to the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council at their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 2, 2010. There was no opposition to the proposed plaque by either the Neighborhood Council or the public.

Staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article VLL, Section 1, Class 11 (1) of the City CEQA guidelines, which provides for the placement of signs on park property as accessory structures to recreational facilities.

The Councilmember of the First District supports staff recommendation and Metro Region management and staff have no objection to this project within the Parque de Mexico section of Lincoln Park. Department staff will work with the applicant to determine the precise placement of the plaques within the Parque de Mexico section of Lincoln Park.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Installation of these items will have negligible impact on the Department's General Fund as the cost of the plaques and plaque installation and maintenance will be funded by the Comité Mexicano Cívico Patriótico.

This Report was prepared by Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning and Construction.



**THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO,
THE FIRST COUNCIL DISTRICT AND
THE MEXICAN CIVIC AND PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE**

**UNVEILED THIS PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE THE
BICENTENNIAL OF THE MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE
AS A SYMBOL OF UNITY AMONG MEXICANS AND THE BONDS
OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

**MÉXICO
2010**

Bicentenario
Independencia
Centenario
Revolución

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA SEPTEMBER 16TH 2010

SERGIO P. TINOCO
President of the Mexican Civic
and Patriotic Committee

JUAN MARCOS GUTIÉRREZ GONZÁLEZ
Consul General of Mexico

ED REYES
Councilmember for the 1st District



**EL CONSULADO GENERAL DE MÉXICO,
EL PRIMER DISTRITO DE LA CIUDAD DE LOS ÁNGELES
Y EL COMITÉ MEXICANO CÍVICO PATRIÓTICO**

DEVELARON ESTA PLACA PARA CONMEMORAR EL

BICENTENARIO DE LA INDEPENDENCIA DE MÉXICO

**COMO SÍMBOLO DE LA UNIDAD DE LOS MEXICANOS Y
LOS LAZOS DE HERMANDAD CON LOS ÁNGELES, CALIFORNIA.**

**MÉXICO
2010**

Bicentenario
Independencia
Centenario
Revolución

LOS ÁNGELES, CALIFORNIA, A 16 DE SEPTIEMBRE 2010

SERGIO P. TINOCO

Presidente del Comité Mexicano Cívico Patriótico

JUAN MARCOS GUTIÉRREZ GONZÁLEZ

Cónsul General de México

ED REYES

Concejal por el Primer Distrito

10-1455
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MOTION

AUG 10 2010

El Parque de Mexico, located adjacent to Lincoln Park, is a commemorative area established to promote Lincoln Heights' cultural heritage and reinforce the strong relationship between the United States and Mexico. The area includes various busts and statues of American and Mexican heroes of liberty, including the City's only two equestrian statues. The park is a true representation of the surrounding area's unique cultural blend.

Currently, there are both English and Spanish plaques used to describe certain monuments in the park. The Department of Recreation and Parks has an English-only memorial plaque policy that would not allow for Spanish plaques to be placed alongside their English translation. In addition, the Department's plaque policy requires that all plaques be restricted in size to 12 inches by 18 inches while existing plaques at the park are 22 inches by 33 inches.

To show design consistency, the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners should be requested to waive the existing plaque policy size restrictions and allow new plaques in El Parque de Mexico to be the same size as current plaques in the park.

More importantly, the Board of Recreation and Recreation and Parks Commissioners should take the unique nature and history of El Parque de Mexico into consideration and waive the Department's existing plaque policy to allow both English and Spanish plaques to be placed alongside the cultural monuments.

I THEREFORE MOVE that Council request the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners to waive the Department of Recreation and Parks' plaque policy relative to the English-only and size restrictions for the plaques in El Parque de Mexico to preserve the park's history and remain consistent with its current and unique design.

PRESENTED BY

Ed P. Reyes

ED P. REYES
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY

[Signature]

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AUG 10 2010