

APPROVED
NOV 02 2011
BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 11-289

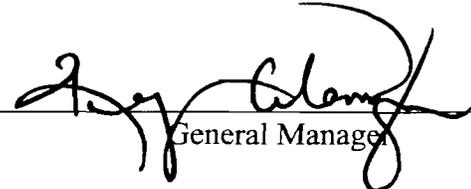
DATE October 19, 2011

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: NORTH WEDDINGTON PARK – FINAL CONSIDERATION OF PLAQUE PROPOSAL TO COMMEMORATE VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 11 TERRORIST ATTACKS

R. Adams _____
H. Fujita _____
V. Israel _____
K. Regan _____
*M. Shull mf
N. Williams _____



General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

As Amended

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Grant final approval for the wording, placement, and installation of a plaque at North Weddington Park, as described in the Summary of this Report; and,
2. Authorize the Department to issue the appropriate Right-of-Entry Permit.

SUMMARY:

North Weddington Park is a 10.21 acre community park located at 10844 Acama Street in the North Hollywood area of the City. This park includes an auditorium, barbeque pits, baseball diamond, basketball courts, community room, handball courts and volleyball courts. This proposal is for the installation of a plaque at the Park that will commemorate thirty-two (32) of the people who were killed in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

The Department has been contacted by the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council with a request to install a memorial plaque at North Weddington Park. The plaque would be mounted on a boulder and located within the large entrance triangle to the park, near the memorial grove of thirty-two (32) trees that were planted in the park in 2006, and will list the names of some of those who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. This plaque and memorial grove are part of a larger effort by the Hollywood Beautification Team (HBT) known as "United We Plant". A conceptual approval of this plaque was granted by this Commission at its July 13, 2011 meeting (Board Report No. 11-197).

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“United We Plant” is an effort by HBT to plant one tree for every person killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks. This effort began in 2002 with the planting of 82 trees in North Hollywood Park honoring all the Californians whose lives were lost. Subsequent to that dedication HBT was approached by several families of victims who were not California natives but who wanted their loved-ones to be similarly remembered. HBT has since committed to not only plant one tree for every victim but also sends the victim’s family the GPS coordinates of the dedicated tree. To date over 2,971 such trees have been planted and dedicated in various locations throughout the City of Los Angeles from the West Side to North Hollywood and into Pasadena.

The proposed plaque would be 18” x 22”, fabricated of bronze, include an anti-graffiti coating, and mounted on a boulder. This plaque proposal has had several opportunities for public input including an April 5, 2011 meeting of the Executive Committee of the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council and an April 19, 2011 meeting of the entire Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council. Both meetings were duly noticed as per the State required Brown Act notifications.

The cost of the plaque manufacture, installation, and maintenance will be borne by the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council. A budget of \$2,000 was approved at their April 19, 2011 meeting which is sufficient to cover both the manufacture and the installation of the plaque per the quotes obtained by the Neighborhood Council and provided to the Department for reference. The Hollywood Beautification Team has committed to the maintenance of the plaque including graffiti removal. These issues will be delineated in the right-of-entry permit, which will also provide for the plaque’s removal if it is not maintained to the satisfaction of the Department.

The text of the proposed plaque is attached hereto as Exhibit A. While Department policy specifically forbids any commercial or religious symbols on plaques, the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council is requesting that the plaque may be adorned with the image of a ribbon, an image which has come to symbolize solidarity after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

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.

Council District 4 and West Region management and staff support this project at North Weddington Park.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There should be no fiscal impact as the cost of manufacture, installation, and maintenance shall be borne by the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council in concert with the Hollywood Beautification Team.

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

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 2, 2011

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

11-289

NORTH WEDDINGTON PARK – FINAL CONSIDERATION OF PLAQUE
PROPOSAL TO COMMEMORATE VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 11
TERRORIST ATTACKS

The above item was described and presented to the Board by Department staff. Public comments were invited. One request for public comment was received and presented to the Board. A detailed discussion by the Commission ensued.

President Sanders and Vice President Alvarez suggested that the wording for plaque be revised as follows:

“32 Trees have been planted in this Park in Memory of the Victims of September 11, 2001, thanks to the Hollywood/Los Angeles Beautification Team and the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council”

President Sanders left it at the discretion of the donor, working with staff, to include the Council Office and the Department of Recreation and Parks, with the provision that if one is included then so should the other be included.

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Vice President Alvarez, that the amendment to General Manager's Report No. 11-289 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

EXHIBIT A

"UNITED WE PLANT"

Hollywood / Los Angeles Beautification Team



One tree promised and planted for every person loved and lost on 9/11

Nitin Parandkar
Hardai (Casey) Parham - NYPD
George Paris
Debra (Debbie) Paris
Gye-Hyong Park
Philip L. Parker
Michael A. Parks
Robert Emmett Parks, Jr.
Hasmukhrai Chuckulal Parmar
Diane Marie Moore Parsons
Leobardo Lopez Pascual
Michael J. Pascuma, Jr.
Horace Robert Passananti
Suzanne H. Passaro
Victor Antonio Martinez Pastrana
Dipti Patel

Avnish Ramanbhal Patel
Manish K. Patel
Steven B. Paterson
James Matthew Patrick
Manuel Patrocino
Bernard E. Patterson
Cira Marie Patti
James R. Paul
Sharon Cristina Millan Paz
Patrice Paz
Victor Paz-Gutierrez
Stacey L. Peak
Richard Allen Pearlman
Thomas E. Pedicini
Todd D. Pelino
Michel Adrian Pelletier

Trees planted by the community of Toluca Lake

Plaque donated by the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council

Special thanks:

Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners, City of Los Angeles