

DATE: September 20, 2023

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Tim Youngberg, Parks and Open Space Manager

SUBJECT: **Donation of a Monument and Park Benches in Honor of the 1975 Mountain View High School Football Team Championship**

RECOMMENDATION

Accept a donation of a monument recognizing the Mountain View High School football team that won the 1975 Central Coast Section Championship and two public benches to be placed at Eagle Park.

BACKGROUND

Mountain View High School (MVHS) was located in the 600 block of Castro Street. It opened in fall 1924, closed in 1981, and the building was demolished in 1987. Today, Eagle Park stands on what used to be MVHS's football field. In late 2019, alumni of the MVHS 1975 graduating class requested to donate a monument to the City to be placed at Eagle Park to recognize the football team that won the Central Coast Section championship that year. The alumni requesting to make the donation stated several intended purposes of the monument, including to celebrate Mountain View's history and cultural diversity, acknowledge the legacy of Mountain View High School on Castro Street, recognize several remarkable football players who overcame physical and social adversity to achieve a historic feat, and to inspire future generations of Mountain View youth "to believe."

The original donation concept was presented to and approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) on January 16, 2020. This original concept included a granite monument that would be placed on the ground and engraved with names of the players. Shortly after the PRC presentation, COVID-19 impacted the timeline of this project. Since then, staff was asked to meet with the group to reimagine the monument to fit in the park, align it with the updated City style guidelines, and match existing signage, including the Veterans Memorial sign at Eagle Park. The updated monument design includes an informative sign panel and a bronze eagle statue.

ANALYSIS

City Council Policy K-6, "Accepting Gifts to the City," establishes uniform procedures for receiving gifts and/or donations to the City (Attachment 1). The Policy states that donors may offer a gift to a specific City department or facility operated by a City department. In accordance with the Council Policy, the Community Services Director consulted with the City Manager, and it was determined that the Parks and Recreation Commission shall review and determine if the gift should be accepted.

To determine if the monument and benches donation meets the criteria of Council Policy K-6, Community Services staff met with the alumni members to identify an appropriate location for the gifts so that they complement the park surroundings. Eagle Park is home to unique elements, including the Veterans Memorial at the entrance of Eagle Pool. The proposed location for this donation is far enough away from the Veterans Memorial and overlooks the old football field as the alumni desired.

City staff will install the monument and benches to comply with maintenance standards and safety requirements. The cost of the installation will be absorbed by the City.

NEXT STEPS

Should the PRC accept the donation, staff will work with the alumni group to order the approved sign. The two benches have been ordered and are currently being manufactured. Installation timing will depend on the receipt of the gifts and staff availability.

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- Attachments:
1. City Council Policy Accepting Gifts to the City
 2. Picture of Proposed Monument Location
 3. Monument CAD Drawing
 4. Monument Inscriptions
 5. Updated Letter to the PRC
 6. Updated Images