

APPROVED
JUL 13 2011

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 11-201

DATE July 13, 2011

BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

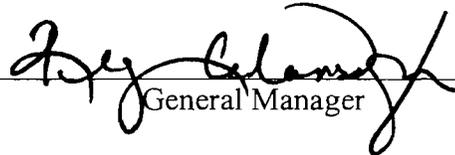
C.D. 8

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. RECREATION CENTER – CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL OF A GARDEN SCHOOL FOUNDATION COMMUNITY GARDEN

R. Adams _____
H. Fujita _____
*V. Israel _____

K. Regan _____
M. Shull _____
N. Williams _____


General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Approve in concept the development of a community garden at Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center, to be funded, developed, operated, and maintained by the Garden School Foundation (Foundation), a California nonprofit corporation, in collaboration with the Department;
2. Authorize staff to work with the Foundation to negotiate, prepare, and execute an Agreement between the City of Los Angeles and Foundation for the future development, operation, and maintenance of the proposed community garden and related programs, at no cost to the City of Los Angeles; and
3. Direct the Department's Chief Accounting Employee to create an account as necessary for deposit of funds received from Foundation for garden related expenses, including general operations and programs.

SUMMARY:

The Department has been approached by the Garden School Foundation (Foundation), a California non-profit corporation, with a proposal for the development of a community garden at Martin Luther King Jr. Park (Park), located at 3916 South Western Avenue in the community of South Los Angeles. The proposal includes not only the development, operation and maintenance of a community garden within the Park, but also the implementation of community programming

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focused on providing gardening workshops, outdoor cooking classes, and a literacy program for adults and children at no cost to the City.

The Park is an 8.33 acre facility which provides a variety of services and programs to the surrounding community, including baseball, basketball, soccer, flag football, and tennis programs, along with available picnic and play areas for the public's general use.

The Foundation is a coalition of citizens, businesses, and community organizations formed to teach children how to plant, harvest and cook vegetables for healthy eating. The Foundation also promotes English language education and supports the fight against obesity through training and physical fitness. The Foundation currently has a community partnership with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) dedicated to bringing verdant traffic buffers, sports facilities, native gardens, science gardens, kitchen gardens and teaching kitchens to public schools.

The Foundation would like to transform a portion of the Park into a community garden for the benefit of the community as a whole. The area in which the Foundation would like to use is adjacent to the newly developed Dodger Dream Field outfield fence line, as illustrated by the site plan attached hereto as Exhibit-A. This area is currently used by homeless and vagrants, and is a constant security issue for the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). The Foundation would be responsible for coordinating the fundraising, planning, and construction of the proposed garden. The Foundation will work with the Department to develop programs, and collaborate on the implementation of operations and the maintenance of the garden.

The proposed community garden area would include six (6) California Sycamore trees, a native plant walk, an outdoor classroom with native lawn, community garden with raised beds, a council circle with native lawn, a new chain link fence (eight feet high) with three gates and a storage shed for materials and supplies, as illustrated by the conceptual plan attached hereto as Exhibit – B.

The Foundation, in coordination with Department staff, will be hosting at least two (2) community meetings to obtain input from the community on the proposed project. The first meeting was held on June 21, 2011, and the second will be in July, 2011. The exact date and time for the July meeting are still being determined.

Staff has determined the proposed project will consist of new gardening and fencing for security and, therefore, is Categorical Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) without exception pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1 (12) and Class 4 (3) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The Board's conceptual approval of the proposed project will not have any fiscal impact on the Department's General Fund, as all costs associated with the planning, coordination and design of the proposed community garden shall be paid by the Foundation. The development of this project is anticipated to be funded by awarded grant funds and/or funding sources provided by the Foundation, at no cost to the Department.

This report was prepared by Chinyere Stoneham, Sr. Recreation Director II, of the Department's Partnership Division.

Exhibit - A



Six California Sycamores (24in box)

Existing Pine trees

Native Plant walk

Outdoor Classroom
with native lawn

Community
Garden, raised beds

Council circle
with native lawn

New chainlink fence (8ft high)
with three gates

Storage Shed



Martin Luther King Park

Concept Plan

January 28, 2011

not to scale

Exhibit - B

