



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 24, 2012
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: David Lightner, Deputy City Manager
Steven Zoet, Director of Community Services
Subject: Beverly Gardens Park Restoration Proposal

INTRODUCTION

Beverly Hills resident, Steven Gordon, has approached the City with an offer to spearhead a private fundraising effort to restore and enhance the entire length of Beverly Gardens Park just north of Santa Monica Boulevard and Wilshire Boulevard from the east end to the west end of the City. At the December 6, 2011 meeting, the City Council unanimously endorsed this effort. At the January 24, 2012 meeting, Mr. Gordon will describe his proposal and landscape architect, Mia Lehrer, will further describe the opportunity.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Gordon's proposal is not to redesign the Park, but to repair and restore the Park to its best historical splendor and to consider minor enhancements appropriate to the site's current status as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Recognizing that this could ultimately be a very costly effort at a time when the city has many high priority demands on capital and operating budgets, the proposal is to conduct a private fund raising effort, potentially including a maintenance endowment, to fund the project.

There are related infrastructure projects in the current 5-year Capital Improvement Plan, such as irrigation upgrades, installation of gateway treatments and the reconstruction of the Santa Monica Boulevard roadway that could be coordinated and incorporated as City contributions toward the project. The City would retain full approval authority over the design and scope of the Park project.

Mr. Gordon has expressed interest in being as inclusive as possible with Park stakeholders if this effort is to move forward and would anticipate scoping meetings with Commissioners, neighbors and others in addition to working closely with the City Council. The Recreation & Parks liaisons (Brien, Gold; Anderson, Rosoff) have

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discussed the concept preliminarily and recommend that the City pursue the opportunity.

Mr. Gordon has offered to fund the initial design work himself, recognizing that some preliminary effort will be needed in order to conduct an effective fund raising campaign.

A further related opportunity exists if the two former railroad right of way properties, Parcels 12 and 13, along the south side of Santa Monica Boulevard can be coordinated with this project. Mr. Gordon's fund raising initiative includes these two parcels.

The next steps will include having the landscape architects meet with the Recreation & Parks Commission, scheduling a community outreach meeting and initiating design work. Periodic update meetings will be held with the City Council liaisons as the project proceeds.

FISCAL IMPACT

As noted, this effort is proposed as a private fund raising initiative where the City's contribution would be through combining any overlapping currently budgeted projects. Additionally there would be dedication of staff resources from Policy & Management, Recreation & Parks and Public Works to coordinate and review the design and oversee the construction to assure that it is done to the appropriate high standard.

No funds are being requested to initiate the review and development of the proposal.

David Lightner 
Approved By