



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: May 23, 2013
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Steven Zoet, Director of Community Services
Subject: Resident Request to Plant a Tree at Greystone Park in Memory of Rudy Cole
Attachment: Photo of Proposed Location at Greystone Park

INTRODUCTION

After the passing of local journalist and longtime resident Rudy Cole, staff received an inquiry about the possibility of planting a tree and installing a small plaque on the grounds of Greystone Estate in his memory. If approved, all costs associated with acquiring and planting an appropriate tree and a small accompanying plaque would be covered by privately raised funds. No public funds would be spent in the acquisition or installation of items associated with this requested tribute.

DISCUSSION

Greystone Mansion and its grounds were a special place and held deep meaning and importance to Mr. Cole. In addition to being an inaugural appointee to the Recreation and Parks Commission and serving as its first Chair, Mr. Cole was also a founding member of what has become the Friends of Greystone. Rudy often wrote and spoke of the importance for the City and its residents to support and preserve this community asset.

Staff met on the grounds of Greystone Estate and assessed viable locations that could be considered should the request be something that is supported by City Council. In considering an appropriate location, visibility and easy access by the public, without interfering with any near or long-term planned grounds improvement projects, were conditions that were taken into account in the assessment of the site.

Staff feels that an appropriate location would be adjacent to the willow pond which already serves as a quiet and tranquil area that is designed and intended as a passive and reflective area.

FISCAL IMPACT

There will be no costs incurred by the City in facilitating this request if City Council wishes to proceed. Beverly Hills resident Marty Geimer has received donations from various friends and acquaintances of Mr. Cole that are sufficient to cover all costs associated with the purchase and planting of a suitable tree. Tree selection and placement would be made by City Arborist Ken Pfalzgraf. A small informational plaque would be intended to be placed adjacent to the tree and would pay appropriate tribute to Mr. Cole and his connection to Greystone.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for Council information only. Unless directed to the contrary by City Council, staff intends to approve this resident-initiated request to pay tribute to Mr. Cole and will purchase and place a tree that is suitable and appropriate for the site. All costs associated with implementing this memorial will be fully covered by private donations. The selected tree will be from available inventory of a vendor with whom we do regular business and will be of the size that is consistent with those found contained within a 36" box. This is the largest and most mature tree that can be placed within the desired location without the use of specialized equipment.

Steven Zoet
Approved By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Zoet', written over a horizontal line.

Attachment 1

