

CITY OF NAPA CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT

ADMIN CALENDAR
AGENDA ITEM 17.A.
Date: February 21, 2012

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
From: Larry Mazzuca, Parks and Recreation Services Director
Prepared by: David Perazzo, Parks Superintendent, 707-257-9234
Subject: Proposed Memorial for Veterans Memorial Park

ISSUE STATEMENT:

Recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to create a memorial in Veterans Memorial Park as proposed by Veterans Memorial Committee of Napa Valley, honoring soldiers of Napa County who gave their lives for their country in Iraq and Afghanistan.

DISCUSSION:

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission received a presentation by Alyssa De Benedetti, a Napa High senior at their January meeting. For her senior class project Alyssa is proposing the installation of a permanent memorial at Veterans Memorial park that will recognize soldiers from Napa County who have lost their lives for their country in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Alyssa formed the Veterans Memorial Committee of Napa Valley and has partnered with local veterans groups and members of the community in order to assist her with her project. The proposed memorial will consist of the installation of a permanent sculpture and plaque. The plaque will describe the memorial and contain smaller plaques with information on the soldiers being recognized. The memorial will be linked to a smart phone application that visitors can open on site and acquire more detailed information about the soldiers and their lives. The committee has worked with City staff to determine appropriate locations in the park. As Veterans Park was constructed as part of the flood project, 75% of the park is within in the floodway. Because of that, there are restrictions on permanent monuments or structures in the lower areas of the park. Areas located on the Main Street frontage of the park were determined to more suitable for such a memorial.

Alyssa's presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended two locations for the memorial. Both locations are in the park on the corner at Main and Third Streets. The preferred location is on top of the concrete pedestal on the corner of Third and Main Streets. The pedestal is currently occupied by "The Fish" sculpture which is part of the Art Walk. The alternate location is an adjacent pedestal in that same area of the park on the Third Street frontage. The commission agreed to the proposal

as presented with the understanding that staff would need to research any obligations for the public art that already exists in that location.

Staff researched the City's agreements and policies on public art for this area, and determined that a conflict with both recommended sites may exist. Therefore, staff developed the recommendation labeled as alternate site location #3 and #4.

Attached is a Veteran's Memorial Park map and individual site photos which describe the location options. By location, the following are the results and background on those proposed locations:

Preferred site location #1 - The location where "The Fish" sculpture currently resides is part of the art walk and a commitment has been made to the artist to allow that sculpture to remain at this location until April of 2013. The artist agreed to this with no additional cost to the Art Walk Program. Additionally the draft Downtown Specific plan identifies the intersection of Third and Main as a gateway which will include public art as an entry treatment.

Alternate site location #2 - as proposed by the committee is an adjacent concrete pedestal at the base of the Third Street Bridge bordering the park as indicated on the attached map and photos. The location does not pose any conflict with any current uses this area.

Alternate site location #3 - As an option, staff indicated that there was a possibility of locating the memorial inside of the landscaped planter area as you enter the park from Main and Third. This location would be inside of the park and would require some modification to the landscaping in that location.

Alternate site location #4 - Another staff recommended alternative site would be the northern concrete pedestal at the entrance to the park at Main and Third. The location does not pose a conflict with any current or future uses this area.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was unanimous in its decision to approve this memorial as proposed and has forwarded that recommendation on to the City Council for review.

Alyssa will make her presentation to the City Council on the proposed memorial for Veterans Memorial Park.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS:

The project will be funded by the Veterans Memorial Committee of Napa Valley through donations and fundraising. The memorial is estimated to cost \$10,000.

CEQA:

The Parks and Recreation Services Director has determined that the Recommended Action described in this Agenda Report is exempt from CEQA, pursuant to CEQA

Guidelines Section 15304€ (minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment.)

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:

Attachment 1: Veteran's Memorial Park Map

Attachment 2: Location Photos

NOTIFICATION:

None

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the City Council move, second and approve each of the actions set forth below, in the form of the following motion. Move to:

1. Approve the Parks and Recreation Commissions recommendation to allow a permanent memorial honoring soldiers of Napa County who gave their lives for their country in Iraq and Afghanistan to be placed in Veterans Memorial Park.
2. Determine a suitable location for the memorial in Veterans Memorial Park from the alternatives provided.