

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL **DATE:** JANUARY 22, 2007
FROM: CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: AMENDMENT OF THE MASTER PLAN FOR CENTRAL PARK

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council review and comment on the Central Park Master Plan amendment (attached).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION:

On August 14, 2006, this recommendation was presented to the Design Commission for consideration. The Commission recommended approval of the amendment of the Plan with the following modifications:

- The design of new features and installations should have equal consideration with cost and maintenance.
- The Plan should consider connections/linkages to the new developments proposed to the west of the park.
- A water fountain and public art should be considered as possible improvements in the formal garden area.

Staff concurs with these recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION:

On July 18, 2006, this recommendation was presented to the Recreation and Parks Commission for consideration. The Commission recommended approval of the amendments to the Master Plan with the addition of a phasing plan for the proposed improvements.

BACKGROUND:

The 1989 Central Park Master Plan was intended to provide a guide for the revitalization of Central Park—one of Pasadena's oldest parks. The plan included a comprehensive design as well as a detailed selection of plant materials, park equipment, furnishings, fencing, lighting, and structures.

In 2002, a group of interested persons established a Central Park Task Force to discuss the park's Master Plan. A number of meetings were held and nearby residents, businesses, the developer of the Del Mar Light Rail complex, and various City representatives participated. An update of the Central Park Master Plan emerged as a key goal during these meetings. The update of the plan that has emerged from these efforts makes the plan more consistent with the historical layout of the park (1925 Master Plan, attached). The major changes to the plan involve reducing the size of the extensive gardens proposed for the north end of the park and eliminating the central gazebo and associated walkways. Those proposed features are not consistent with the historic layout of the park and would be difficult to maintain.

An amended Master Plan has been prepared and is attached to this report. This plan will replace the 1989 Master Plan. A 1989-2006 redline version combining both plans is also attached. The improvements that are proposed were derived from input obtained during a series of meetings and discussions with park users and City staff. The plan amendment has been reviewed and is supported by the stakeholders who make up the Central Park Task Force. After an extensive community outreach effort, a public meeting was held to discuss the draft plan on May 24, 2006. All those in attendance supported the amended master plan.

If these plan amendments are adopted by City Council, staff will prepare a revision to the 2007 Capital Improvement Program to reflect the amended scope of work and project costs for presentation to City Council at a later date.

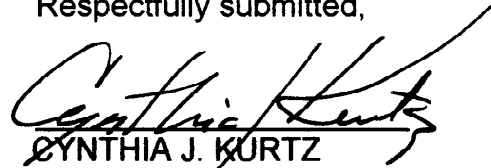
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

An environmental review of the Master Plan will be completed within 90 days. When the review is complete, the appropriate environmental documentation will be prepared and will accompany the plan when it comes before the City Council for approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The preliminary estimated cost to construct the proposed improvements shown on the amended Plan is 3.2 million dollars. The cost to construct the current Plan, per the FY 2007 Capital Improvement Program, is 5.3 million dollars.

Respectfully submitted,


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

Prepared by:



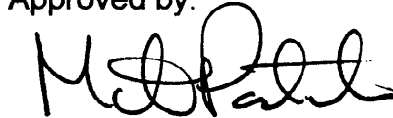
Todd Helmes
Landscape Architect

Reviewed By:



Kathleen Woods, Administrator
Parks and Natural Resources

Approved by:



Martin Pastucha, Director
Department of Public Works