

Agenda Report

September 10, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Public Works Department
SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE TO HONOR HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

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 commemorative plaque will not result in any potentially significant effects to the environment; and
2. Approve the request to install a boulder with a commemorative plaque in honor of Huntington Botanical Gardens within Victory Park.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION:

At the August 7, 2012 meeting, the Recreation and Parks Commission voted unanimously to support the proposed project to honor Huntington Botanical Gardens.

BACKGROUND:

The Pasadena Sister Cities Committee (PSCC), a citizen diplomacy association that creates and strengthens partnerships between the City of Pasadena and international communities, contacted the City and requested permission to mount a bronze plaque at Victory Park in honor and appreciation of the Huntington Botanical Gardens' donation of 50 cherry blossom trees.

Through its sister city relationship with Mishima, Japan, the office of the Consulate General of Japan provided selected Los Angeles area cities with an unlimited number of free, bare-root, "Pink Cloud" cherry blossom trees. With the help of PSCC, Huntington Botanical Gardens acquired 50 trees which were planted throughout the City in recognition of the 2012 Japan – U.S. Cherry Blossom Centennial.

To celebrate PSCC's 55th sister city anniversary with Mishima, a delegation of 30 officials including the Mishima Mayor, will visit Pasadena in October 2012. As part of this celebration, the PSCC along with officials from the cities of Pasadena and Mishima, the Huntington Botanical Gardens, and the Consulate General of Japan will dedicate this plaque.

The PSCC proposes that a 9-inch by 12-inch plaque be flush mounted on an arroyo boulder and placed in the northwest corner of Victory Park among a small grove of cherry blossom trees. 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 stipulates 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 proposed activity 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, the proposed commemorative plaque will not cause significant environmental effects.

FISCAL IMPACT:

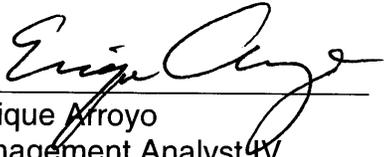
There is no General Fund impact from this action. The Pasadena Sister Cities Committee has committed to providing all costs associated with the purchase, installation, and maintenance of the commemorative plaque and boulder.

Respectfully submitted,



SIOBHAN FOSTER
Director of Public Works

Prepared by:



Enrique Arroyo
Management Analyst IV

Approved by:



MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Attachment A - Letter from Pasadena Sister Cities Committee dated August 2, 2012