



DATE: October 1, 2019

CATEGORY: New Business

DEPT.: Public Works

TITLE: **Mora-Ortega Park, Approve Conceptual Plan and Select Name for Park**

RECOMMENDATION

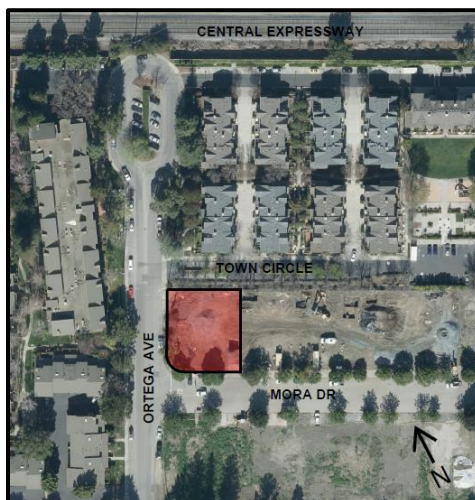
1. Approve the Parks and Recreation Commission's recommended conceptual plan for the Mora-Ortega Park, Project 17-46.
2. Select a name for the new park at Ortega Avenue and Mora Drive.

BACKGROUND

The 0.45-acre site on Ortega Avenue at Mora Drive was dedicated to the City for park use by the developer of the 2296 Mora Drive residential project (see Figure 1 – Project Location).

Council approved an agreement with SSA Landscape Architects on January 23, 2018 to design the park.

Figure 1 – Project Location



Site Description

The site is being used as a construction staging area by the developer of the 2296 Mora Drive residential project. The developer has installed bioretention areas, sidewalk, and new trees along the street frontage of the park site and a short fence along the frontage of the townhomes on the east side of the park. The City will install a good-neighbor fence on the north side of the park where there are existing townhomes and a short perimeter fence on the street frontages. The developer will vacate the site before the City starts construction in summer 2020.

Community Meetings

Two community meetings were held to gather input on the design of the new park. The first meeting was held on January 30, 2019, and was attended by 10 community members.

At a second meeting on April 4, 2019, the designers presented three conceptual plans for the park that included preferred features and amenities discussed at the first meeting (see Attachment 1). At the end of the meeting, the 13 attendees narrowed their recommendations to one concept.

ANALYSIS

Recommended Concept

At the April meeting, the three concepts were voted on using an online “Poll Everywhere” program. Conceptual Plan B obtained 62 percent of the votes. Following the poll, the community provided additional input on revising certain features of Conceptual Plan B. The group narrowed recommendations to a concept that incorporated features from all three concepts. The designer revised the concept to include the amenities summarized below (See Figure 2—Recommended Concept):

- A lawn and play area;
- A loop trail with pathways leading through orchard groves;
- An area with fitness equipment;

- Picnic tables and benches; and
- An agricultural theme.

Figure 2 – Recommended Concept



As with other mini parks, no overhead lighting is included because the park closes at sunset. One accessible parking stall will be added along the street frontage on Ortega Avenue. A short perimeter fence and permeable concrete pathways will be installed to accommodate City vehicles for maintenance.

On May 8, 2019, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) heard input from the community and suggested placing some benches in the sun and some in shaded areas. At the end of the discussion, the PRC unanimously recommended the City Council approve the Recommended Concept.

Park Naming

Staff initiated the park naming process at the April 4, 2019 community meeting and solicited responses through May 7, 2019. The criteria for naming a new park based on City Council Policy K-17 was provided (Attachment 2). The policy states that a park may be named for a school on which it is located, a street it is adjacent to, a local landmark, or a historical figure. Other park names will be considered only if one of the above criteria is not suitable. The PRC must submit at least two names to the City Council for consideration.

Staff also mailed a notice to residents within 750' of the project site inviting suggestions for the park name. The following park names were received and presented at the PRC meeting in May. See Table 1 – Suggested Park Names (in alphabetical order).

Table 1 – Suggested Park Names

SUGGESTED PARK NAMES
Blossom Park
Crossroads Park
Frank Ramirez Park
Harmony Gardens Park
Mora Park
Mora-Ortega Park
Orchard Lane Park
Ortega Park
Ortega-Mora Park
Shockley Park
Sunny Side Park

The name “Frank Ramirez Park” was submitted by Jesse Cupp, a nearby resident. Frank Ramirez was the owner of Ramirez Grocery, a neighborhood store that was located close to the park site. In 1965, the *San Jose Mercury News* reported Mr. Ramirez’s plans to perform the necessary building repairs to avoid closing his business. Attachment 3 includes an e-mail from Jesse Cupp and the newspaper article with additional information about Frank Ramirez.

The PRC recommended the following names for City Council consideration:

- Frank Ramirez Park
- Mora-Ortega Park
- Ortega Park

Note it was later brought to staff's attention that Ortega Park is a name of a park in the City of Sunnyvale.

Public Art

In Community Meeting No. 1, the attendees expressed interest in having public art in the future park for the community to enjoy. The project has a construction budget of \$1 million, and 1 percent of this budget will go towards incorporating public art into the park. Staff will go through a separate process with the Visual Arts Committee and will provide a recommendation to Council in spring 2020.

Next Steps

After Council's approval of a conceptual plan for the park, staff will work with the design consultants to complete final design of the project by spring 2020. At that time, staff will return to Council for approval of plans and specifications for construction. Park construction would begin in summer 2020 and be completed in early 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT

Mora-Ortega Park, Project 17-46, is funded primarily by Park Land Dedication fees in the amount of \$1,628,000, as well as \$36,000 in donations and contributions. The estimated construction cost is within the construction budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

In accordance with California Environmental Quality Act, this project has been determined to be categorically exempt as a Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, for the new park.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide other recommendations for the conceptual plan.
2. Select an alternate name for the park.
3. Provide other direction.

PUBLIC NOTICING

Agenda posting. Noticing for this meeting included a mailer to residents and property owners within 750', lawn signs at the project site, and an announcement on the City website.

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MG-RSR/CL/6/CAM
911-10-01-19CR
190477

Attachments: 1. Three Concepts Presented to PRC on May 8, 2019
2. City Council Policy K-17 for Naming a Park
3. E-Mail from Jesse Cupp for Park Name and Referenced SJMN Article

cc: CSD, APWD—Solomon, PCE—Au, SPM—Rodriguez, RM—Crosby, POSM, ACE—Gabon, SMA—Goedicke, PA—Li, File (17-46)