

Agenda Report

October 25, 2010

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Public Works Department
SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A MEMORIAL TO HONOR PAUL B. MACCREADY, PhD, IN AREA H OF THE CENTRAL ARROYO

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the activity described herein is exempt from environmental review per Section 15061 (b) (3) the General Rule. The proposed memorial will not result in any potentially significant effects to the environment; and
2. Approve the request to install a boulder with memorial plaque in honor of Paul B. MacCready, PhD, within Area H of the Central Arroyo.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION:

At their September 7, 2010, meeting, the Recreation and Parks Commission voted unanimously to support the proposed project to honor Paul B. MacCready, PhD.

BACKGROUND:

Members of the MacCready family contacted the City to request a memorial to honor Dr. Paul MacCready. The attached letter from Tyler MacCready, son of Dr. Paul MacCready, provides information about Dr. MacCready's contributions to the field of aviation. Dr. MacCready was a resident of the City of Pasadena for 60 years and a world-renowned scientist and inventor. He was a professional aviator who held advanced degrees in physics and aeronautics. He and his family and friends created the Gossamer Condor, which was aeronautically significant because it was the first human powered aircraft and its first flight test was conducted in Area H. Dr. MacCready made significant contributions to the fields of aviation and recreation and spent many hours flying his planes and perfecting his designs in Area H.

Staff has worked with the MacCready family to modify their original proposal which is outlined in the attached letter. The revised proposal includes a boulder with a memorial

plaque. The memorial is proposed to be located in the northeast corner of Area H, out of the field of play and proximate to a stone drinking fountain and picnic bench. A memorial plaque, no larger than 9 inches by 12 inches would be inlaid in a native Arroyo granite stone approximately two feet high by three feet wide.

The City's park monument policy states that the intent of monuments and memorials should be to memorialize a person, place or event that is significant to Pasadena. The policy also states that monuments be sited in spaces that bear a relevance to the subject of the piece. Staff feels that this request is consistent with the City's monument policy and supports the applicant's request.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

This request is consistent with the Mission Statement of the City of Pasadena to provide exemplary service responsive to the entire community and consistent with our history, culture and unique character.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The project is exempt from CEQA per Section 15061 (b)(3) (the General Rule) as the activity proposed herein would install a boulder with a plaque in an area that has existing site furnishings. There are no changes to the existing use of this area and the physical change is minimal. Therefore, there is no possibility that proposed memorial will cause significant environmental effects.

FISCAL IMPACT:

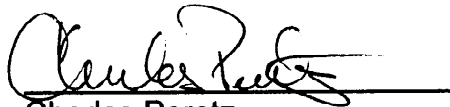
The MacCready family has committed to providing all costs associated with the purchase and installation of the plaque and boulder.

Respectfully submitted,



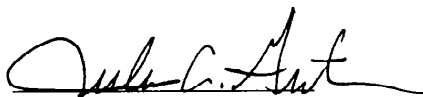
MARTIN PASTUCHA
Director

Prepared by:



Charles Peretz
Acting Administrator
Parks and Natural Resources

Approved by:



EvP MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Attachment:

Letter from Tyler MacCready dated July 23, 2010

July 23, 2010

Martin Pastucha
Director of Public Works
City of Pasadena

Mr. Pastucha,

My family has been working with city staff to create a memorial to my father, Paul B. MacCready (1925-2007), near the Rose Bowl.

Dr. MacCready was a world-renowned aviation pioneer and founder of AeroVironment, Inc., originally a Pasadena business (now in Monrovia) that employs over 800 people. He designed several world-record aircraft including the first successful human powered airplane (Gossamer Condor, 1977), a second version that was pedaled across the English Channel (Gossamer Albatross, 1979), and the first solar powered airplane (Solar Challenger, 1981). In 1980 the American Society of Mechanical Engineers named him Engineer of the Century. As a relentless promoter of efficient transportation, education and environmental awareness, he was truly one of the stars of Pasadena.

Dr. MacCready was a Pasadena resident for 60 years beginning with his post-graduate work at Caltech. For 50 of those years he lived on Armada Drive, near the Rose Bowl, and made extensive use of the grass field south of the stadium to test his inventions and fly models with his children.

We are seeking to create a simple memorial on this large open turf area that city staff refers to as area H. We would like to place a bench beneath the trees in the northwest corner of the field, and to place a boulder nearby with a city-approved plaque reading:

In memory of Paul B. MacCready (1925-2007), the “Father
of Human-Powered Flight”, who gathered with family and
friends on this field in 1976 to test the first prototype of the
GOSSAMER CONDOR.

We seek approval of this project (which we will fund) and look forward to finding it on the agenda for an upcoming parks and recreation committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Tyler MacCready
1613 Vista Lane
Pasadena, CA 91103
(626) 660-6423