

Agenda Report

December 17, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Department of Public Works
**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE TO HONOR
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION FOR PROGRESS AND ADVANCEMENT
AT EATON BLANCHE PARK**

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 small plaque on a park bench at Eaton Blanche Park in honor of Community Organization for Progress and Advancement (COPA).

RECOMMENDATION OF RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION:

At the December 4, 2012 meeting, the Recreation and Parks Commission unanimously voted to support the proposed project to honor COPA.

BACKGROUND:

The Pasadena Mexican American History Association (PMHA), a non-profit organization which preserves the history of Mexican Americans in Pasadena, contacted the City and requested permission to install a plaque on a park bench at Eaton Blanche Park in honor of COPA's contributions to the community.

Founded in 1981, COPA offers college scholarships to Pasadena Latino students. The dedicated COPA volunteers have a variety of fundraising activities throughout the year to sustain its support of educational advancement. Since its inception, COPA has provided thousands of dollars in scholarships and supported hundreds of Pasadena's Latino youth.

To commemorate COPA's 30 plus years of contributions, PMHA proposes one small plaque at Eaton Blanche Park. PMHA wishes to donate and install one 6-inch by 9-inch plaque into one standard park bench located just west of the existing playground area. Since East Pasadena is where most of the COPA founders resided and where some still live, this park is ideal for this honor.

The City's Public Park and Recreational Facility 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 stipulates that monuments be sited in spaces that bear a relevance to the subject of the piece. The Department of Public Works finds 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.

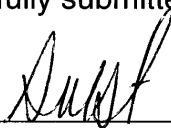
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The project is exempt from CEQA per Section 15061 (b)(3) (the General Rule) as the activity proposed herein would install a plaque on a bench 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 the proposed monument will cause significant environmental effects.

FISCAL IMPACT:

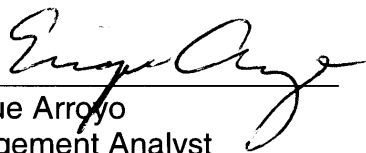
There is no General Fund impact from this action. The Pasadena Mexican American History Association has committed to providing all costs associated with the purchase, installation, and maintenance of the plaque and park bench.

Respectfully submitted,



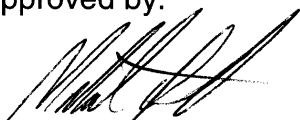
SIOBHAN FOSTER
Director of Public Works

Prepared by:



Enrique Arroyo
Management Analyst

Approved by:



MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Attachment A – Letter from Pasadena Mexican American Historical Association dated October 1, 2012

October 1, 2012

Ms. Siobhan Foster
Pasadena City Hall
100 N. Garfield Ave,
Pasadena, Calif. 91101

Dear Ms. Foster,

This letter is being sent to you by active members of the Mexican American Historical Association to make you aware of our desire to purchase and donate a park bench with a bronze plaque to the City of Pasadena, to commemorate COPA (Community Organization for Progress and Advancement) for their 30th anniversary celebrated in June of 2011.

COPA was founded in 1981 by a group of Mexican American women from the City of Pasadena. The Pasadena Mexican American Historical Association made a commitment during our 30th Anniversary Celebration to place a memorial plaque in Pasadena to acknowledge COPA's dedicated women who have worked so diligently to advance the education of Pasadena's Latino students, and to acknowledge our community service as volunteers.

We consider this memorial in compliance with our goal to preserve the history of Mexican Americans in Pasadena, and we have supported COPA's many fundraising events for our Scholarship Program.

The Pasadena Mexican American Historical Association and COPA are organizations with California non-profit status, and are both based in Pasadena.

In working with your staff, we have selected Eaton Blanche Park as the location for this memorial bench because the East Pasadena area was where most of the founders of COPA resided in the 1980s and some founders are still residents in that area. Staff was very appreciative of this proposed donation.

The proposed wording for the 3 X 5 inch plaque is as follows:

COPA-founded in 1981
Dedicated by
Pasadena Mex-Am History Assoc

Thank you for your promptness, assistance, and information.

Sincerely,

Rachel Heredia, Secretary

cc: Sandi Mejia, Chair/Board of Directors
Manuel Contreras, President

ATTACHMENT A

Advancing Education for
Pasadena's Latino Youth

Since 1981

COPA

Donated by

Pasadena Mexican American
History Association