

August 27, 2015

Ms. Julie Gutierrez
Assistant City Manager - City of Pasadena
100 North Garfield Avenue, Room S231
Pasadena, California 91109

Re: Enduring Heroes – Progress Report – Revised as of 8/27/15

Dear Julie:

We are happy to advise that the Enduring Heroes (EH) Committee is prepared to appear at the upcoming September 1, 2015 Recreation and Park Commission (RPC) meeting. At that meeting, we will report on our progress since we last appeared before the RPC, on May 5, 2015, including but not limited to presenting our response to the Art and Culture Commission (ACC), meeting of May 13, 2015, and their letter dated June 1, 2015.

Attached for your review is the detailed summary of our progress, which includes pertinent details of our efforts since the May meetings. We sincerely hope that with the updated modifications to the Monument, Enduring Heroes will receive support from the RPC.

In the months following our May 5, presentation to the RPC, we have:

- Modified the design of the monument per RPC suggestions.
- Continued our process of community outreach and notification, and most importantly,
- Have consulted with, involved and garnered the full support and gratitude of the Gold Star families of Pasadena's fallen patriots, including their endorsement of the monument as it is designed and where it is proposed to be placed.

Please review this at your earliest convenience, and let me know if you have any questions or comments. Julie, please know that we appreciate your help and guidance in honoring Pasadena's brave war dead, and in showing their loved ones, the Gold Star families, that Pasadena does remember their sacrifice. We look forward to continuing along this path, and working closely with City Officials to realize this effort.

Very Truly Yours,

Dr. Shelly Lowe
Enduring Heroes Committee Chair

Rhonda Kozacik
Project Manager

CC: Charles Peretz, Parks & Natural Resources Administrator
Enrique Arroyo, Management Analyst IV

DETAILS OF OUR EFFORTS SINCE 5/5/15 RPC MEETING

We spent a significant amount of time in the following months, discussing the monument with Pasadena's City Council Members, the Gold Star Families and residents from the communities adjacent to Defenders Parkway West. During these conversations, and based upon the May RPC meeting, we listened to their advice and suggestions, and are proud to state the following Physical Changes:

Physical Monument Changes Since 5/5/15 Meeting:

Based upon the suggestions of the RPC, City Council Members, meetings with neighboring Homeowners to Defenders Parkway West, and with guidance from the Gold Star Families, we have:

- At the recommendation of Council Member Steve Madison, from District 6, the monument title will now read "Enduring Heroes – Pasadena Remembers Our Fallen".
- Although a beret is common military attire, the Enduring Heroes soldier will now appear without a beret. Again this is to ensure that the visitor feels that soldier could represent any of the five branches. This was a concern expressed at the RPC meeting, and we are happy to agree.
- At the suggestion of the neighboring residents and addressing their safety concern, the flag will be draped closer to the soldier's body, so that there is not an open "pocket area".

EH Committee presented to the ACC on May 13:

Our committee received a copy of the letter from John McLean, Chair of the Arts and Culture Commission to Rita Moreno, Chair of the Recreation and Parks Commission on August 10th. We are in the process of reviewing this letter and will be fully prepared to respond thereto, and comment upon issues raised at our ACC appearance, at the upcoming 9/1/15 RPC meeting.

Community Outreach:

A critical component, as mentioned at both the RPC and ACC meetings, for the Enduring Heroes Steering Committee to address, was community outreach. Since the 5/5/15 RPC Meeting, we have made contact with each of the six gold star families, each who have each lost a son in the Iraq-Afghanistan conflict, since 9/11. All six families have joined our committee, and attended meetings with each of the seven Pasadena Council Members. Representing their Districts, the Council Members each graciously spent a significant amount of time, listening to the Gold Star families share their precious memories and hear the significance of a monument in honor of their fallen patriot.

Further, an on-going goal of our committee will be to build awareness, education and gratitude for our Armed Services Members within the Pasadena Community. The Steering Committee is also working on an upcoming event, coming to Pasadena in September, “Remembering Our Fallen”, a traveling memorial, which pays tribute to the over 700 Fallen from California. This exceptional and impactful exhibit will be open to the public, the week of September 20 to 26th, at the American Legion.

Specific highlights of Community Outreach include:

- **First and foremost, garnered the full participation and support of all six Gold Star Families, the local families who lost their sons during the past 11 years.** In the many hours spent with the brave Gold Star families, we have come to learn how much they love Pasadena, and how happy they are that finally, after so many years without a permanent tribute to their fallen sons, the City they love wants to pay homage. Our commitment and dedication to these Gold Star families is paramount.
- **Met with each of Pasadena’s dedicated Council Members**
 - Reviewed our proposal in detail,
 - Introduced them to our Steering Committee,
 - And to our dedicated and brave Gold Star families,
 - Discussed the great lengths we have taken to adhere to the Monument Policy in creation of the proposal itself,
 - Thoughtfully, and fully addressed all questions and concerns.
- **Continued to reach out to interested individuals and entities around the City and to date we have approximately \$80,000 in soft pledges.**
 - Met with largely unqualified support and enthusiasm for the project, its purpose, design and location
 - Made several attempts to hold meetings in person and on site for the HOA residents, which generated very limited interest.

APPLICATION OF THE CITY’S “PARK MONUMENT POLICY” TO OUR PROPOSAL

(a) Appropriateness:

The selected site, Defenders Parkway West (DPW) bears **particular “relevance to our purpose”** because other complementary monument reside there as well, including

- the Goodhue World War I flagpole (diagonally opposite EH,)
- Defenders Parkway Dedication Granite Monument: said monument reads “Defenders Parkway Dedicated by Mothers of the Defenders of the Flag Soldiers Sailors Marines Who So gallantly Responded to Our Country’ Call. 1776 1861 1898 1917

At a time in our Country's history, when less than one half of one percent of US citizens are on active duty, it is essential to recognize the courage of our local "defenders", who had the courage to stand up for their beliefs. This notion alone shows the monuments ability to "**weather the vagaries of time**".

This beautiful Memorial honors those soldiers who died fighting in the Wars on Terror, since September 11, 2001, one of the most significant days in the course of our Country's modern history. ***This meets the criterion as to "length of time" between an event and its commemoration***" All but one of the six fallen from the greater Pasadena area (and these heroes all called Pasadena home, some were born here, some went to community schools, and some lived here all their lives) gave their lives between eight to eleven years ago. (JP Blecksmith – 2004, Adam Rosema – 2007 & Rogelio Ramirez – 2007). The American Flag, which is a key component of our monument, most certainly will withstand the ***test of time***, and several of the City's other monuments honoring War fallen, depict soldiers in military fatigues. (I.e.) the Goodhue World War I flagpole, the Vietnam Veteran memorial.

(b) Compatibility:

The material (bronze and stone) and the design of the Enduring Heroes Monument will integrate beautifully and gracefully into Defenders Parkway West. The area was inspected by Park representatives, and structural Architects (Chris Ward of DLR Group) to ensure minimal impact on the root systems of adjacent trees. Further, Mr. Ward advised that the lack of apparent stress on the adjacent concrete pathways also indicated that the root system would not damage the monument. We have offered and wholeheartedly agree to work closely with the City during design and installation to make certain all environmental precautions will be followed. Further, as stated in previous proposals, the monument will be situated far enough away from the annual Rose Parade grandstands, so as to avoid any complications.

(c) Impact on Park Use:

Defenders Parkway West is a beautiful setting, peaceful and reverent. The proposed monument will sit gracefully under an existing tree, again with no impact to the root system, and not close to any pathways. It does not interfere or intrude upon an open spaces, or pathways

(d) Aesthetics:

The Enduring Heroes monument has been designed by a renowned and award winning sculptor Christopher Slatoff, an Arroyo Seco resident, and a professor at Art Center College of Design. His works are on display throughout the greater Los Angeles area, including, to name only a few, USC, the Church of our Lady of the Angels, and Pepperdine University. The artistic aesthetic, workmanship, construction and installation will be of the highest quality, and cast in bronze. This stunning gift of figural art will be worthy of Pasadena itself, just adjacent to our

renowned Norton Simon Museum, our largest local repository of figural and sculptural art.

(e) Maintenance:

The Enduring Heroes Memorial will be cast in bronze, with stainless steel supports. We will establish a \$50,000 on-going endowment fund, which will be maintained and managed by the Pasadena Community Foundation. The Steering Committee and the sculptor are dedicated to the creation and life of the Memorial, and our proposal details our ongoing commitment to working with the City's recommended Art Conservators during the permit and licensing stage phase (to ensure all appropriate methods are followed, and will implement their suggestions for long-term maintenance, polishing and repair.)

(f) Safety:

The Steering Committee and artist have from the beginning, kept the visitors experience, including safety, at the forefront of our vision. As such, precautions have been taken during the design process to insure that the monument will not cause harm to viewers. For example, and as discussed and recommended at the 5/5 RPC Commission meeting, the American flag and the edges of the cut out stars will be softened. Compliance with all applicable ADA requirements will allow appropriate clearance around the structure and easy access to the structure by those who visit.

Conclusion and Submission:

This detailed account shows that we have followed the guidelines set forth in the Monument Policy, and spent more than a year of time, effort (and tremendous emotional toll on the part of the already vulnerable Gold Star families) and stayed continuous communication with City officials. Along with meeting with the Mayor, Assistant City Manager, Representatives from the Department Public Works, and the City Council Members, we just appeared, with a "not on the scheduled request" at the 8/17 City Council meeting where we were assured by Mayor Tornek, that we would be allowed to move forward under the existing Recreation and Parks Monument Policy. This assures that we will not be subject to a new City Wide Monument policy we have never seen, nor should have to adhere to at this critical juncture. At the 8/17 meeting, we were further assured that while we should, and will appear at the 8/31 City Council meeting (wherein the new Arts policy will be discussed), we will continue to be subject to the Monument Policy.

Please know how appreciative we are of the guidance we have received in all areas, from the many City Representatives that we have been honored to work with. The overall process and our proposal had been greeted with enthusiasm, and we look forward to completing the process, working again very closely with City Officials.

In memory of our six fallen warriors, and with the full support and fervor of ALL the Gold Star families, our committee stands ready to proceed. We hope to fully address all the remaining questions and concerns of the RPC Commissioners at their 9/1/15 meeting, and will garner their support of Enduring Heroes. This monument to Pasadena's own fallen warriors will be a tremendous gift to the City: Please allow us to forge ahead.